

## Sanctuary Resolution

Anti-immigrant rhetoric and policies threaten, through the promise of harsh and haphazard deportations, the safety and dignity of immigrants and refugees trying to make a better life for themselves and their families. Therefore, Beacon Unitarian Universalist Congregation in Summit joins a diversity of faith communities in moral opposition to these harmful plans and practices.

We do this as an expression of our faith; one that believes in the interconnection of the human family. Called by our mission to practice radical inclusion, feed the human spirit and heal the world, we must now shine our beacon. We are compelled to provide refuge however we can, for the vulnerable.

We, Beacon, therefore declare ourselves to be a Sanctuary Congregation that will:

- •Serve as a physical sanctuary site, provided that our Leadership Team determines our congregation has the space and resources to serve as such a site
- •Make a concerted effort to extend sanctuary beyond these walls through direct service  
(such as visiting detainees, sponsoring an immigrant and/or their family)
- •Educate our congregation about immigrant justice
- •Support communities serving as physical sanctuary sites for immigrants at risk of deportation
- •Advocate and communicate our concern over anti-immigrant rhetoric and policies, and  
our support for immigration reform
- •Support humane and reasonable law enforcement activities to ensure safety. We commit to work with agencies of law enforcement at all levels of government (municipal, state, federal) to foster safety for all members of our communities.
- •Urge our political leaders to address the larger issue of our undocumented immigrant population by creating a Pathway to Citizenship, balancing the need to enforce and obey our laws with providing hope and opportunity to become a citizen of the United States.
- •Urge political leaders and law enforcement to honor the sanctity of houses of worship and the historical right of religious-based sanctuary

It is our intent that these actions will not only serve immigrants but will discourage the use of harsh deportation measures and unjust enforcement. The Board of Trustees of Beacon will create a Sanctuary Task Force composed of a board member and the Leadership Team, and a representative from the Social Justice Team, to keep the congregation and Board apprised of progress.

In declaring ourselves to be a Sanctuary Congregation, we act in accordance with the guidance, wisdom, and prophecy of our faith. We believe in the inherent worth and dignity of each person. We believe that we are all connected. We believe that justice

and compassion should guide all human relations. We proclaim the vision of a future world in which peace, liberty, and dignity are afforded all people, without exception.