



UULMNJ ACTION LIST STANDING IN SOLIDARITY WITH IMMIGRANT COMMUNITIES

This document lists a variety of specific actions that congregations can organize to work on becoming Sanctuary/Fair and Welcoming Congregations. It is not exhaustive, and congregations may develop their own adaptations of activities such as these.

The challenge, though, is for every UU congregation in New Jersey to examine possible actions toward a fair and welcoming status and agree to follow through on at least three (3) specific actions from the list below. The actions are listed in italics for clarity.

UULMNJ and the Immigration Task Force will develop a way to publicly recognize the congregations that carry out at least three tasks to stand up for immigrant rights. Let's set the goal of getting 100% of New Jersey's Unitarian Universalist congregations to be Sanctuary/Fair and Welcoming by the October 14, 2017 UULMNJ Issues Conference in Lincroft, NJ!

ADVOCATE FAIR AND WELCOMING POLICIES

- Start locally: in the towns, cities and counties from which your congregation draws
- Branch out to state and federal policies once you have thoroughly explored local options
Most likely in the short term this advocacy would be by protest if current policies are weakened or current protections removed.

1. *Identifying and joining local/regional coalitions of immigrant advocacy, faith groups, progressive groups organizing around immigration rights*
2. *Signing relevant petitions, letters and emails*
3. *Learning about and joining marches, rallies, and press conferences*

MAKE OUR CONGREGATIONS FAIR AND WELCOMING/SANCTUARY PLACES

- If possible, offer physical housing for person(s) in immediate need of sanctuary (this usually requires having bathing/showering facilities for longer term stays)
- Support other congregations, of whatever faith, able to offer physical sanctuary

Opportunities for supporting a sanctuary congregation are many. Here are some:

1. *Assist with direct services, such as food and living supplies*
2. *Provide volunteers to be at house of worship should the undocumented person have a need or should ICE or other law enforcement arrive*
3. *Provide rides or other support to family members;*
4. *Funding support.*



COLLABORATE WITH COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS OR IMMIGRANT GROUPS AND THEIR SUPPORTERS

1. *Identify local organization or group and make contact, expressing a desire for collaboration.*
2. *Join in social occasions, shared meals, or group activities*
3. *Explore with community organization members how allies can help, listening for what they need and being responsive rather than taking the lead. Recognize they are the experts; learn what it means to be an ally*

STANDING IN SOLIDARITY AT TIMES OF ACTIVE THREAT

1. *Form a Rapid Response Team in your congregation/in partnership with other willing allies. This requires being present with vulnerable individuals at times of potential raids*
2. *Send messages of hope and faith to immigrant communities*
3. *Join or create communications mechanisms and networks (hotline, phone trees) so that faith networks are ready to respond quickly*
4. *Watch social media outlets, especially of local immigrant organizations or of key hashtags such as #ICE [insert city] or #MigraWatch*
5. *Create or join rotation of volunteers to assure that someone is available*
6. *During a raid, gather as a group at a distance, with banners and signs*
7. *If offering public witness, do the legal research about what bystanders can do: recording license plates of vehicles, names and badge numbers of personnel, using phone to record incident, etc.*
8. *Immediately after an incident, help people involved as appropriate, and hold interfaith vigil.*

RECRUIT PRO BONO ATTORNEYS FOR KIND (KIDS IN NEED OF DEFENSE)

1. *Learn about the kind of work KIND is doing to mentor and sometimes accompany minors to immigration and family court.*
2. *Contact NJ KIND director, Carrey Wong, to join the KIND NJ network **Infonewark@supportkind.org** or Carrey Wong, Supervising Attorney for Pro Bono Programs, **cwong@supportkind.org***
3. *Begin advertising and recruiting for retired or current lawyers, paralegals, judges in your congregation to serve as mentors to undocumented minors.*