

RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT FAIR AND WELCOMING POLICIES TOWARD IMMIGRANTS UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST LEGISLATIVE MINISTRY OF NEW JERSEY

WHEREAS our Unitarian Universalist principles include a respect for the worth and dignity of every human being, as well as justice and compassion in human relations and the goal of building a world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all;

AND WHEREAS our Unitarian Universalist sources include “words and deeds of prophetic men and women which challenge us to confront powers and structures of evil with justice, compassion, and the transforming power of love;”

AND WHEREAS in 2013 the Unitarian Universalist Association’s General Assembly approved a Statement of Conscience, Immigration as a Moral Issue, that “compels us to affirm that all immigrants, regardless of legal status, should be treated justly and humanely;”

AND WHEREAS that statement lists certain minimum standards for a such a moral immigration policy, including a path to legal residency and citizenship, improved work visas, equal access to medical care and education, due process including legal representation, and more;”

AND WHEREAS in 2014 undocumented immigrants made up almost 6% of New Jersey’s population and the new federal immigration law-enforcement policies have increased the level of fear in these communities;”

AND ACKNOWLEDGING that all residents of these United States—except for those who are members of indigenous tribal nations or who are descended from persons who were brought here in slavery—are themselves immigrants or descended from immigrants, not all of whom necessarily followed the letter of the law when they arrived;

AND WHEREAS our intention is to ensure that New Jersey is and remains a Sanctuary / fair and welcoming state, at least within our Unitarian Universalist communities;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that, with that intention as our goal, each and every UU congregation, fellowship, and society in New Jersey has taken or is preparing to take some action to support our immigrant neighbors, including one or more of the following actions:

- We will enter into partnership or collaboration with a community group of immigrants and their friends and neighbors.
- We will assist the sanctuary movement, whether a congregation itself serves as a sanctuary for persons who would otherwise be deported, assists a religious organization of any faith that is serving as a sanctuary, or acts in any other appropriate manner in solidarity with our neighbors.
- We will be active in efforts to improve our nation's immigration policies, which surely need to be reformed to embody a more humane and caring approach to our neighbors.
- We will be ready to provide assistance whenever possible to those who fear oppression due to their immigration status, recognizing that we are in a changing environment in which enforcement policies and activities are changing unpredictably, while we wish to hold up a steady and reliable moral principle.

1 <http://www.uua.org/statements/immigration-moral-issue>

2 http://www.burlingtoncountytimes.com/news/state/study-shows-new-jersey-is-no-among-undocumented-immigrants/article_17eb4e85-507f-5b7f-9175-f45ab59895bb.html

