

Resolution for Consideration at the June 3, 2018 Annual Meeting of the
First Unitarian Church from the Ad hoc Immigration Justice Leadership Team

Whereas as stated in the 2013 UUA Statement of Conscience, “Our Unitarian Universalist (UU) Principles and Sources compel us to affirm that all immigrants, regardless of legal status, should be treated justly and humanely”;

Whereas as stated in the 2013 Statement, “...given the consequences of immoral and unjust immigration policies”;

Whereas at the 2017 annual meeting, the congregation voted unanimously to empower “...the Board of Trustees to form an Immigration Justice Leadership Team (IJLT), which would follow the UUA’s Sanctuary Toolkit, ‘developed for Unitarian Universalist congregations considering offering physical sanctuary’”;

Whereas IJLT has studied and assembled data on the harmful consequences of past and present policies and present immigration policies;

Whereas considering the current toxic political climate of fear and volatility around immigration;

Whereas based on the results of a straw poll of the congregation in attendance at the January 28, 2018 Celebration of Life service hosted by the IJLT, out of 68 respondents, 54 want to provide some kind of support for undocumented immigrants;

Whereas based on a physical assessment of the First Unitarian Church building and a vote by the IJLT, there is not a space in the church building that can be dedicated solely for sheltering an undocumented immigrant;

Whereas based on the relatively low turnout at IJLT’s services of workshops and presentations for the congregation to learn more about current immigration policies and their effects on our community;

Whereas considering that First Unitarian Church is in the process of searching for a settled minister; and

Whereas considering the First Unitarian Church is facing a substantial budget deficit for the 2018-2019 year; therefore, be it

Resolved, that the congregation of First Unitarian Church will continue to educate itself on immigration justice issues and explore ways to provide volunteer and financial assistance to a church that is offering sanctuary or to immigration advocacy groups.