

## RESOLUTION

# New England Board of Ordained Ministry as Sanctuary

**Sanctuary** in the context of the New England Board of Ordained Ministry (BOM) means that we welcome, examine and evaluate immigrant candidates for ordination, licensing, or any other ministry status under the oversight of the BOM, without the limitations of their immigration status. We encourage the cabinet to support immigrant candidates and ministers facing difficulties in responding to their ministerial call due to their immigrant status. We continue to struggle with the limitations of our institutional policies and procedures that impact the practice of ministry for our immigrant brothers and sisters.

WHEREAS, we recognize the troubling times in our nation that directly threaten the life and livelihood of immigrants and refugees in this country;

WHEREAS, our Book of Resolutions notes that, “Throughout the history of the United States, the most recent group of migrants who arrived have often been targets of racism, marginalization, and violence”;<sup>1</sup>

WHEREAS, God calls persons to ordained ministry without regard to immigration status;

WHEREAS, the New England BOM recognizes, nurtures, and affirms those called to and equipped for various ministry;

WHEREAS, our Biblical tradition calls us to love sojourners in our midst (Leviticus 19:33-34);

WHEREAS, in the Gospel, Jesus’ life began as a refugee to Africa when he and his family fled to Egypt to escape Herod’s infanticide (Matthew 2:13-18).

WHEREAS, the New England BOM has been a leader in the Methodist tradition in the ordination of women, people of color and LGBTQplus community;

WHEREAS, the BOM calls “upon the ancient tradition of our faiths, which recognized houses of worship as refuge for the runaway slave, the conscientious objector, and the Central American refugee fleeing the civil wars of the 1980s” and stands “in solidarity with immigrants and refugees facing immoral and unjust discrimination and deportation policies”;<sup>2</sup>

BE IT RESOLVED that the New England BOM commits to be a place of sanctuary for those who are immigrants and refugees by recognizing, nurturing, and affirming their call for ministry without regard to immigrant status.

FURTHERMORE, be it resolved that the New England BOM will accompany, support and advocate for our immigrant colleagues and their families who face difficulties related to immigrant status.

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<sup>1</sup> Fragment from resolution *Welcoming the Migrant to the United States* (#3281) 2016 General Conference. <https://umc-gbcs.org/resolutions/welcoming-the-migrant-to-the-united-states>

<sup>2</sup> From *We Pledge To Resist Deportation and Discrimination Through Sanctuary*. <https://action.groundswell-mvmt.org/petitions/we-pledge-to-resist-deportation-and-discrimination>.