



Interfaith Statement of Hope and Accompaniment
We, people of faith in Marion County, celebrate that historically the United States is the product of successive waves of immigration. We are gravely concerned and regret that we now face a time of great upheaval about immigration. As people of faith, we feel called to express a message of hope and justice that leads to action, based on these considerations:

Our scriptures:

Leviticus 19:33-34 (NRSV) *When a stranger resides with you in your land, you shall not do them wrong. The stranger who resides with you shall be to you as the native among you, and you shall love him as yourself, for you were aliens in the land of Egypt; I am the LORD your God.*

Matthew 25:35 (NRSV) *...for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me.*

Our national values:

We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness...

The Declaration of Independence of the United States of America

These texts from the Judeo-Christian traditions and our Declaration of Independence lift up the value of every person, regardless of our place of national origin. They also set standards of treatment of the stranger, the alien, the immigrant in our midst.

- ✚ We celebrate the many gifts our immigrant brothers and sisters have always brought to enrich our nation.**
- ✚ In hearing and seeing the stories of today's immigrant brothers and sisters, we remember our own stories in light of our faith.**
- ✚ These stories of our immigrant brothers and sisters, our scriptures, and our national values as expressed in the Declaration of Independence move us to the following actions:**
 - **Intentionally create an atmosphere of welcome to today's immigrants in our faith communities.**
 - **Advocate for just immigration laws to our elected officials.**
 - **Assist immigrants on their journey toward citizenship.**
 - **Create opportunities to learn the root causes of current migration to the United States.**
 - **Encourage churches to Sponsor fact-finding delegations to the U.S.-Mexico border and to countries in Latin America that are the major countries of origin of today's immigrants.**
 - **Provide speakers who can bring the stories of the immigrant to our community and help us to reflect on our own stories.**
 - **Resist atmospheres of hate by standing in solidarity with all God's children.**

We invite the greater community to join us as we seek to live out God's call of love and hope for all people.

Individual Faith Leaders and Congregations:

Bob and Karen Edwards,

Faith Lutheran Church

Rev. Lawrence Crumb,

St. Timothy's Episcopal

Bill and Henrietta Griffiths,

Queen of Peace Catholic Church

Bryce Herrman,

Queen of Peace Catholic Church

Father George Wolf,

Queen of Peace Catholic Church

Rev. Paul LaRue,

retired United Methodist Clergy

Lise Adams Sherry,

Director of Religious Education, UU Congregation of Salem

Bumpy Poole,

person of faith (St. Edwards)

Rev. Karen Crooch,

Morningside United Methodist Church

Rev. Steve Mitchell,

Englewood United Methodist Church

Father Jaime Rojas,

St. Luke's Catholic Church (Woodburn)

Rev. Gail McDougale,

First Congregational Church

Kate Lore,

Unitarian Universalist Congregation

Francisco López,

Queen of Peace Catholic Church

Sarah Harkness,

United Methodist Hispanic Ministry

Rev. Kate Conolly,

United Methodist Clergy

Rev. Karen Nelson,

United Methodist Clergy

Rev. Kathy Raines,

Pastor Jefferson United Methodist Church

Carrie and David Howell,

Jefferson United Methodist Church

Michelle Harvey,

Prince of Peace Episcopal Church

Chris Kester,

Program Associate, Morningside United Methodist Church

Jan Nelson,

Morningside United Methodist Church

Rev. Don Freuh,

First Congregational Church

Rev. Franklin Wilson,

St. Mark's Lutheran Church