

# Unitarian Universalist Church of Nashua

## Resolution to Become a Sanctuary Support Church

WHEREAS, the UU Church of Nashua's Governing Policies identify as one of our values “The importance of service to others, whether it is between individuals, in support of the church, or in the larger community beyond the church walls”; and

WHEREAS, the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) and its Board have a longstanding tradition of becoming actively engaged in political and community support work to change federal immigration policy, aid and support sanctuary work for refugees and immigrants, and continue to advocate and educate on these issues since the 1980’s, including creating a Sanctuary Fund in 1986; and

WHEREAS the UUA General Assembly delegations have voted to protest immigration policy and support immigrant families through numerous social justice measures, most notably through a Statement of Conscience “[Immigration as a Moral Issue](#)” in 2013 that decries the unjustness of treatment, lays out a moral immigration policy, and calls for Unitarian Universalists to act; and

WHEREAS, the UU Church of Nashua has long supported immigrants in our community: Signing on as a founding member of the Granite State Organizing Project in 2007 and actively supporting immigrant related actions and events; Fostering strong relationships with community organizations that support immigrants; and Pledging to join the New Hampshire Immigrant Solidarity Network and become active participants in its development; and

WHEREAS, immigrants in New Hampshire are facing unconscionable acts of deportation by Immigration and Customs Enforcement and immoral expressions of racism, which are currently tearing families apart;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that we hold ourselves accountable not just to witness but to act; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that we, the members of UUCN do agree to be a Sanctuary Support Congregation for one Physical Sanctuary Congregation in our geographical area who has brought a person or persons into sanctuary. (Most likely that church would be the Unitarian Universalist Church of Manchester.) In being a Sanctuary Support Congregation, we will share in the financial support of the person/persons in Sanctuary through fundraising totally separate from the UUCN budget, we will share in providing for the physical and emotional needs of the person/persons in Sanctuary, and, we will be a strong partner in the organizational management and advocacy required to sustain the person/persons in Sanctuary. The specific details of our Congregation’s support responsibilities will be contained in a “Sanctuary Covenant” document agreed upon by our two congregations, and approved by our Board of Trustees.