

Immigrant Welcoming Congregation

We, the members and friends of Hancock United Church of Christ in Lexington, called by

- our Covenant of Welcome to speak for justice and inclusiveness for all humanity, and by**
- our mission to build community in a diverse world and work for the common good,**

declare ourselves to be an Immigrant Welcoming Congregation, and commit to develop practices and programs that facilitate the respectful welcome, support, and inclusion of all immigrants into our congregation and community.

We make this declaration understanding that our faith tradition is grounded in the stories of immigrants. The Spirit calls us through our sacred scripture to welcome the stranger and to love our neighbor as ourselves. In doing this, we pledge to work together, with love, compassion, and courage, for justice for people of all races, religions, and nationalities.

We recognize that the world is in the midst of a long-term refugee crisis, with millions of people forced from their homes seeking safety, freedom, and a decent life free of fear and deprivation. In welcoming the immigrant, we also recognize that a love of justice compels us to advocate for compassionate treatment of refugees everywhere, and for policies that eliminate the root causes of forced migration.

In making this declaration, we respond to the call of the Massachusetts Conference in its June 2018 resolution that reminds us that “addressing the concerns of immigrants and refugees is central to living the love and justice of Jesus.”

In making this declaration, we commit to:

- Listen deeply to learn from all those who are affected;**
- Support efforts to protect all people and to end practices that divide families and weaken our communities;**
- Lift a public voice in support of fair treatment and hospitality toward our immigrant sisters and brothers, and work for just and humane immigration policies;**
- Work for just and compassionate treatment of refugees around the world and for policies that address the social and economic causes of forced migration; and**
- Build relationships of solidarity through service, education, witness, advocacy, and action.**

Adopted by the congregation at the annual meeting of Hancock Church, June 2, 2019