

# **DRAFT MOTION**

## **To Provide Temporary Hospitality and Emergency Shelter for Immigrants**

WHEREAS, the Unitarian-Universalist Church of Urbana Champaign (UUCUC) is an inclusive and welcoming congregation that seeks justice through our social action programs and initiatives.

WHEREAS, such initiatives include: the Racial Justice Project that focuses on dismantling white supremacy; a Welcoming Task Force that provides a safe place for the LGBTQ+ community who face discrimination; support for local, regional social justice initiatives and programs via our Social Action Committee's share offering program; Social Action Committee sponsorship of and congregational participation in local programs that promote healthy communities, justice, equity, and peace.

WHEREAS, the Immigration Justice Task Force (IJTF) was created as an initiative of the Social Action Committee in January 2019 for the purpose of responding to the inhumane treatment of immigrants at the border and to address the needs of Champaign-Urbana immigrants by partnering with community-based organizations who provide immediate support for refugees, asylum seekers, and unaccompanied minors.

WHEREAS, the IJTF proposes to provide temporary hospitality for persons seeking emergency refuge from abuse, exploitation, harassment, or deportation, regardless of race, ethnicity, gender identity, sexual orientation.

WHEREAS, U.S. Immigration Customs Enforcement (ICE) raids have been accelerating both nationally and locally, and Three Spinners, a local non-profit that welcomes refugees and immigrants to Champaign-Urbana and provides support for basic needs has asked UUCUC to provide hospitality and emergency refuge to immigrants, including families and children at risk of deportation for one to five days during times when ICE is in town.

WHEREAS, those seeking hospitality and emergency refuge are at risk of being sent back to the border camps (including children ranging in age from 2 to 9), even though most are asylum seekers, and such hospitality and emergency refuge would allow immigrants at risk protection and time to meet with their attorneys and other professionals to identify their next steps.

WHEREAS, such hospitality and emergency refuge would be extended to undocumented individuals and/or their families in Champaign County (including asylum seekers and unaccompanied minors) that do not have orders for deportation or outstanding judicial warrants for their arrest and, that providing such hospitality and emergency refuge is a

moral response to those in need that is consistent with UUCUC's inclusive and welcoming actions, policies, and presence in the Champaign-Urbana community.

WHEREAS, Three Spinners would provide beds and bedding; food; toiletries; games and toys for children; accompaniment; and other essentials for those seeking temporary hospitality and emergency refuge at UUCUC.

WHEREAS, two informational congregational meetings have been held to solicit input on this proposal, and all those attending these meetings indicated their strong support.

WHEREAS, both UUCUC's Minister and Interim Religious Education Director support this proposal, and are committed to working with the IJTF to coordinate logistics for carrying out temporary hospitality and emergency refuge that minimizes disruption to staff, the congregation, and building users.

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT the Board of Trustees of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Urbana Champaign approves the request by the Immigration Justice Task Force to work with Three Spinners to provide temporary hospitality and emergency refuge to undocumented individuals, refugees, asylum seekers, and unaccompanied minors in Champaign County that do not have orders for deportation or outstanding judicial warrants for their arrest, subject to the following:

1. The Immigration Justice Task Force coordinates the use of space with our Minister, interim Religious Education Director; Events and Facilities Coordinator; and other staff to provide hospitality and emergency refuge with the minimum disruption possible to UUCUC staff, members and friends, and other building users.
2. The proposal is brought to the congregation as soon as is practicable for a vote at a special meeting held in accordance with church bylaws.
3. Any proposal that would require more than temporary hospitality and emergency refuge would need to be brought back to the Board of Trustees for consideration and support, and then voted on by the congregation.

APPROVED

By:

Date: