

**Comments from Pastor Beth Rogers at Sanctuary Press  
Conference on Monday, October 2, 2017**

Our Christian faith calls us to affirm and promote the inherent worth and dignity of all people. Peace United Church of Christ is an inclusive place of worship that welcomes and supports those in need. Deportation of our church members, neighbors and the breaking up of immigrant families in our communities are among the most compelling social justice issues we face today. We must stand together on the side of love, to make a real difference in the real lives of those in our community who are struggling or hiding in fear.

Following a time of discernment and conversation and a congregational vote on September 24<sup>th</sup>, Peace United Church of Christ declares our congregation a Sanctuary congregation, willing to provide for those in the community facing deportation orders. Our biblical commandment is to love our neighbors as ourselves, and we believe that by becoming part of the Sanctuary community across the United States, we are standing in solidarity with our immigrant neighbors, and making visible our love for ALL of our neighbors.

Ministry at Peace United Church of Christ is centered on its mission statement: “A safe and inclusive church living God’s radical message”. We live God’s radical message by: embracing all, building community, growing faith and transforming lives. To live out this radical message means to speak up and fight for a just world in this lifetime. We want those who are living in

fear of an unjust and unfair system to know that the people of Peace are ready to be present with you. We will stand with immigrants facing detention and deportation, and we will work for more just systems of immigration and government in this community.