

2018 Sanctuary Statement Adopted by UUCB Congregational Vote

As a community of faith, we commit to walk alongside immigrants, mixed-status families, refugees and other targeted communities to uphold the dignity, due process, full acceptance, and participation of all people in our society through advocacy, support, and protection.

2025 Proposed Sanctuary Statement: We Pledge to Resist Deportation and Discrimination Through Sanctuary

As a community of faith, we reaffirm our commitment to defend and preserve the fundamental civil rights and liberties due to everyone in this country. We pledge to resist immoral and unjust policies targeting and deporting immigrants and discriminating against marginalized communities. We will open up our congregation and community as a safe space for those targeted, and work alongside our friends, families, and neighbors to ensure the dignity and human rights of all people.

As people of faith, we are called to engage in:

- 1) ***Advocacy for Immigration Justice*** – such as lobbying political decision makers and engaging in public activities that promote the full dignity of all people, regardless of immigration or any other status;
- 2) ***Accompaniment of Immigrant Families*** – supporting their transitional needs such as finding social and legal assistance, taking them to court dates, enrolling children in school, and supporting their search for affordable housing;
- 3) ***Participating in Networks of Protection and Rapid Response*** – such as offering witness and support in cases of Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) raids or other enforcement activity that does not take into account the human and US Constitutional rights of individuals, including immigrants; and
- 4) ***Partnership*** - working with community and faith organizations resisting detention and deportation and providing services to the immigrant community.

Further, we are being called upon by faith allies to offer temporary respite housing for immigrants in our community, working together to ensure their

wellbeing and safety. We will engage in further congregational deliberation, seek legal advice, and consider necessary modifications to our church buildings before moving forward on this part of our project.

Background:

Why is this important?

By Rev. Allison Harrington

Sanctuary Movement - Groundswell campaign

<https://action.groundswell-mvmt.org/petitions/we-pledge-to-resist-deportation-and-discrimination-through-sanctuary> accessed 7 May 2025

Calling upon the ancient traditions of our faiths, which recognized houses of worship as a refuge for the runaway slave, the conscientious objector, and the Central American refugees fleeing the civil wars of the 1980s, Sanctuary is once again growing among communities of faith that are standing in solidarity with immigrants and marginalized communities facing immoral and unjust deportation and discrimination policies.

We find ourselves entering a new phase of U.S. history wherein the politics of fear have stoked an atmosphere of racism and xenophobia across the country. The new Administration has pledged to criminalize, detain and deport undocumented people at new levels that will tear families and communities apart.

As people of faith and people of conscience, we will take civil initiative out of our moral obligation to embody principles of human rights and dignity, and resist any harmful and unjust policy proposals that further undermine due process and lead to racial profiling and discrimination.

By signing this pledge, we are dedicating ourselves to educate and activate our congregation, to amplify and respond to the voices of immigrant leaders, and to speak out against the discrimination of any and all marginalized people. We are ready to open the doors of our sacred spaces and accompany those facing deportation and discrimination.

We support those answering the call to provide sanctuary at schools, hospitals, college campuses, community centers and family homes. We will work with partner organizations to create sacred space of sanctuary wherever it is needed.

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UUA Support for the New Sanctuary Movement

<https://www.uua.org/immigration/witness/partners/newsanctuary#:~:text=The%20Sanctuary%20Movement%20is%20a,stand%20with%20immigrants%20facing%20deportation.>

Accessed 7 May 2025

The Sanctuary Movement is a growing movement of faith and immigrant communities doing what Congress and the Administration refuse to do: protect and stand with immigrants facing deportation. Members pledge to protect immigrant families who face workplace discrimination or unjust deportation. Unitarian Universalists are joining the many religious leaders, congregations, and faith-based organizations of all denominations who are part of the Movement.