

First United Methodist Church of Ann Arbor

Resolution on Welcoming Immigrants

❖ Prepared by the Sanctuary Planning Committee

April 30, 2017

As a church, we stand for love and justice, and will work to transform life by upholding the Biblical principles of welcoming the stranger, as stated in Leviticus 19:33-34: “Do not take advantage of foreigners who live among you in your land. Treat them like native-born Israelites, and love them as you love yourself. Remember that you were once foreigners living in the land of Egypt. I am the Lord your God.” First United Methodist Church Ann Arbor hereby pledges to publicly support immigrants and refugees in our community. We commit to provide basic services, spiritual growth, and emotional support to these vulnerable groups that are facing harmful policies and discrimination by a segment of our society.

As a growing faith community, we are called to utilize our compassion and leverage our resources to accompany our neighbors and friends whose nationality, religion, immigration status, or other identity puts them at risk. We recognize the need for intentional assistance and will work to offer solidarity in the following areas:

- 1) Lifting up immigrants and refugees through prayer and special times of worship.
- 2) Providing opportunities for members of the congregation to assist in urgent response efforts in the case of a family facing deportation or detention, through outreach and education, advocacy campaigns, fund raising efforts, logistic support, and other forms of voluntary engagement.
- 3) Participating in resource gathering activities in the form of food, clothing, or other supplies for immigrant families in emergencies. This includes services for families facing separation or displacement, for example, transportation to medical appointments and school.
- 4) Building relationships and providing solidarity and support for other churches who are directly involved in offering emergency shelter for immigrants in need.

Our church strives to serve the world through equal treatment of all people, because we know that God created all people in God’s image and loves us all the same.

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