

1 **Resolution Calling on the Fifty-Seventh Conference of the Minnesota Conference of the**
2 **United Church of Christ and its Congregations to urge the Minnesota Legislature and**
3 **Governor to pass a law designating Minnesota as a Sanctuary State.**

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5 **The submitting group is the Minnesota Conference UCC Immigration Team.**

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7 WHEREAS the Minnesota Conference United Church of Christ, an Immigrant Welcoming
8 Conference, desires a safer and more just world for the immigrants among us: and

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10 WHEREAS the United Church of Christ at General Synod 29, 2013 resolved to urge the US
11 government to pass Comprehensive Immigration Reform and support the protection of the
12 Human Rights of Immigrants but the US Government has failed to do so; and

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14 WHEREAS immigrants are woven into the fabric of our communities:

- 15 ● 457,000 immigrants comprise 8% of Minnesota’s population
- 16 ● 7% of native-born US citizens in Minnesota have at least one immigrant parent
- 17 ● 100,000 undocumented immigrants comprise almost 2% of our state’s population
- 18 ● Minnesota is home to 5,500 Dreamers
- 19 ● 10% of our Minnesota state’s workforce includes 303,000 immigrants; and

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21 WHEREAS we are concerned that cooperation between local law enforcement and Department
22 of Homeland Security (DHS) creates a public safety risk as trust between immigrants and these
23 law enforcement agencies erode; and

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25 WHEREAS assisting in the enforcement of federal immigration law by local and state authorities
26 is entirely voluntary and many U.S. cities and states have rejected such voluntary cooperation;
27 and

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29 WHEREAS federal immigration authorities incarcerate an average of 42,000 immigrants daily in
30 over 200 detention facilities around the country, of which sixty percent are detained in for-
31 profit facilities, at a cost of more than \$8,000,000 in immigration detention costs daily; and

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33 WHEREAS the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) seeks to increase its presence in the
34 state of Minnesota through the building or expansion of detention facilities in Minnesota, thus
35 advancing DHS mass deportation agenda; and

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37 WHEREAS we are alarmed by the White House Administration’s stripping away of DACA
38 (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals), TPS (Temporary Protected Status), and (DED) Deferred
39 Enforcement Departure, all programs protecting hundreds of thousands of immigrants in
40 jeopardy of being deported, and further alarmed by accelerating rates of raids, arrests and
41 deportations, and the thwarting of immigrants’ rights to cross the border to seek asylum; and

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43 WHEREAS we hold fast to the overwhelming compassion for the stranger that our faith calls us
44 to abide by in scripture: “When an immigrant lives among you in your land, you shall not

45 oppress the immigrant. The immigrant who resides with you shall be to you as a citizen among
46 you; you shall love the immigrant as yourself, for you were immigrants in the land of Egypt.”
47 (Leviticus 19:33-34, adapted from NRSV);

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49 NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Minnesota Conference of the United Church of
50 Christ condemns the use of state resources and agencies to investigate, arrest and detain
51 immigrants for immigration enforcements purposes; and

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53 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Minnesota Conference United Church of Christ supports
54 Sanctuary State legislation which would prohibit this practice thus giving immigrants important
55 protections from deportation; and

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57 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Minnesota Conference United Church of Christ encourage its
58 local congregations to join in urging its legislators and the Governor to pass a law declaring that
59 Minnesota is a Sanctuary State; and

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61 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Conference Minister continue to be a spiritual leader in the
62 community and with the Governor, advocating for a Minnesota Sanctuary State Law.

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64 Funding: Funding for the implementation of the resolution will be made in accordance with the
65 overall mandates of the affected entities and the funds available.

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67 Implementation: The Conference Minister, in consultation with appropriate ministries or other
68 entities within the Minnesota Conference UCC will determine the implementing body. Upon
69 request, the MN Conference Immigration Team will assist in the implementation of this
70 resolution.