

Immigrant Welcoming Congregation Declaration

of St. Michael & All Angels Episcopal Church

*Moved by our consciences to stand in solidarity with our immigrant brothers & sisters and their families, we declare ourselves an **Immigrant Welcoming Congregation** and commit to the following:*

Deepen the connection between immigrant and nonimmigrant members and families of St. Michael & All Angels Episcopal Church

- We will renew our study of the sacred stories of migration and hospitality, injustice and hope which already exist in our own tradition.
- We will welcome and listen to the first-hand stories of immigrants and their families in our congregation who have experienced injustice.
- We will continue to provide opportunities that encourage worship together during regular services, including the Misa, and special occasions.
- We will seek new opportunities to share activities that encourage social connections (e.g., cooking classes, meals, intercambio language sessions).

Educate ourselves and our community about immigration-related issues

- We will educate ourselves about issues facing immigrants in our society (e.g., tuition equity, wage theft), and about legislation targeting immigration policy reform.
- We will avail ourselves of resources from and support organizations that work for immigrant justice/immigration policy reform [e.g., Oregon Interfaith Movement for Immigrant Justice, CAUSA].
- We will collaborate with organizations that work for immigrant justice to offer public forums on immigration-related issues for the wider community.

Advocate for justice and comprehensive humane immigration reform

- We will actively and publicly work for comprehensive humane immigration reform in Oregon and the USA, consistent with Episcopal Church policy.
- We will support the position of the Episcopal Church and other faith-based organizations calling for an end to programs that separate families and erode trust between law enforcement and immigrant communities such as the

Secure Communities Program that has led to unjust detentions and deportations, and unnecessary separations within immigrant families.

- We will be a compassionate and persistent voice for justice for our immigrant brothers and sisters and their families.
- We will include our voice as a church community, and provide opportunities for individual members to include their voices, to resolutions and petitions seeking immigration policy reform and the end to unjust immigration-related practices, and in public forums addressing immigrant justice.
- We will maintain our membership in the Oregon Interfaith Movement for Immigrant Justice organization (formerly ONSM) and encourage individuals to join/participate.

Accompany and support immigrants and their families at their request when facing immigration-related hearings and meetings or seeking change in their immigration status

- We will accompany immigrants at their request to all immigration hearings and meetings related to immigration status to provide witness and support.
- We will provide hospitality and tangible support for immigrants and their families going through immigration-related proceedings (e.g., meals; transportation to and from appointments, etc.) and continue to explore offering physical sanctuary.
- We will seek ways to provide financial support when appropriate to immigrants and their families facing financial hardship because of immigration-related proceedings and issues.
- We will host, or co-host with other immigrant justice organizations, legal clinics annually or as needed for the immigrant community.

Moreover, we support the Immigrant Welcoming Congregation team's leadership in the undertaking of these commitments, and the presentation of this Declaration for review and reaffirmation by the Vestry every 3 years.

Signatures of the Vestry and Rector

Date:

(Signed by Rev. Christopher Craun and the Vestry on April 18, 2013)