

Cortland County Community Organizations Resolutions Against 287(g) Agreements

The Unitarian Universalist Church of Cortland Resolution (*Passed, 1.22.2026*)

“A Moral Commitment to Protect Immigrant Dignity and Community Safety”

WHEREAS the teachings of the diverse faith traditions represented in The Unitarian Universalist Church of Cortland affirm the inherent worth and dignity of every human being; **AND**

WHEREAS sacred texts and religious teachings across traditions repeatedly call believers to welcome the stranger, care for the vulnerable, and act justly toward those in need; **AND**

WHEREAS many of the agricultural workers, farmhands, and service-industry employees who sustain Cortland County’s economy are immigrants—some of whom lack secure documentation—and their families rely on the stability and compassion of the community; **AND**

WHEREAS the presence of ICE operations in county-owned facilities creates a climate of fear that undermines the safety of our community members, erodes trust in local law enforcement and threatens the physical, emotional, and spiritual well-being of immigrant families, seniors, students, and workers; **AND**

WHEREAS participation in a 287(g) agreement would compel the County to assist federal immigration-enforcement actions, effectively turning local resources into instruments of intimidation and separation, contrary to the prophetic call to defend the weak and protect the oppressed; **AND**

WHEREAS diverting county personnel, security, utilities, and space to ICE duties consumes resources that could otherwise be directed toward public safety, education, health services, and community ministries that embody the core values of love for neighbor; **AND**

WHEREAS ICE tactics have consistently included racial profiling, indiscriminate arrests, brutality and a blatant disregard for the civil rights and dignity of people in the community; **AND**

WHEREAS other jurisdictions that have entered 287(g) agreements have faced costly civil-rights lawsuits and settlements, placing additional financial burdens on taxpayers; **NOW THEREFORE BE IT**

RESOLVED that The Unitarian Universalist Church of Cortland, in solidarity with the people of Cortland County, calls upon the County Legislature to oppose any 287(g) agreement with U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) or any comparable arrangement with federal immigration-enforcement agencies; **AND BE IT FURTHER**

RESOLVED that copies of this resolution be shared with Cortland County Legislature, urging them to recognize the moral imperative to protect immigrant families and to refrain from policies that sow division and fear; **AND BE IT FINALLY**

RESOLVED that The Unitarian Universalist Church of Cortland commits to ongoing prayer, advocacy, and partnership with immigrant-rights organizations, local churches, and community groups to ensure that the spirit of hospitality, justice, and love continues to guide our public life.

Cortland County Democratic Committee Resolution (*Passed, 12.9.2025*)

WHEREAS, Cortland County has a rich 200 plus year history of welcoming immigrants from around the globe including, to just list a few, Irish, Italian, Greek, Jewish, Lebanese, and Ukrainian; AND

WHEREAS, the safety, privacy, and well-being of all Cortland County residents and the economic vitality of our communities are paramount responsibilities of our local county governments; AND

WHEREAS, Cortland County's largest industry, our dairy industry, requires the daily support of individuals who may be undocumented or insufficiently documented; AND

WHEREAS, immigrants are needed to work in our restaurants and hotels, helping to support and sustain the tourism industry; AND

WHEREAS, immigrants fill labor shortages in the construction industry, fueling growth in residential housing and commercial building; AND

WHEREAS, immigrants who work in home care, nursing homes, and hospitals will become increasingly critical as more than 4.1 million Americans turn 65 each year through 2027, a record surge; AND

WHEREAS, immigrants, also being entrepreneurs, start businesses and create jobs in our communities; AND

WHEREAS, in 2023 NYS undocumented immigrants paid approximately \$3 Billion in state and local taxes, underscoring their role in supporting public services and infrastructure; AND

WHEREAS, deporting 8.1 million immigrants could reduce GDP by 2.6% or \$5T over a decade and could lead to the loss of millions of jobs, impacting both immigrant and U.S.-born workers; AND

WHEREAS, a 287(g) cooperation agreement with U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) would obligate a local government to assist federal immigration-enforcement activities, diverting valuable resources—such as security personnel, legal staff, utilities, and space—that could otherwise be applied to services directly benefiting residents, would incur additional costs that would reduce funding for essential local priorities, including public safety, infrastructure maintenance, education, health services, and other community programs; AND

WHEREAS, counties that have entered into 287(g) agreements in other jurisdictions have faced civil-rights litigation and costly settlements, burdening local taxpayers; AND

WHEREAS, mass deportation operations that use indiscriminate or harsh tactics, separate families, or impact individuals with deep community ties, would prove disastrous to Cortland County's economy and create a climate of fear and uncertainty among community members, including families, students, seniors, and workers of all backgrounds; AND

WHEREAS, we have all benefited from economic contributions made by immigrants and have been enriched by their diverse cultures; NOW THEREFORE BE IT

RESOLVED that the Cortland County Democratic Committee, in order to protect public safety, provide support to our economy, and continue to provide a welcoming community to all residents, opposes

any Cortland County government from entering into a 287 (g) agreement with U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) or any other federal immigration-enforcement agency; AND BE IT FURTHER

RESOLVED that the Cortland County Democratic Committee opposes the use of any publicly-owned property, facility, or resource to be made available for the detention, interrogation, processing, or any other operational activity of ICE or related federal immigration-enforcement entities. This prohibition applies to courthouses, jails, administrative offices, meeting rooms, parking areas, utilities, and any other publicly-controlled asset; AND BE IT FURTHER

RESOLVED that the Cortland County Democratic Committee directs its leadership to communicate this position clearly to the Cortland County Legislature, all local municipalities and our State and Federal Representatives.