

Adopting Motion

St. Clare's Episcopal Church and Temple Beth Emeth, together with Genesis of Ann Arbor, of which they are the constituent congregations, adopt the following resolution, which is intended to affiliate with the Washtenaw Congregation Sanctuary movement at what it calls Level 2. This resolution does not preclude later consideration of affiliation at Level 1.

Senior Warden, St. Clare's Vestry

President, Genesis of Ann Arbor

President, Temple Beth Emeth



St. Clare's Episcopal Church



Genesis of Ann Arbor



Temple Beth Emeth

Resolution

St. Clare's Episcopal Congregation and Temple Beth Emeth, together with Genesis of Ann Arbor, resolve as follows:

- We proudly declare our affiliation with the Washtenaw Congregation Sanctuary movement.
- We commit ourselves to taking an active role in educating our members and the broader community about the needs of immigrants and refugees and the threats facing them, and to providing an ongoing forum for discussion of these issues.
- We pledge to provide support – financial, personal, and logistical – for congregations and other organizations that provide housing and other services for immigrants, including those facing the threat of deportation.

We adopt this resolution pursuant to the injunction of Leviticus, 19:33-34, to show love, respect, and a spirit of welcome for those among us who have come from foreign lands:

When a stranger resides with you in your land, you shall not wrong him.... [He] shall be to you as one of your citizens; you shall love him as yourself; for you were strangers in the land of Egypt.

A wave of intolerance has spread across our nation and, as congregations of faith, we find it a moral imperative to do what we can to counter it. The matter is made all the more urgent by the acute need for the resettlement of refugees from various places around the world and by the unmistakable tinge of racism that colors much of the anti-immigrant rhetoric in today's discourse. Moreover, our duty to support the Sanctuary movement is reinforced by our intense awareness that we are a nation of immigrants; some members of our congregations are immigrants themselves, and most of us can trace our ancestry to foreign lands. All of us live in America in hopes of a better, freer, and more just life. We must not forget our personal and family histories, nor can we turn our back on those who seek to follow us. Nor can we allow past injustices prevent us from seeking a better future..

We recognize, of course, that there is widespread support for maintaining laws that constrain immigration, and that there is a range of views among the members of our congregations as to the proper scope of such laws. But we think it is beyond genuine dispute that those laws should be enforced with sensitivity, in a spirit of fairness and justice, and free of ethnic bias – and that it is an appropriate goal of religious congregations to work towards these ends. This is not a matter of partisan politics; actions of prior administrations, as well as of this one, have raised concerns that these ends have not been consistently served.

This resolution encourages our members to provide services for immigrants, and we pledge to assist them in doing so.

More than anything, what is necessary now is a change in the tone of discourse surrounding these issues. We hope that this resolution, in conjunction with actions of many other congregations of all faiths around the nation, will contribute to a significant improvement in that tone.