



July 6, 2017

I'm Kelly Crocker, Minister at the First Unitarian Society and I am thrilled to announce our status as an official Sanctuary congregation and a member of the Dane Sanctuary Coalition.

As Unitarian Universalists, we are called to stand on the side of love, protect the most vulnerable among us, to be advocates for hospitality, compassion and welcome. Our faith requires us to stand against fear and hatred.

Grounded in our deep belief in the inherent worth and dignity of every person and the use of justice and compassion in human relations, we commit ourselves to this work. We stand together in our faith that everyone has basic common rights to livelihood, family unity and physical and emotional safety. We witness the violation of these rights under current immigration policy, in the separation of children from their parents, and in the exploitation of immigrant workers. We are deeply grieved by the violence done to families through our country's unjust policies. We join together with the Dane Sanctuary Coalition to take a public, moral stand for the rights of immigrants and their families.

We know that we are stronger together. We know that our communities are stronger when everyone is given the possibility to thrive. We know that fear cannot live in communities where people take the risk and the great opportunity to get to know one another. The rhetoric of hatred coming from our current administration is based on a fear of the other. Our faith tradition tells us that when it comes to humanity there is no other, just a neighbor you haven't met yet.

The work we seek to do together is work grounded in connection and relationship because together we are strong. Together we inspire one another, hold each other up and call each other on. We stand in a long tradition of those who have welcomed the stranger, sheltered the refugee, offered safe home, resisted racism, fear and exclusion. Now it is our time. We will not be silent if families are torn apart, children terrified, parents detained. We are not accomplices to hate or reactionary fear. Our calling is to love and justice and faithful resistance. The Unitarian Universalist community, with our partners in faith, will open our hearts; we will open our doors, to those who face the threat of deportation. All are welcome, period.

In our tradition we say that love will guide us and hope will sustain us. It is our time to create beloved community where everyone matters and everyone is welcome. With great joy and hope in our hearts, we join this coalition. With great love, and faith in what we can do together, we will shape the future.