

OPEN FORUM ON ADOPTION OF IMMIGRANT WELCOMING COVENANT

**Thursday evening,
January 11th
7:00 PM**



In July, the 31st General Synod of the United Church of Christ gathered in Baltimore and declared itself an “Immigrant Welcoming Denomination” by vote of delegates from congregations all over the country. The resolution went on to “encourage the development of US policy dedicated to facilitating the respectful welcome and inclusion of all immigrants” and to call member UCC congregations to “become active Immigrant Welcoming Congregations.” Since 1999 our congregation has heard its mission as a call “to express the love and welcome of Christ.” That call now leads us to respond to the immigration crisis which is separating families in Metrowest.

On January 11th at 7:00 PM, join us for an Open Forum. We will be reviewing the draft of the Immigration Welcoming Covenant that our task team has been developing and exploring questions about the implications of becoming an immigrant welcoming congregation for our church. The team has the goal of considering the adoption of an Immigrant Welcoming Covenant at our Annual Meeting at the end of January. The draft of the proposed covenant will be below. We hope that you will add your voice and concerns to the conversation.

As members and friends of the First Congregational Church of Natick, we covenant to become an Immigrant Welcoming Congregation.

We commit to:

- **Support interfaith efforts to protect all people and to end practices that divide families and weaken our communities.**
- **Listen deeply to learn from all those who are affected by the current crisis.**
- **Lift a public voice in support of fair treatment and hospitality toward our immigrant sisters and brothers.**
- **Work for just and humane immigration policies and the transformation of social and economic systems that are the root causes of migration.**
- **Build relationships of solidarity through direct service, education, action, advocacy and accompaniment.**