

Considering Sanctuary

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DANIEL NEYOY RUIZ

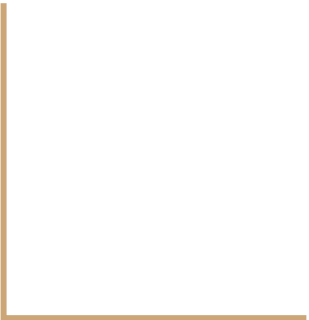
MAY 2014

SOUTHSIDE
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

TUCSON, AZ



Gathering Together



Scriptural Reflection and Introductions

What is Sanctuary?

Faith-Based Reasons

Legislative Reasons

Community Needs

Partner Requests

Others?

Not “One Size Fits All”

- Traditional Sanctuary in Congregations/Homes
- Accompaniment (Immigration, Asylum, etc.)
- Sanctuary in the Streets (Rapid Response, Civil Disobedience, Documentation)
- Legislative Advocacy
- Solo or Coalition
- Joining Existing Partners
- Join local organizing efforts for municipal Sanctuary policies, end to over-policing of black/brown communities, municipal ID's, etc.



Consider These Issues
First



Intersectionality

- Refugee ban as entry point for broader immigrant rights support
- Interfaith connections
- Safe space for all people threatened by this administration - #freedomcity campaign
- Building a broad-based coalition to resist Trump policies
- LGBTQ
- Racism
- Local Intersectional Issues

Racism, Colonialism and the “White Savior” Complex

- Remember the first principle
- Recognize and acknowledge power dynamic
- We (allies) do not own this work
- What does the local immigrant community ask of us?
- Consider training on racism, white supremacy, power/privilege – connects us to related issues
- Well-meaning people fall short
- Why are we doing this? Who asked for it? Who is in charge?

SANCTUARY PRINCIPLES

- Respect the leadership of directly-affected communities
- Remain steadfast in our adherence to our own faith traditions
- Be relentlessly imaginative and brave
- Pledge our highest allegiance to the mandates of our faith and not to the laws of the land



First Steps Towards Sanctuary



Sanctuary Discernment Action Next Steps/Toolkit:

- Form a team to study/research the issue:
 - a. Use the toolkit on our website
 - b. Research denominational support for immigrant rights
- Reach out to local immigrant rights group
 - a. Start to form relationships/work in partnership
- Determine your calling, capacity and commitment to: open physical space, support others who do, providing financial assistance, accompany asylum-seekers, set up rapid response network
- Form new teams as necessary (advocacy, organizing/strategy)
- Bring vote to governing body/whole congregation
- Sign the pledge so we can be in contact!

Building a Sanctuary Coalition

- Bring congregations together around common goals
 - Aim for a diverse group, even if some differences of opinion
- Develop a statement of values or pledge to which congregations can sign-on
- Publicly announce your efforts through a press conference or other action
- Connect with National Movement through calls and social networks

ALSO

- Not all members of congregation need to be on board to do this work
– can be team within the church.
- Work collaboratively with a community-based mindset
- Be flexible
- Ask for help/learn from experienced coalitions
- Remember **why** you/your community are committed to this work

Other Issues to Consider and Engage Ahead of Time

- Know Your Rights educational workshops with different audience and situations in mind (engage role playing)
- Action Plan for Families
- Know where to turn if help is needed (legal, Presbytery, community, elected officials etc.)
- Rapid Response Teams - create the support structures and organization
- Know about and address hate crimes in your community, schools, etc.
- Financial resources for legal support



Sanctuary in the Streets



Deportation Accompaniment
led by
Columbia
County
Sanctuary
Coalition

**Ash
Wednesday
2017**

Homeland
Security
Latham, NY



Needs around Raids and Increased Deportations (Sanctuary in the Streets)

- Focus on people with past removal orders
- To intervene in ICE enforcement
- To bear public witness of the impact of policies that tear apart families and communities
- To pressure ICE to back off their enforcement
- To make unapologetic statement of the values of our faith

RAID RESPONSE/ SANCTUARY IN THE STREETS

- Set up hotline and text-alert system
- Train volunteers with extended role play scenarios
- Show up to raid
- Assign roles (lead, family liaison, ICE/police liaison, leader of ritual, song leader, media spokesperson, recorder, those risking arrest)
- Walk towards house/workplace hand in hand
- Declare Sanctuary space—sacred ground
- Begin ritual
- Family liaison checks-in to see how group can support
- Follow-up is key

MAKE A PLAN

As an individual, group, congregation, consider your:

- Calling - Why?
- Capacity - How?
- Commitment - What?

Pitfalls

- White Savior Complex
- Rugged Individualism
- Going it alone
- Starting something “new”
- Not doing Asset Mapping



Current Legal and Political Framework



EXECUTIVE ORDERS ON IMMIGRATION – SIGNED 1/26/17

1. Allow ICE to more aggressively arrest, detain, and deport people
2. Expand detention space and prosecution of criminal offenses related to Southern Border
3. Increase use of private for-profit prisons
4. Withhold grant money from "sanctuary" cities
5. Restore the Secure Communities Program
6. Force other countries to take back deportees by withholding visas and other tactics
7. Fortify border wall/fencing; 5,000 more Border Patrol Agents
8. Rein in prosecutorial discretion of individual cases
9. TRUMP ADMIN PRIORITIZING 8 MILLION PEOPLE FOR DEPORTATION (BROKEN A LAW OR SUSPECTED OF DOING SO)

CASE-BY-CASE ADVOCACY OF in TRADITIONAL SANCTUARY PROCESS

- Individual(s) with final deportation order enter Sanctuary
- Congregation & Community provides hospitality
- Legal/Organizing strategy to push for deportation relief through prosecutorial discretion (stay of removal, deferred action, case closure)
- Strategic use of sensitive locations memo
- Adding to structures created under Bush and Obama
- Most require Congressional funding – budget fight to come in April
- Constitutional challenges
- Potential threat to ‘sensitive locations’ memo

Q & A



2017 SANCTUARY PLEDGE

“As people of faith and people of conscience, we pledge to resist the newly elected 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.”

LITANY OF RADICAL WELCOME

FROM SOUTHERN ARIZONA SANCTUARY COALITION

As they seek to shut out refugees

We will throw open our doors

As ripples of hate translate into violence on the streets

We will put our bodies on the line

As they plan massive separation of families

We will stand in their way

In the face of fear

We commit ourselves to courage

In the face of hatred,

We commit ourselves to love

In the face of hostility

We commit ourselves to radical welcome

Resources

National Sanctuary Movement

<http://.sanctuarynotdeportation.org>

Interfaith Movement for Immigrant Justice

<http://imirj.org/faith-community-resources>

<http://imirj.org/resources-for-advocacy-and-education>

Presbyterian Resources

<http://albanypresbytery.org/pcusa-immigration-sanctuary-resources/>

<http://oga.pcusa.org/section/mid-council-ministries/immigration/sanctuary/>

Social Media

@sanctuarymvmnt – FB and Twitter

#SanctuaryRising #SanctuarynotDeportation

Contact

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