

Steps to Take Before Deciding to Declare PBUUC a Sanctuary

1. The congregation must first know what sanctuary entails: it does not only or necessarily mean housing an individual or family in our church. (see the Allied Faith Communities Statement of Support and Involvement.)
2. The congregation must (a) vote on whether to declare PBUUC a sanctuary church, (b) decide what actions and/or services we want PBUUC to provide, and (c) be willing to commit by signing up to be actively engaged in the actions and/or services we've decided we want PBUUC to provide.
3. SAC and DARTT must research the available organizations that provide the training and/or education the congregation decided it wants PBUUC to provide. [New Sanctuary Movement coalition representative](#) or contact [Unitarian Universalist Refugee and Immigrant Services and Education](#) (UURISE). The PICO National Network is another source. (See the Training and Education one-pagers.)
4. Engage partner congregations and organizations through the Beloved Community to share costs and increase the number of organizations and individuals in a helping coalition.
5. Schedule training and education classes and workshops at PBUUC and partner locations.
6. Determine how to best advertise the services the coalition provides.
7. Determine ways to continuously support our service providers who confirm their commitment to the project.

[Extracts from the UUA Toolkit]

Sanctuary, Not Deportation: A Faithful Witness to Building Welcoming Communities

UUA's suggestion with regard to becoming an active sanctuary congregation is to first find a [New Sanctuary Movement coalition representative](#) or contact [Unitarian Universalist Refugee and Immigrant Services and Education](#) (UURISE). The New Sanctuary Coalition of New York City is an interfaith network of congregations, organizations, and individuals standing in solidarity with families and communities resisting detention and deportation. UURISE provides free consultation for UU congregations considering sanctuary. Both of these organizations have been contacted. Until we can find out specifics, what follows is information from web sites.

As the faith community, we are doing what Congress has refused to do: protect immigrant families from an immigration system that is separating families and deporting people who are woven into the fabric of their communities and congregations. The immigrant community is very concerned about the draconian measures of the Trump Administration, but they are also ready to fight against unjust immigration policies.

The role of the faith community is to walk in solidarity and accompany immigrant leaders in this struggle for civil and human rights. We are preparing to build out our movement for Sanctuary; and for those of us who are ready to resist, we will put our bodies between Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and our undocumented community members. We worked hard to hold the Obama administration, ICE, and DHS accountable, and we will continue to fight to make sure the Trump Administration listens to the voices and stories of immigrant leaders who deserve justice, not deportation.

The Trump Administration's diatribes on immigrants with criminal convictions is designed to criminalize the entire immigrant community. These "criminals" include undocumented immigrants with an immigration-related conviction and those targeted by a policing system that is racially biased. We are the faith community that believes in transformation and forgiveness. Even those who have made a mistake in the past should be given a chance at redemption, not deported and separated from their families. We also know that detention and deportation has become a money making business, feeding the prison industrial complex and lining the pockets of private corporations with billions of dollars.

The church has been a space of sanctuary for those wrongly persecuted for thousands of years. The ability to provide humanitarian sanctuary defines who we are and our call as people of faith to care for the most vulnerable among us. We witnessed the power of the Sanctuary Movement in the 1980s. The church was able to protect Central Americans from being deported and returned to death squads in the Civil Wars they faced at home, which the United States augmented but refused to recognize. Thousands upon thousands of lives were spared because of the Sanctuary movement.

Now in the midst of a new Administration that has imposed extreme measures persecuting immigrants, faith communities once again must demonstrate leadership and action to keep families together, to keep parents with their children, to protect our brothers and sisters from this grave injustice.

Legal Questions

Are we breaking the law? Law is a lot like scripture; it's subject to interpretation. There is a law against bringing in and harboring persons not authorized to be in the U.S. (INA Sec.274) While we are clearly not bringing people into the U.S., whether we are harboring someone is up for interpretation. Some courts have interpreted harboring to require concealment of a person. However, when we declare Sanctuary for an individual, we are bringing them into the light of the community, not concealing them in the dark of secrecy (U.S. V Costello, 66 F.3d 1040, 7th Cir. 2012). Other courts have interpreted harboring to be simple sheltering (U.S. V Acosta de Evans, 531 F.2d 428 (9th Cir. 1976).

Sanctuary Goals and Strategy

- As the faith community, we are called to accompany our community members, congregants and neighbors facing deportation. By offering sanctuary we can fight individual cases, advocate to stop deportations, and make it possible to win deferred action at a case-by-case level to keep families together.
- Amplify the moral imperative to stop deportations by lifting up the stories of sanctuary cases and ensuring the prophetic witness of the immigrant taking sanctuary is heard at the national level.
- Defend administrative policies such as [Prosecutorial Discretion](#) so that we can still win stays of deportation case by case and keep sacred spaces and schools protected under the [Sensitive Locations](#) guidelines
- Work alongside undocumented students to defend the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrival program (DACA)
- Support local work to defend Sanctuary cities or local detainer policies and push back against unjust enforcement policies such as the [Priority Enforcement Program](#) or [287 g in the jails](#)
- Participate and help create protection networks to provide know your rights education, sanctuary space, legal assistance, housing assistance, family planning and bail support funds
- Stop the Trump border wall and any attempt to increase criminalization or mandatory sentencing for immigrants
- Defend asylum seekers by pushing back against expedited removal and helping provide critical resources such as legal assistance so they can defend and win their case.

Expanding Sanctuary Beyond the Congregations

Congregations, schools, and hospitals are considered “sensitive locations” under the [ICE Sensitive Locations](#) policy, but this policy could be revoked. Students are beginning to organize on college campuses to call on university administrations to create safe spaces on campuses and not collaborate with ICE. Campus organizers will be working to protect undocumented students by organizing to keep the DACA program intact. Sanctuary cities have come out declaring they will continue to be Sanctuary cities in midst of a Trump Administration. We must protect and expand Sanctuary spaces.

How do we “Declare Sanctuary?”

The public aspect of the Declaration of Sanctuary is critical. It is by bringing attention to the case, mobilizing the community, and advocating for the individual that we are able to successfully get cases closed. We encourage every community of faith to enter into a time of prayer and discernment so that when cases arise, they are ready to act. Once a congregation has made the decision to declare Sanctuary for an individual it is publicly announced at a press conference and prayer vigil, at which time the individual and their family enters into the premises of the house of worship. The individual in need of Sanctuary remains at the house of worship until they are granted a stay of deportation. Of course, an individual may decide at any time to leave Sanctuary for any reason and should have the full support of the community to do so. Living within Sanctuary is not an easy thing; the financial cost of not working, the media attention, and the strain on a family can all be burdensome.

Advocacy

One of the most important aspects to Sanctuary is the advocacy that we do on behalf of an individual. In partnership with legal service providers and immigrants’ rights organizers a strategy is developed and a multitude of different people are identified as the focus of our efforts, local ICE field office, ICE headquarters, Department of Homeland Security and the White House in general. They and other members of the administration are the focus of phone calls and letter writing. There is also a great deal of work organizing a broad base of support for the individual as well as finding key allies. Often the City Council and the Board of Supervisors as well as local religious leaders are approached to use their power and influence to get the individual’s case closed. We are always working to get more letters of support, more petitions signed, phone calls dialed in and more congregations working with us. We have developed relationships with key allies in Washington, DC and partnerships with national organizations who have worked closely with us on cases. Having an effective media plan is extremely important in garnering the type of attention needed to sway decision makers to close the deportation case.

The type of case by case advocacy to win a stay of removal is likely to become much more difficult under the Trump Administration, but we will fight to keep Prosecutorial Discretion guidelines that weigh positive equities of each case and continue to allow our undocumented community members to win a stay of removal to defer their deportation order.

Leadership of those in Sanctuary

This is perhaps the most important aspect of Sanctuary; we are not the leaders of this movement, those in Sanctuary are. It has been the courage and the faith of those who have come out of the shadows to say, “we are undocumented and we are unafraid” that has inspired our work. Those taking Sanctuary are putting everything on the line and are often risking a great deal for the benefit of the larger movement; their leadership, their voice, their opinions and wisdom should be prioritized at all times. They should be involved in every aspect of the campaign as they choose to be. Sanctuary is hard work and requires great sacrifice - if at any time a family wishes to leave Sanctuary, their wishes should be respected and celebrated. We should always remember that Sanctuary is not something that we do for our undocumented brothers and sisters; it is something we do *with* them. This is a great leadership development opportunity for those taking Sanctuary, please share leadership development resources, as you are able with the broader network.

Community Support

Families living in Sanctuary are often in need of support in different ways. Most important, they need the support of our friendship - so plan game nights, hang out with them, do what you can to make them feel at home and a part of your congregational family. It is also important that they are able to retain some normalcy as a family. You may find that congregation members will want to show their love and support by bringing food, which may be helpful a few nights a week, but it is important that the family is able to care for themselves and control as much as possible in a situation that is very much out of their control. Instead of bringing meals, encourage people to bring food that they can cook with.

There may also be the need for financial support, particularly if the individual in Sanctuary normally works. People should be encouraged to give, either directly to the family or through the house of worship (donations to benefit an individual are not tax deductible). Care should be taken to respect the pride of the family in these situations. It is difficult for anyone to be in a situation where we have to depend on others. We have often reminded individuals that by being in Sanctuary, they are engaged in hard work; both for their families but also for the movement and that work should be compensated.

Share Training With Other Congregations

Instead of only one or two congregations taking on the work of Sanctuary, it is important that other congregations also show support. Coalition congregations join together in advocacy efforts, joint sign-on letters, logistical support, vigils and cooking. Having other congregations engaged creates training opportunities for leadership from other congregations to become accustomed to the work of Sanctuary, an experience they can bring back to their congregation as they prepare themselves for a future opportunity of offering Sanctuary.

Sanctuary in the Streets

As a result of announcement of increased raids by the Trump Administration, many have organized rapid response networks. New Sanctuary Movement Philadelphia created the [Sanctuary in the Streets](#) to bring faith communities to protect people in their homes, should ICE arrive.

Know Your Rights

It is imperative to educate all immigrant communities on Know-Your-Rights resources. The most important information is DON'T OPEN THE DOOR to ICE, police, or anyone else if they do not have a warrant signed by a judge.

Know Your Rights Resources include:

- [AFSC- Know Your Rights- Conozca Sus Derechos](#)
- [United We DREAM Know Your Rights](#)
- [Guide to sharing your story of rights abuses, raids and deportation](#)
- Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XC2NgdEgD94>

Report when a raid is happening: HOTLINE: 1-844-363-1423; TEXT ALERTS WATCH ICE: 877877

(taken from page 4 in the UUA's Issue Brief: New Sanctuary Movement booklet)

Allied Faith Communities Statement of Support and Involvement

Following are actions and services promoted by the New Sanctuary Movement that we can engage in as a faith community. Most do not require hosting an individual or family, but all qualify as actions in support of sanctuary.

Education: There is much to learn about the status of immigration laws, related community issues, and the immigrants themselves.

- We will educate ourselves about issues facing immigrants in our society and about the current status of immigration-related legislation.
- We will avail ourselves of resources from the New Sanctuary Movement and will welcome the first-hand stories of immigrants who have experienced injustice.
- We will renew our study of the sacred stories of migration and hospitality, injustice and hope, which already exist in our own faith tradition.
- Seeking also to educate our greater community, we will offer public forums on immigration.

Advocacy: Education alone brings no change if it does not lead to action.

- We will actively and publicly work for comprehensive immigration reform in the United States.
- We call for an immediate moratorium on all raids and unjust deportations that cause the separation of families, until such time as the broken system of immigration laws is fixed.
- We agree to include our names, our voices, and our selves (or representative members) in public events, various forms of media, and other appropriate venues.
- We will be a compassionate and persistent voice for justice for our immigrant brothers and sisters.

In addition, we commit to one or more of the following:

Legal Triage: The need for competent and free or low-cost legal advice to the immigrant community is paramount. Therefore we pledge to

- Host legal clinics,
- Provide legal referrals,
- Find and help families in need of such assistance.

Prophetic Hospitality. Faith communities will “host” a family seeking sanctuary for three (3) months and/or serve as a tangible support system for them during that period. Based on the needs of the family, such support might include

- Meals,
- Transportation to and from work, school, or other events,
- Housing at the faith community itself, should such emergency housing be required, and
- Financial support and/or job referral (particularly in the case of job loss due to publicity of the case). (Although this form of very public hospitality is entirely legal, faith communities involved in this aspect will have access to first-rate pro-bono legal services.)

Material Support. Faith communities will provide financial support toward either

- The New Sanctuary Movement itself, or
- A fund to be used to assist specific families in the local community seeking sanctuary and in need of the support. Depending on storage and distribution capacity, other forms of donations could also be given including food, bedding, clothing, and other material goods.
- Hold cultural, musical, and/or other events to raise both money for and awareness of the sanctuary movement.

Worker Justice. Despite society’s ongoing desire for the services of immigrant day laborers and domestics, the climate of racism and harassment has reached a fever pitch. Faith communities are called to offer support through:

- Being publicly present at existing day labor pick-up sites as a peaceful presence in the face of racist and hateful demonstrators;
- Serving as an alternative labor/employer match site; and/or
- Being advocates for worker issues.

Training and Education: New Sanctuary Movement of Philadelphia

[UUA's suggestion with regard to becoming an active sanctuary congregation is to first find a [New Sanctuary Movement coalition representative](#) or contact [Unitarian Universalist Refugee and Immigrant Services and Education \(UURISE\)](#). The Washington, DC, NSM representative is no longer active with the Movement and suggested we contact the New Sanctuary Movement of Philadelphia. This one-pager is from the New Sanctuary Movement of Philadelphia website.]

Interfaith Immigrant Justice. We work to end injustices against immigrants regardless of immigration status, express radical welcome for all, and ensure that values of dignity, justice, and hospitality are lived out in practice and upheld in policy. We are an interfaith, multicultural immigrant justice movement organizing communities to end injustices against immigrants, regardless of status.

Immigrant-Led - Affected immigrants decide our goals and plan our strategy. Citizen allies support and accompany immigrants in the struggle.

Interfaith - We organize member congregations from diverse faith backgrounds who come together around shared faith values.

Spiritual Non-violence - Inspired by peaceful movements for social change, we confront violent structures with bold compassion and courageous love.

Our Mission

New Sanctuary Movement of Philadelphia builds community across faith, ethnicity, and class in our work to end injustices against immigrants regardless of immigration status, express radical welcome for all, and ensure that values of dignity, justice, and hospitality are lived out in practice and upheld in policy.

Our Vision

We work together to bend the arc of the moral universe towards justice and transform our communities into a place where immigrants, families, friends, and neighbors are safe, respected, and welcomed; where economic, spiritual, and emotional wholeness are realized; and where borders and divisions disappear as we build a community welcoming to everyone.

Our Work

Through grassroots organizing led by affected immigrants, we fight and win immigrant justice campaigns with our members across nationality, faith, class, and immigration status. Our community organizing in Philadelphia builds power in immigrant communities to alter the power imbalance, organizes direct action campaigns, builds the individual and collective capacity of the immigrant community and brings immigrant and ally communities together in solidarity to work for change. Read more about our organizing model [here](#).

Our Member Congregations

Our member congregations form the backbone of our interfaith immigrant justice movement. Comprised of even numbers of immigrant and allied citizen faith communities, our member congregations participate in trainings, workshops, campaigns, events, and accompany families facing deportation.

PROSPECTIVE CONGREGATIONS - We organize faith communities for justice for immigrants. Please contact us if you are interested in learning more about joining us.

Training and Education
Unitarian Universalist Refugee and Immigrant
Services and Education
(UURISE)

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UURISE is a non-profit, 501(c)(3) organization incorporated in 2007 to empower immigrants and refugees in the U.S. through offering direct legal services, particularly to those who don't have the resources to obtain legal assistance on their own.

Unitarian Universalist principles are the foundation of UURISE, including a passionate vision to affirm and promote "respect for the inherent worth and dignity of every person." In harmony with UU principles and in accordance with laws governing nonprofit organizations, UURISE is radically inclusive, intentionally creating a safe and welcoming environment for all people.

From our offices in Vista, CA, UURISE provides legal advice and representation to individuals throughout the U.S. through workshops and trainings on immigration and advocacy. Using strategic partnerships, intensive coalition building, and volunteer development, UURISE has crafted a method of extending legal services to large groups at no or nominal cost.

Training and Education

UURISE provides a number of trainings, presentations, and workshops on immigration related issues as well as support and consultations to faith communities and Social Justice Ministries.

Training

- Know Your Rights
- DACA: Identifying and Assisting DREAMers
- Immigration Relief for Marginalized Immigrants
- Immigration Relief for Victims of Domestic Violence
- Naturalization and Civic Engagement
- Safety Planning: Preventing catastrophic loss

Workshops

- Immigration as a Moral Issue
- Crossing Borders: Perspectives on Immigration
- LGBTQ & Immigration: An Intersection of Human Rights
- Witness to Advocacy: Safety Planning for Undocumented Immigrants

Consultations for Congregations

- Detention Visitation Programs
- Collaboration Building
- Program Development
- Resources for Services related to immigration and immigrant justice
- RE and Adult RE Resources
- Immigration as a Moral Issue Curriculum

Training and Education: PICO National Network

[All Souls hosted an in-person training facilitated by PICO National Network for congregations and clergy leaders interested in providing support and sanctuary for vulnerable individuals. This is another source for training and education.]

[PICO National Network](#) comprises faith-based community organizations working to create innovative solutions to problems facing urban, suburban, and rural communities. PICO helps equip community leaders with the skills they need to reach out into their neighborhoods, identify common concerns, research possible solutions, and work with public officials and private businesses to put those solutions into effect.

PICO's Faith-Based Community Organizing is a method of working with faith communities to address the problems and concerns of their communities, and in turn, vitalize and strengthen the life of congregations.

There are many paths to a more just world, and faith-based community organizing is one of them. Other paths include direct service, in which people respond to the immediate and often urgent physical, emotional, and spiritual needs of others. Another path is advocacy or activism, where people act and to speak on behalf of others who are suffering from great injustices and social ills.

PICO's path to building a more just world involves teaching people of faith how to build and exercise their own power to address the root causes of the problems they face. In PICO, this struggle for justice is rooted in our faith.

At the center of PICO's model of faith-based community organizing is a belief in the potential for transformation – of people, institutions, and our larger culture. This belief stems directly from PICO's rootedness in faith communities, and radiates throughout the organization, influencing the way PICO relates to public officials, to community members, and to one another.

Nonpartisan and multicultural, PICO provides an opportunity for people and congregations to translate their faith into action. More than 40 different religious denominations and faith traditions are part of PICO.



All Souls Church Unitarian

a diverse, spirit-growing, justice-seeking community

January 31, 2017

Dear Clergy Colleagues:

Our families, friends, neighbors and co-workers are terrified about being detained and deported; profiled because of their religion, race or political beliefs; losing their health coverage; and facing hate and discrimination. Learn why congregations across the region and country are choosing to support and provide sanctuary, what it means in practice and how to be successful.

All Souls Church, Unitarian will host an in-person training facilitated by [PICO National Network](#) for congregations and clergy leaders interested in providing support and sanctuary for vulnerable individuals in the Washington Metro area. We'll discuss the many ways that your congregation can stand up against hate and dehumanization at this moment.

This training will be held on the evening of January 31 from 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm at All Souls Church, 1500 Harvard St NW, Washington, DC 20009. Dinner will be provided.

The training team will review topics, including:

- How to declare and set up a sanctuary project in your community.
- Imagining sanctuary as a faith-rooted expression of resistance.
- Considering the legal rights and risks involved in declaring sanctuary.

Time will be provided for congregations to caucus by geographic or faith affinity. Registration is open to congregations in the Metro DC area but you must register. [Please click here to register.](#)

Feel free to contact Rich Morales (RMorales@PicoNetwork.org) or Rev. Rob Keithan (rkeithan@allsouls.ws) with questions.

In Faith,

ROB

The Rev. Dr. Robert M. Hardies
Senior Minister



PAINT BRANCH
UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH

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**DRAFT Resolution: We Pledge to Resist Deportation and Discrimination
Through Sanctuary**

As people of faith and people of conscience, we pledge to resist the newly installed Administration's policy proposals to target and deport millions of undocumented immigrants and discriminate against marginalized communities. We will open up our congregations and communities as sanctuary spaces for those targeted by hate, and work alongside our friends, families, and neighbors to ensure the dignity and human rights of all people.

Calling upon the ancient traditions of our faiths, which recognized houses of worship as a refuge for the runaway slave, the conscientious objector, and the Central American refugee fleeing the civil wars of the 1980s, Sanctuary is once again growing among communities of faith that are standing in solidarity with immigrants and marginalized communities facing immoral and unjust deportation and discrimination policies.

We find ourselves entering a new phase of U.S. history wherein the politics of fear has stoked an atmosphere of racism and xenophobia across the country. The new Administration has pledged to criminalize, detain and deport undocumented people at new levels that will tear families and communities apart.

As people of faith and people of conscience, we will take civil initiative out of our moral obligation to embody principles of human rights and dignity, and resist any harmful and unjust policy proposals that further undermine due process and lead to racial profiling and discrimination.

By signing this pledge, we are dedicating ourselves to educate and activate our congregations, to amplify and respond to the voices of immigrant leaders, and to speak out against the discrimination of any and all marginalized people. We are ready to open the doors of our sacred spaces and accompany those facing deportation and discrimination.

We support those answering the call to provide sanctuary at schools, hospitals, college campuses, community centers and family homes. We will work with partner organizations to create sacred space of sanctuary wherever it is needed.

Paint Branch Unitarian Universalist Church