

Social Witness Committee Report on Immigration

submitted to UPC Session July 19, 2017

For the past year, the Social Witness Committee of University Presbyterian Church has been studying the topic of immigration. This is an issue that has been on the front pages of newspapers and on the minds of millions of people in our country. Our committee presented our Final Report and Recommendations on Immigration to the Session on July 19.

There was robust discussion by nearly all members of the Session. We encourage all members of the congregation to read this report. The section of the report that required a vote by the Session was a motion to adopt three policies:

1. Affirm UPC's support of the 222nd General Assembly's "Resolution Reaffirming the Ministry of Sanctuary by Congregations"
2. That UPC be intentional about working with Mission Presbytery and other churches on the issue of immigration and other societal issues, and
3. That we preach and teach our commitment to helping immigrants, refugees, and asylum seekers.

The Session voted to adopt these policies.

It is important to understand that the Session did not vote to have UPC become a sanctuary church. The General Assembly's resolution simply affirms the denomination's support for churches who do choose to offer this ministry. Offering sanctuary at UPC was not one of the recommendations from our committee and was not under consideration by the Session. However, our report does recommend several activities that members of our church might choose to be involved in. Among these is an opportunity for members to become trained to visit women asylum seekers detained at the T. Don Hutto detention facility in Taylor. For information on this opportunity or on any of our recommendations, please feel free to contact a member of the Social Witness Committee, and look for more information from us as our work continues. The committee deeply appreciates the tremendous interest and participation shown by members of UPC during this past year.

*- submitted by Marvin Wofford,
Social Witness Committee Chair
and Mary Dodd, Past Chair*