

To: The Middletown Township Committee

From: Middletown Clergy and Congregations

April 15, 2019

As people of faith, we are not in agreement with the Committee's resolution No. 19-129. As citizens and religious leaders in this community, it is our responsibility to call us all to a higher level of civility and humane behavior on behalf of all who live and work here.

In the absence of fair and appropriate immigration policies and a path to citizenship for those requesting it, we are called to provide sanctuary and welcome to our immigrant and undocumented neighbors. By offering dignity and compassion to the marginalized among us, we build a stronger community. The rising tide of harassment and prejudice against immigrants is unworthy of a nation of immigrants and of this Middletown community.

Our many faiths call us to love our neighbors, to recognize that no one is "the stranger", to affirm and promote the inherent worth and dignity of every person and to support the use of justice for all people.

In faith and community,

Rev. Virginia Jarocha-Ernst, Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Monmouth County, Lincroft NJ  
Jan Boyarin, Sanctuary Committee and Board Member, UUCMC  
Tony Giordano, Chair, UUCMC Social Justice Committee  
The Rev Rosemarie Newberry, 9 Kennedy Ct, Middletown, NJ  
Eric and Donna Oberer, 2 Orchard Lane, Colts Neck, NJ  
Rev. Diane R. Ford, Lincroft Presbyterian Church (PCUSA)  
Rev. Joel W. Biggers, Holmdel Community United Church of Christ  
Robert Smith and Stevi Lischin, Monmouth Center for World Religions and Ethical Thought  
Rev. Clark Lynn Callender, Saint John's United Methodist Church, Hazlet, NJ  
Rev. Tricia Sheffield, Ph.D., Middletown Reformed Church  
George Moutis  
Rev. Dr. Joyce Antila Phipps, Old First Church, Middletown, NJ  
Barbara Bates, Old First Church, Middletown NJ  
Barbara Withers, member Old First Church, Middletown  
Mary W. Pearson, member Old First Church, Middletown, NJ  
William Field, Moderator and President, Holmdel Community United Church of Christ  
Rev. David Moore, Hazlet, NJ  
The Unitarian Universalist Congregation Sanctuary Committee  
Don Pope, Holmdel Community United Church of Christ  
Janet Clapp, Holmdel Community United Church of Christ  
Esmat Mahmoud  
Rev. Alice Batcher, member Old First Church, Middletown, NJ  
Rev. Elizabeth B. Congdon, Member, Old First Church, and Co-President, the Monmouth Center for World Religions and Ethical Thought