

UUCD Sanctuary Discernment Information and Resources

The following pages provide information about UUCD's sanctuary discernment work which began in August and concluded on October 29, 2017:

- text of the adopted UUCD Sanctuary Declaration.
- four fact sheets about sanctuary activities (sanctuary as housing; Sacramento ACT/PICO; legal observers; and immigrant students on campus). The Sanctuary Discernment Team wrote the fact sheets to provide detailed information on activities identified during the discernment process.
- Information compiled since UUCD began its sanctuary discernment process (background about the Sanctuary Discernment Team, notes from the August and September discernment meetings and other resources about sanctuary).

Unitarian Universalist Church of Davis Sanctuary Declaration

Our Unitarian Universalist values call on us to provide sanctuary for fellow community members who are under attack by government authorities. Today, we are called to affirm our profound commitment to the fundamental principles of justice, equity and compassion. Consistent with our belief in the inherent worth and dignity of every person—and, as signers of the Unitarian Universalist Association/Unitarian Universalist Service Committee Declaration of Conscience—we, the UU Church of Davis, agree to take the following actions. As a sanctuary congregation, UUCD will:

- Be a voice for justice in the public square of Yolo County and in the Pacific Central District and the Pacific Western Region of the UUA.
- Support UC Davis SPEAK and the AB 540 and Undocumented Center when requested to do so by students or staff.
- Have congregants who become trained as legal observers, rapid responders, accompaniment companions and UndocuAllies serve when called upon.
- Raise funds to support the undocumented immigrant community.
- Attend rallies and actively support selected local, state and federal legislation that protects the immigrant and undocumented communities.
- Support the immigration work of interfaith groups and other nonprofits in Yolo County and the greater Sacramento area when they request our assistance.
- Join Area Congregations Together/People Improving Communities Through Organizing (Sacramento ACT/PICO) and become active with the ACT/PICO immigration team.
- Continue to listen, learn and work as individuals and as a congregation to promote justice, allowing the needs, visions and voices of the communities with whom we work to guide us.

On this day, October 29, 2017, we declare the UU Church of Davis to be a sanctuary congregation. Individuals in the church will be active as their time and talents allow.

*Adopted unanimously at the special membership meeting
of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Davis on October 29, 2017.*

Declaración de Congregación Santuario de la Iglesia Unitaria Universalista de Davis

Nuestros valores Unitarios Universalistas nos piden que brindemos refugio a otros miembros de la comunidad que están siendo atacados por las autoridades gubernamentales. Hoy estamos siendo llamados a afirmar nuestro profundo compromiso con los principios fundamentales de justicia, equidad y compasión. De acuerdo con nuestra creencia en el valor inherente y la dignidad de cada persona ... nosotros, como congregación de santuario, haremos lo siguiente:

- Ser una voz por la justicia social en el ámbito público del Condado de Yolo y en el Distrito Central del Pacífico y la Región del Pacífico Occidental de la Asamblea Unitaria Universalista.
- Respaldo a UC Davis SPEAK y AB 540 y al centro para personas indocumentadas cuando lo soliciten los estudiantes o el personal.
- Que los miembros entrenados como observadores legales, respondedores rápidos, compañeros de acompañamiento y UndocuAllies sirvan cuando se les solicite.
- Recaudar fondos para apoyar a la comunidad de inmigrantes indocumentados.
- Asistir a mítines y apoyar activamente la legislación local, estatal y federal que protege a las comunidades inmigrantes e indocumentadas.
- Apoyar el trabajo de inmigración de los grupos interreligiosos y otras organizaciones sin fines de lucro en el condado de Yolo y en el área de Sacramento cuando soliciten nuestra ayuda.
- Unirse en el área de Sacramento a Congregaciones del Área Unidas (ACT)/Personas Mejorando Comunidades a Través de la Organización (PICO) y participar activamente en el equipo de inmigración de ACT/PICO.
- Continuar escuchando, aprendiendo y trabajando como individuos y como congregación para promover la justicia, permitiendo que las necesidades, visiones y voces de las comunidades con quienes trabajamos nos guíen.

En este día, 29 de octubre de 2017, declaramos que la Iglesia UU de Davis es una congregación santuario. Los miembros de nuestra iglesia estarán activos a medida que su tiempo y talentos lo permitan.

Aprobado por unanimidad en la reunión especial de la membresía de la Iglesia Unitaria Universalista de Davis el 29 de octubre de 2017.

Housing

UUCD Sanctuary Discernment Information

Question: what would be involved in providing space on the UUCD campus for someone threatened?

In this fact sheet, “sanctuary” means providing space for someone threatened by deportation to live on UUCD campus. “Sanctuary individual” is the term used for person(s) living on the UUCD campus.

Background Information

The cottage is the most practical space on the UUCD campus for a person facing deportation to reside.

Work UUCD would have to do to prepare the cottage for habitation and issues the congregation would have to consider prior to making a decision about using the cottage to provide sanctuary:

- Preparation of cottage: required changes to cottage and costs thereof. (Shower stall ungraded to make shower workable; stove purchased & installed (now only microwave); bed/dresser/TV secured/purchased; internet installed, and cell phone provided. Costs of changes/ additions would have to be estimated.
- Currently Redbud staff use the cottage bathroom; if this bathroom were to no longer available to Redbud staff would Redbud require renovation of Bridgehouse bathroom (to accommodate adults) prior to renewing its contract? Renovation of Bridgehouse bathroom would require time of plumber, and possibly, a contractor as well. (Renovated bathrooms would need to be ADA compliant which could necessitate moving walls.)
- Upgrade(s) to cottage and Bridgehouse (if necessary) would require a minimum of two hours of oversight by UUCD Facilities Manager at his hourly rate of \$18.00 an hour.
- Willingness to give up all UUCD use of cottage and to suspend rental of cottage to outside groups.
- Cottage rental income estimated for 2017/2018 church year at roughly \$6,100.
- Moving of all on-going church activities in cottage (Unique, OWL, URJ, special overnights to name just some) to other church space(s). Commitment of all groups/committees to be flexible and accommodating regarding increased demand for remaining UUCD space(s).

Issues Requiring Research and Questions Needing Resolution

- Review of insurance policy; determination of whether policy would need modification, and if so, what are the necessary changes and is there a cost to make necessary changes.
- Review of Montessori Redbud contract to ensure sanctuary would not violate contract. Rental income from Redbud for the 2017/2018 church year is projected to be \$33,000. Would church’s decision to provide sanctuary jeopardize our contract with Redbud? If so, is UUCD willing to risk Montessori Redbud severing contract and how would the loss of this rental income be made up? Review of the insurance policy and Redbud contract could require consultation with a lawyer. Two hours of a lawyer’s time estimated at \$400. The above-noted research would have to be done by volunteers since UUCD staff unlikely to have time to conduct such research. Estimated volunteer time investment: 10 hours.

Responsibilities/tasks UUCD would have to assume if sanctuary were to be provided.

Volunteer Needs

A minimum of fifteen is the estimated number of volunteers needed to support a sanctuary individual living on the UUCD campus. Below is a delineation of the volunteer tasks.

- Volunteer Coordinator; recruit, oversee the following team captain(s) and keep ministers, UUCD board and social justice co-chairs informed:
 - Advocacy director: develop press strategy; write press release(s); work with the sanctuary individual; serve as UUCD press contact (in conjunction with Reverend Banks)
 - Family liaison: communicate with sanctuary individual’s family members near and far

- Legal/services liaison : communicate with sanctuary individual’s lawyer and or local Yolo County attorneys and attorneys working to prevent deportation of Yolo County residents
- Food coordinator: organize purchase and delivery of food*
- Transportation coordinator: organize transportation for sanctuary individual and family members when needed*
- Child care coordinator*
- Medical care and emergency coordinator (might be a 24/7 need for someone to be available for the sanctuary individual to contact)*
- Pastoral care coordinator: could be UUCD minister or pastor/minister of the faith of sanctuary individual
- Financial and fund raising coordinator*: raise all necessary funds (direct such as food; indirect such as increased costs associated with cottage like internet) to support sanctuary individual
- Interfaith coordinator: work with other congregations supporting UUCD and its sanctuary individual
- UUA and *Love Resists* coordinator: communicate with national UU organizations to ensure UUCD effort part of national UU effort; to ensure we convey lessons learned and know success/failure of other UU and other faith groups providing sanctuary
- Coordinator of home hospitality should family/friends of individual come to Davis*: recruit hosts for out-of-town guests; welcome guests to UUCD
- ACT liaison: participate in ACT immigration group

*coordinator will recruit others to carry out task(s)

On-going costs to support sanctuary individual:

● Monthly food costs of Moderate Cost Plan	\$256 - \$1,054
○ Male (19 to 50 years old)	\$300.10
○ Female (19 to 50 years old)	\$255.80
○ Family of two (male and female: 19 to 50 years old)	\$586.80
○ Family of four (male and female: 19 to 50 years old children ages 6 to 11 years old)	\$1,053.80

So annual food costs would range from \$3,072-\$12,700. (Costs based on the USDA estimates of costs of food at home source: <https://www.cnpp.usda.gov/sites/default/files/CostofFoodAug2017.pdf>)

Additionally, there would increases in utility costs and repair costs for the cottage.

Summary

The annual costs associated with providing sanctuary would be minimally \$9,600. (This is the total of specific estimated costs noted above and a loss of \$6,100 in cottage rental income.) Other costs would be an increase in UUCD’s cost for gas, electric, and internet and possibly increases in cottage repair work.

Additionally, at a minimum 15 volunteer coordinators (and those they would recruit) would be required to support a sanctuary individual possibly for a sustained period of time.

Providing sanctuary would be a labor extensive project demanding time, money *and* the continued willingness of the UUCD community to be in the public sphere promoting our values. It would directly benefit one person (or more if a family were provided sanctuary) and indirectly benefit other undocumented individuals if our sanctuary advocacy work resulted in fewer people being deported and prompted immigration policy change.

Notes

Church officers and staff including Karen Naliboff (Financial Officer), Chris Hendrix-Chupa, (Facilities Manager), Mandy Dawn Kuntz (Congregational Administrator), Debrah Whitehurst (Bookkeeper), and Reverend Beth Banks were resources for this fact sheet. *The UUA Sanctuary Toolkit* was a resource too.

Sacramento ACT/PICO

UUCD Sanctuary Discernment Information

Question: Should UUCD join Sacramento ACT as a way of directing our efforts and optimizing our impact regarding immigration.

Background Information

Sacramento Area Congregations Together (ACT) is an affiliate of a national organization called People Improving Communities through Organizing (PICO). It serves the entire Sacramento region, including Yolo County (although there are currently no congregational members here). PICO is one of the largest grass-roots community organizing networks in the country, with more than 1,000 member organizations in 150 locations. An informational flyer from ACT is posted on the UUCD website, in the Social Justice/Sanctuary Discernment Team section (<http://uudavis.org/PDFs/2017SDT.pdf>, scroll to page 10). Visit ACT's website at <http://www.sacact.org/>.

ACT is a multi-racial, multi-faith organization advocating transformation of communities rooted in shared faith values. Its mission is to create leaders able to identify and change conditions to create justice and equity. "We do not do for others what they can do for themselves" is the approach. Act's model is to build relationships and have one-on-one conversations within the community, then to research solutions and finally, to guide community members to lead effective action.

Through ACT, UUCD could get involved with accompaniment and rapid response. ACT provides training and a communication network for both of these. *Accompaniment* means going with a person to legal appointments or appearances at the courthouse for anything from paying parking tickets to scheduled ICE interviews. The volunteer is a presence and a witness at a time when people who are undocumented will be vulnerable. *Rapid Response* volunteers show up on short notice to provide witness at ICE actions. When ACT is alerted, they relay a request to volunteers within a 5-mile radius of the home or workplace being raided to show up right away. As witnesses, they document what happens and watch for abuses or illegal action.

ACT provides legal observer training for volunteers; it applies to both rapid response and accompaniment. Interested volunteers apply and are assessed to see whether this role is a good match for the volunteer's personality and skills. Completion of the training is required to do either of these solidarity actions. Note that this training is available to individuals whether or not their congregation is a member of ACT.

A group of interfaith clergy in Yolo County has reached out to ACT, and at least three congregations are considering membership. UUCD seems to be the farthest along in the process. If we were to join, an ACT organizer would be assigned to us (or eventually to a group of local congregations with shared interests). ACT would train leaders within our congregation and facilitate connections with communities of varying income, ethnicity, and immigration status.

Immigration issues are just one focus of ACT programming. In addition, they assist congregations seeking transformation in:

- Police accountability
- Homelessness/housing
- Causes of violence
- Restorative justice
- Environmental justice (including clean air job creation)
- Healthcare

Requirements of UUCD if we were to join ACT

In addition to paying membership dues (see below), UUCD must have an adequate number of church members committed to working with ACT on immigration issues. . The social justice recommendations approved by the UUCD

Board (November 9, 2015) state that a minimum of five church members must be committed to active involvement in any new (justice) group for at least a year. The Sanctuary Discernment Team regards ACT as a new justice group.

In order for the accompaniment and rapid response programs to be effective, a large number of local volunteers would need to be trained and active (some could be from other congregations).

On-going costs of ACT/PICO membership

A congregation's annual dues are based on its size and the level of involvement in ACT's various action areas (Immigration being one). It is expected that UUCD's dues for the first year would be \$250. If we wish to expand into additional action areas, dues would increase. Dues for the highest activity level are \$2,500 annually.

Summary

The Sanctuary Discernment Team sees a high correlation between goals for immigration action expressed in congregational discernment discussions and work ACT does. Joining ACT increases the opportunities for UUCD to be involved in interfaith immigration activities. This may help us connect with a more diverse population, as ACT already works with Catholic groups popular with Hispanic immigrants.

Written by the UUCD's Sanctuary Discernment Team, Oct. 11, 2017

Legal observers

UUCD Sanctuary Discernment Information

Question: What do legal observer, witness, accompaniment and UndocuAlly mean and what kind of training is involved?

Background information

Legal observers do just that: “Observe do not get involved.”

The idea is to provide moral support to Immigrants when there is an ICE raid or an individual has to go to court. Sacramento Area Congregations Together (ACT) provides a two-hour training that teaches volunteers how to act and what kind of behavior to look for.

Witness/rapid response

Community members can choose to be part of a rapid response network to witness ICE actions.

The idea is to provide show solidarity when there is an ICE raid and document what happens for possible use in legal action. Legal observers watch for proper identification of ICE officers, whether a legal warrant is used and attempts at harassment or intimidation. Observers are encouraged to take notes, photos and videos but not confront ICE.

ACT has a hotline that calls trained observers when the organization learns ICE action is underway or about to happen. Those who live close to the event are called first. Volunteers can designate when and where they are generally available.

As few as three or four witnesses may be sufficient to ensure that ICE acts appropriately. Witnesses taking photos and notes may provide information that is useful evidence should there be court action following an ICE action.

Accompaniment

Legal observers also are needed to accompany individuals to court hearings. This activity provides moral support for the individuals and families and may — if a lot of people show up — sway proceedings.

UndocuALLY

The AB540 and Undocumented Students Center at UC Davis offers a three-hour free program for educators and the general public that teaches the basics of immigration law, the rights and benefits of undocumented immigrants versus so-called “Dreamers” and how to provide support to these students and their allies in a sensitive way.

Training sessions will be held on campus Oct. 25, Nov. 15 and Dec. 19. For more information, go to:

<http://undocumented.ucdavis.edu/education/uperegistration.html>

Summary

If UUCD members took these trainings they could assist the undocumented community by being legal observers, witnesses, accompaniment companions and UndocuAlly supporters and possibly begin developing relationships with the immigrant community.

Written by the UUCD’s Sanctuary Discernment Team, Oct. 11, 2017

Immigrant students on campus

UUCD Sanctuary Discernment information

Question: Should we broaden support for SPEAK and the AB 540 and Undocumented Center at UC Davis when requested by students and staff?

Background Information:

The AB 540 and Undocumented Center on the UC Davis campus supports more than 470 undocumented students. They include so-called “Dreamers” in the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program currently under threat of shut-down by the Trump Administration. DACA provides relief from deportation, work permits and other benefits for two years. AB 540 is a California law that allows some undocumented immigrants to pay in-state tuition at public universities in the state.

The future of the DACA program remains uncertain. Slated for shutdown when current benefits expire, the program could get a reprieve by the U.S. Congress. In the meantime, students whose DACA status expires between Sept. 5, 2017 and March 5, 2018 had a chance to renew benefits by Oct 5. Many scrambled to do so. UUCD did a small fundraiser; nearly \$300 was collected Sept. 17 and forwarded to Yolo Interfaith Immigration Network to help defray the cost of DACA renewals.

Our work with SPEAK— a student-run organization that supports undocumented students and their allies at UC Davis — grew from initial contacts by Rev. Beth Banks last fall. Interested in local work to address national immigration gridlock, she felt undocumented students would be a natural fit for UUCD. We live in a college town, many of our members work on campus and we have an established campus ministry.

Interaction with students began quietly with visits, modest fund-raisers, event hosting at UUCD and small gestures such as providing snacks during finals.

The next big step was a crowdfunding campaign early this summer to raise funds for SPEAK using the UUA’s Faithify platform. UUs and others beyond the congregation successfully reached a stretch goal of \$8,500. The money will go to emergency grants to needy students.

UUCD submitted a proposal Sept. 15 to broaden our support for SPEAK. Funds will be used to host student-run events at UUCD over the next year and defray costs for student empowerment week on campus. We will learn by early December whether the project is approved.

Summary: Our proposal to enhance our relationship with undocumented students and their allies at UC Davis is seen as a simple matter of social justice in the face of growing threats to immigrants.

Church members who want to participate in this work are required to take the center’s free “UndocuAlly” training. About 20 UUCD members have done so.

Free three-hour training sessions will be held on campus Oct. 25, Nov. 15 and Dec. 19. For more information, go to: <http://undocumented.ucdavis.edu/education/uperegistration.html>.

Priorities will continue to be developed through ongoing conversations with students and representatives from SPEAK.

Church members — and UC Davis students — have expressed interest in enhancing interaction though Spanish lessons. While this project did not fit into the confines of the funding proposal, we are looking at ways to structure this kind of activity.

Written by the UUCD’s Sanctuary Discernment Team, Oct. 11, 2017

Sanctuary & Our Congregation, A series of three information sessions about Sanctuary and our congregation’s discernment before a congregational meeting on October 29, when the congregation will be asked to make a commitment for their level of Sanctuary support.

Dates of Future UUCD Sanctuary Discernment Meetings: Sept. 17, Oct. 17 and Oct. 29, 2017



The Sanctuary Discernment Team: *“I know our congregation wants to make a positive change in the world, and I want to help us all understand ways we can contribute that match our ideals and abilities. By sharing information and perspectives, we can live our values.”* Liz King ♦ *“Sanctuary is the safe place for a person to live in our community not withstanding race, creed, color, gender or country of origin.”* Paul Wilson ♦ *“What is UUCD’s capacity for service to those who are undocumented in our communities? We do have a responsibility to be an active part of creating sanctuary, but what does that mean? I look forward to working with our faith community to discover what resources we have to offer and how we will work in collaboration with other religious groups and agencies in our county. Let us discover again how we are a church of open minds, helping hands and loving hearts.”* Rev. Beth Banks ♦ *“Today, as UUs, I feel we are called to discuss how we wish to support those who are most vulnerable in our community. I look forward to the work we will do together over the coming weeks.”* Stefan Harvey ♦ *When attending GA in Salt Lake City, we learned how families are heart wrenchingly split apart by our immigration policies, families who are here to work hard, with no good options for them in their places of origin We are challenged to consider, what will we do.* ♦ Pat Moore Pickett ♦ *“I see sanctuary as a simple matter of justice in opposition to government action against immigrants. I look forward to working with you on what that means and how we as a church want to proceed.”* Kathy Robertson

Draft, August 7, 2017

UUCD SANCTUARY DISCERNMENT MEETING

AGENDA

8/13/2017

11:45 – 1:15, Church Sanctuary

11:45	Welcome	Liz King
11:46	Chalice Lighting	Beth Banks
11:48	Opening Reading	Paul Wilson
11:49	Introductions	All
11:55	UUCD’s covenant; SDT charge (printed on back)	Pat Moore Pickett
Noon	Sanctuary Movement of 2017	Kathy Robertson
12:15	Yolo County Interfaith Sanctuary Efforts	Beth Banks
12:25	Q & A	All
12:40	Possible UUCD Sanctuary Action/Activities	Stefan Harvey
12:50	Q & A	All
1:10	Next Steps	Pat Moore Pickett
1:15	Closing reading	Paul Wilson

First UUCD Meeting on Sanctuary 8/13/17

This was the first of three meetings scheduled over three months to discuss whether — and how — the Unitarian Universalist Church of Davis will participate in the New Sanctuary Movement.

Time was provided for people to talk about sanctuary action in the 1980's:

- Merida Wilson said she and Paul housed a refugee from Nicaragua for one month as part of a rotating shelter program run by the UU Church of San Jose. “It was successful for us — and him. He’s still here,” Wilson said. The program worked because the congregation rallied around a very committed minister, she said.
- Bob Young and others participated in the congregational discussion in Davis on sanctuary in the 1980s. The effort focused on education and putting a face on the problem, he said. At that time, support and temporary housing was provided privately to undocumented immigrants fleeing violence in Central America. Church members wrestled with the nuts and bolts of formal housing — and how to make it work — but ultimately decided not to become a church providing space for someone to live due to legal and tax status concerns, Young said. The current discussion about providing public sanctuary as an alternative to detention never came up.
- Church members did participate in marches and brewed up food, Kathy Tucker said.

The Sanctuary Movement in 2017 is different, said Kathy Robertson, a member of the discernment team. It may include shelter and aid to new undocumented immigrants, but the focus is support for undocumented immigrants under threat of deportation. Activities run the gamut from:

- Education and training on how to respond when there is an arrest or raid to
- Providing witness and accompaniment at ICE hearings or in court
- Housing individuals or families in private homes or
- Housing individuals or families on church grounds until their case is resolved.

Churches, schools and hospitals are “sensitive locations” under federal immigration policy and generally considered off limits for ICE raids. This is policy, not law, and may be revoked by the Trump Administration. The new focus of sanctuary on church grounds is one of public support for immigrants under threat of deportation by essentially providing house arrest on church grounds until their case is resolved.

Yolo County Interfaith Sanctuary Efforts

Five to seven local clergy are consistently meeting to discuss a broader, collaborative approach. This effort was recently expanded to Woodland, Rev. Beth Banks reported.

Discussions are underway to link the local interfaith effort with People Improving Communities through Organizing — better known as PICO (<https://www.piconetwork.org/about/faqs>).

A meeting (was held) 8/17 to explore PICO expansion to Yolo County or whether to tap into PICO action in Sacramento, which is conducted under the auspices of Sacramento ACT. PICO — or Sacramento ACT — could help the congregation regardless of what level of involvement is chosen.

Questions and comments about sanctuary raised by the congregation:

- How safe are “sensitive areas” like churches?
- If we become a sanctuary congregation, will we be linked to others doing it?
- We need to know more about what is going on in Yolo County and better understand the needs of the undocumented community
- What is the impact of each sanctuary activity in terms of people helped and what would be required of UUCD in each one?
- What is the process for making a decision about what to do?

The central question is: What specific kinds of help are needed most by the at-risk community here in Yolo County? The Sanctuary Discernment Team hopes to provide more information about this at its next meeting. Then, UUCD needs to decide what to do.

“What do we feel passionate about as a congregation and what as a community do we feel we can (realistically) do?” Stefan Harvey, co-chair of the Social Justice Committee and a member of the Sanctuary Discernment Team, said in closing.

The next UUCD meeting on Sanctuary Discernment will be held Sept. 17. A third meeting is scheduled for Oct. 17 and a possible congregational meeting Oct. 29 to vote on selected options.

Decision-making

After the August 13 meeting the Sanctuary Discernment Team met and outlined the following process:

- The Sept 17 meeting will further describe the sanctuary activities discussed August 13 and identify and describe additional activities.
- At the October 17 meeting, we will assess the level of interest in each sanctuary activity; whether attendees are comfortable with the church undertaking the activity (ies), and how many people will commit time to each.
- At the October 29 meeting, votes may be taken on what UUCD will commit to do.

Prior to the October 29 meeting, the Sanctuary Discernment Team will seek the advice of the Board to determine whether selected sanctuary activities require action — and a majority vote — at a congregational meeting. If so, voting will comply with UUCD bylaws.

If no activity requires a congregational vote, decisions of which sanctuary activities UUCD will commit to undertake will be based on these criteria:

- Concurrence with UU principles and values
- Legality or recognized level of risk
- Identified leadership and commitment of at least the minimum of five participants necessary for the activity

Watch the church bulletin for more information. Additional resources will be posted on the UUCD website in coming weeks.

Submitted by: Kathy Robertson

Resources for August 13, 2017 Sanctuary Discernment Team Meeting

UUCD Covenant: We affirm our commitment to creating and living within a spiritual community with actions based on respectful conversation, receptive listening, and openhearted presence.

Charge of UUCD Sanctuary Discernment Team:(Liz is pulling excerpts)

UUA/UUSC Declaration of Conscience: (UUCD signed at the June 4, 2017 Annual Meeting), excerpt: "...As people of conscience, we declare our commitment to translate our values into action as we stand on the side of love with the most vulnerable among us..." Read entire Declaration @ <http://www.uua.org/loveresists/declaration-conscience>.

Background materials on sanctuary:

- Tools for Sanctuary and Solidarity: <http://uucsj.org/tools-for-sanctuary-solidarity/>.
- UUA/UURISE Sanctuary toolkit: <http://www.uua.org/sites/live-new.uua.org/files/sanctuary-toolkit-2017.pdf>.
- Solidarity and Sanctuary: Options for Congregational Action: http://www.uusc.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/01/Solidarity-and-Sanctuary-Action-Guide-FINAL-01_27_17.pdf
- Congregational Asset-Mapping Inventory Checklist: http://www.uusc.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/01/Congregational-Asset-Mapping-Sheet_FINAL.pdf.

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Dates of Future UUCD Sanctuary Discernment Meetings: Sept. 17, Oct. 17 and Oct. 29

Discussion notes – Sanctuary Discernment Discussion – Sunday, September 17, 2017

A group of 28 congregation members joined the Sanctuary Discernment Team (SDT) for this discussion. (The participant list is maintained by the Social Justice Coordinating Committee.) The agenda for this meeting, the second in a series of discussions being convened by the SDT, is attached.

The discussion opened at 12:30. Reverend Beth provided these opening words (#698 in the gray hymnal, by Wayne B. Arnason) and the chalice was lit:

Take courage friends.
The way is often hard, the path is never clear,
and the stakes are very high.
Take courage.
For deep down, there is another truth:
you are not alone.

Paul Wilson opened the meeting by refreshing the participants' memory about some terminology, especially noting that although "sanctuary" can mean housing on church grounds, it is also used to describe a variety of ways to make a safe community for undocumented immigrants at risk of deportation. Some social justice groups are using the term "solidarity" to describe activities other than housing.

Stefan Harvey summarized recent developments at the local, state, and national levels. On Sept. 5, there was an Executive Order for an end to DACA (Deferred Action for Childhood Immigrants, who are often called Dreamers). On Sept. 7, there was a march on the state capitol in favor of SB54, which would allow state and local agencies to decline to cooperate with ICE (federal Immigration and Customs Enforcement). Sept. 12 the Yolo County Board of Supervisors voted to endorse SB54 and urged the Governor to sign it. SB 54 (the CA Values Act as amended) was passed by the state Assembly on Sept. 15 and by the state Senate on Sept. 16, and now awaits the Governor's action.

Kathy Robertson described the results of research into the needs of the local at-risk community.

- Many DACA students will have difficulty paying the \$495 application fee to renew their status before the October 5 deadline. YIIN (Yolo Interfaith Immigration Network) is collecting money to help; contributions were accepted on the spot.
- Local immigration attorneys say there is a need for legal observers (trained witnesses) at individual immigrants' scheduled hearings (with advance notice) and at ICE raids (rapid response teams). Sacramento ACT offers training for legal observers; more info below.
- Attorneys also report a need for psychologists, preferably Spanish speaking, to perform evaluations for background checks.
- UCD's AB540 and Undocumented Student Center and other groups report a need for affordable private housing for students and other immigrants that is offered by culturally sensitive individuals who understand the risks and legal challenges. However, it was noted that providing housing to undocumented individuals is not lawful and therefore the SDT recommended that it not be included in further discussion about possible activities.
- Kathy noted that our congregation can prepare to be of assistance by having many congregants receive the AB 540 Center's UnDocuAlly training, where they learn about the issues and

understand how to speak sensitively and protect immigrants' rights. That opens the door to building relationships with individuals and groups who need our help. (See Resource list on agenda for information about dates and how to sign up for this training.)

Pat Moore-Pickett presented options of how UUCD might provide sanctuary and solidarity, noting that some of the activities would be appropriate for individuals, others for the church as a whole; some are already underway, others would take some degree of preparation, perhaps even a congregational vote if there is a financial investment or public statement to be made. Pat announced that donations could be made to the Yolo Interfaith Immigrant Network (YIIN) to support students in the DACA application process. After discussion, Pat asked for a show of hands for congregants to indicate their support and willingness to commit themselves to an activity. The activities presented by the SDT are listed below in order of interest as expressed by the straw votes. (The numbers indicate how many congregants are interested in the activity.)

- Fundraising (DACA fee assistance and other needs): 25
- Explore joining ACT (Area Congregations Together, the regional chapter of PICO, People Improving Communities through Organizing): 25
- Continue support for AB540 and Undocumented Student Center, including getting UnDocuAlly training: 21
- Explore what would be needed, and the associated costs, to provide long term housing on church grounds, in the unlikely event that it is needed (only 12 families nationwide have asked for such protection), or to provide support for another Sacramento-area congregation that does so: 8
- Being trained and serving as a legal observer to accompany immigrants to hearings: 5
- Being trained and serving on a rapid response team during ICE actions: 3
- Developing a family preparedness program for helping immigrants make plans for possible deportation of one or more family members: 3

Gabby Trejo, an organizer with ACT, the regional PICO organization, addressed the group, providing information about what ACT does and how it could help UUCD find appropriate ways of helping undocumented immigrants. She provided the attached handout and provided these additional points:

- Sacramento ACT serves a region far wider than the city of Sacramento, reaching as far as Chico.
- ACT focuses on advocacy, not direct service. Their purpose is to train new leaders and change the political landscape.
- On Sept. 14, ACT offered Rapid Response training here at UUCD, sponsored by YIIN. Several in the room had attended.
- ACT operates a hotline for individuals to call for confirmation and assistance when ICE appears. ACT will deploy rapid response teams to witness and document what happens.
- Accompaniment is another way to help. For example, Gabby recently accompanied a man who had to pay a traffic ticket; he was afraid he would be detained at the police station and deported.
- ACT is running a DACA status renewal workshop this weekend, with attorneys available to help students fill out forms.

- ACT is watching the situation with another category of immigrants, those with Temporary Protection Status (TPS). It is granted to people from ten countries, for example, Haitians who came after the earthquake. Once granted TPS, an individual cannot be detained by DHS on the basis of his or her immigration status in the United States. This status could be threatened just like DACA.
- ACT works to write and advocate legislation like SB54.
- They run a Know Your Rights training and a Family Preparedness training. These are being offered soon at St. Mark's Methodist in Sacramento; UUCD is invited to send observers to see them in action.
- ACT is working to end the contract that the Sacramento Sheriff's office has with ICE. This contract brings in \$7 million a year to house detainees from all over the state. The County is paid per bed with a guaranteed minimum. A similar campaign could be started in Yolo County (see below) if congregations wished to get involved.
- Membership dues in ACT are based on congregation size and level of activity, starting at \$250 annually.

During the Q&A discussion preceding the straw poll, the following additional points were raised.

- UnDocuAlly training : About 18 of our congregants have already received this training. Some of them described their experience. "More about sensitivity than how-to strategies." It is not designed for taking specific action, like legal observer training, but rather to know how and when to advocate for undocumented people, and things to say or not say. Stefan reminded the group that the students in SPEAK (a student group that supports undocumented students) love the idea of building relationships with members of our congregation who have received this training. We have had one social opportunity so far. The training is free and takes three hours; it is designed for UCD faculty and staff, so it is held during their workday. Individuals may register by following instructions on the back of the meeting agenda. UUCD is exploring the possibility of a training being offered for local congregations on a weekend or weeknight.
- Needs of immigrants other than students: Kathy noted that farmworkers have always been at risk; the new government action on DACA means this is a new need for students. Ramon Urbano observed that this is the first year that the farmers in Yolo County have not had the help they need; many migrant workers who went home during the winter have not returned.
- Housing on grounds: The Sanctuary Discernment Team was asked for an overview of what would be involved in providing housing on church grounds. The SDT agreed to provide a fact sheet on this issue by the next scheduled discussion.
- Juvenile detention in Yolo County: Donna Russell encouraged the congregation to consider social action to stop the use of the Yolo County juvenile detention center as housing for minors detained on the east coast. This is a contract that the County has with the U.S. Office of Refugee Resettlement.; it has been reported that several teenagers who were detained in New York are currently held here.
- Support for other congregations offering on-grounds housing: There is one congregation in Sacramento (a Jewish synagogue) which has committed to providing this kind of sanctuary; they have not yet been asked to do so. There are three congregations in Davis who expressed an interest, but none have so far made a commitment and at least one has decided against it.

- Criminal behavior and deportation: A congregant asked whether the church's focus would be on helping all undocumented immigrants, or only those with a clean record. He was concerned about how SB4 would affect the prosecution of immigrants for crimes unrelated to immigration. Others replied that it can be hard to distinguish "real criminals" when immigrants are detained for things as trivial as having a broken taillight, and when their very presence is considered a crime.
- A visitor to UUCD, Maria Cabrera, suggested that UUCD can help small organizations by providing official non-profit status for their efforts.
- Donna Russell hoped there would be ways people could help even if they did not have a car.
- It was noted that the Mexican consulate provides family preparedness training.

Closing reading (#706 in the gray hymnal, by Kathleen McTigue)

May the light around us guide our footsteps,
and hold us fast to the best and most righteous that we seek.
May the darkness around us nurture our dreams,
and give us rest so that we may give ourselves to the work of our world.
Let us seek to remember the wholeness of our lives,
the weaving of light and shadow in this great and astonishing dance in which we move.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:00. YIIN later informed the SDT that \$224 had been raised at the meeting for the student assistance program, bringing YIIN's total resources to help with DACA fee payments to approximately \$7700.

Respectfully submitted, Liz King



"I work with ACT because I'm working alongside all the people of Sacramento to solve the problems that affect all of us."

—Jason Weiner
Congregation B'nai Israel

"I became involved with ACT because there is strength in numbers, and power in prayer, and I wanted to make a difference on a larger scale."

—Nailah El-Amin
Masjid As-Sabur

"I work with ACT because I believe we are trying to heal the pain of people, not just solve issues. Together we are powerful."

—Antonio Campos
Our Lady of Guadalupe
Catholic Church

Who is Sacramento ACT?

Sacramento ACT (Area Congregations Together) is a powerful multi-racial, multi-faith organization advocating a transformation of our community rooted in our shared faith values. We equip ordinary people to become leaders who effectively identify and change conditions to create justice and equity.

Sacramento ACT's members include over 56 congregations (Christian, Jewish and Muslim faith communities), schools and neighborhood groups, representing 60,000 families in Sacramento County.

For over 25 years, Sacramento ACT has been creating real, structural change in Sacramento lifting up voices that are often silenced in our community: youth, communities of color, immigrants, homeless residents, and the formerly incarcerated. Our organizing is grounded in the conviction that equity must drive public policy.

At the center of our model of congregation-based community organizing is a belief in the potential for transformation—of people, institutions, and our larger culture.

To see a list of successes and to learn more about ACT and our current campaigns, visit our website at www.sacact.org.



PICO National Network
Unlocking the Power of People™
www.piconetwork.org

Sacramento ACT is a proud affiliate of PICO (People Improving Communities through Organizing), one

of the largest grass-roots community organizing networks in the country with more than 1,000 member organizations in 150 cities and towns throughout the country. ACT is also a member of the PICO California state network.

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“ACT is the one organization I have been involved with that reinforces and builds upon a life of faith. I believe that all of us can look to our different sacred texts and see the work of ACT. In this way we draw from the depth of our traditions.”

—Pastor **Joy Johnson**
Life Matters, Inc

What is Organizing?

Organizing begins with the radical act of imagining a different future.

The scriptures and traditions of our faiths empower us to imagine a future of justice, freedom and equity. Each tradition offers the imagination of a just and equitable future, AND calls upon the faithful to work to make this image a reality.

Through organizing, we connect this hopeful imagination of the world as it should be with the reality of the world as it is now. We give people tools to change the systems and structures that oppress them believing that solutions are best developed by those who are closest to the pain.

ACT organizes to shift resources to reinvest in our community and to change policy in a way that supports a healthy and just future for all.



How does ACT Advance Justice?

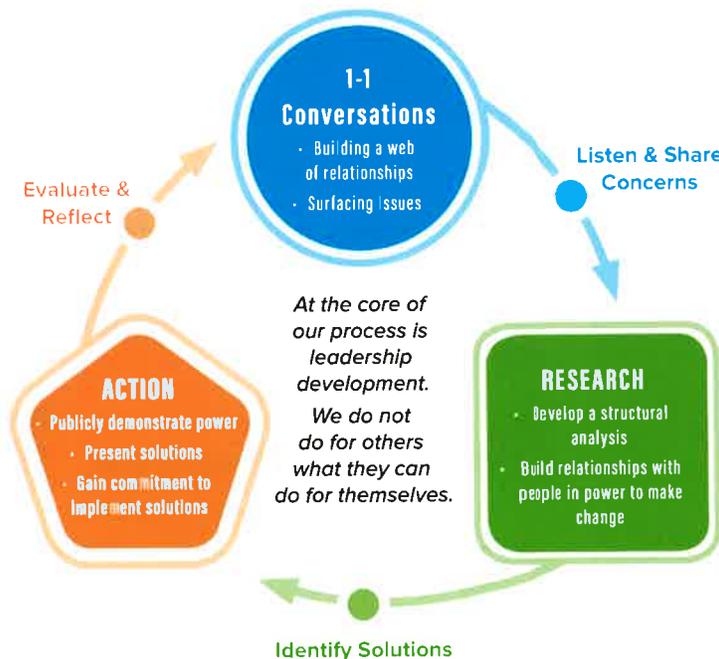
Sacramento ACT uses listening, research and advocacy to identify and change conditions to create justice and equity.

FAITH

Our faith is the basis for our vision of change, providing us with a moral framework which demands inclusion, justice and equity for all.

RELATIONSHIPS

ACT builds relationships through conversations, or “one-to-ones.” People find how their experience intersects with others and understand that they are not alone, empowering them to create change.



STRUCTURAL ANALYSIS

Through relationships and research, ACT builds a structural analysis that identifies the conditions that cause the problem, including systemic racism and economic exclusion.

POWER

ACT understands power as the ability to act and as the product of relationship. We build shared power among people: “power with” not “power over” each other.



Final Sanctuary Discussion Oct. 15

This was the third and final sanctuary discernment discussion before the Oct. 29 congregational vote. Twenty-seven people attended.

Liz King, Paul Wilson, Stefan Harvey and Kathy Robertson represented the UUCD Sanctuary Discernment Team. Ministerial Intern & Campus Minister Dani Lindstrom participated with the group.

Paul Wilson explained the sanctuary discernment process so far. (See UUCD website for background: <http://www.uudavis.org/PDFs/2017SDT.pdf>)

Kathy Robertson provided an overview of proposed sanctuary activities. Housing for undocumented immigrants on church grounds is not recommended at this time. There is little demand for this nationwide, no demand as yet in Yolo County — and it would be costly to prepare a space at UUCD. The fact sheet posted on UUCD's website provides details.

The Sanctuary Discernment Team recommends UUCD:

- Join Sacramento Area Congregations (Sacramento ACT), an affiliate of People Improving Communities Through Organizing (PICO)
- Urge members to get training to better understand the rights of undocumented immigrants, gain cultural sensitivity to their needs and learn how to participate as legal observers in court hearings or when ICE takes action
- Expand involvement with undocumented immigrants and their allies on the UC Davis campus through interaction with a student-run group called SPEAK
- Be a voice for justice and engage in other activities that include fundraising, rallies and support for immigration work by interfaith and nonprofit groups in Yolo County.

Small group discussions were held to answer questions and raise issues related to ACT, immigrant students at UC Davis and individual involvement as legal observers, rapid responders or accompaniment companions.

Sacramento ACT:

There was overwhelming support for joining ACT. Members agreed this activity is particularly relevant, but only if work specifically focuses on Yolo County.

The idea is to start with immigration issues but interest was expressed in individual work with ACT on other matters, too. The Sanctuary Discernment Team will ask if that is possible.

Other Davis churches interested in joining ACT include Bet Haverim, the United Methodist Church and Davis Community Church.

There's also interest at a number of Woodland churches, but UUCD appears farthest along. It will cost \$250 to join. Funding may be available from UUCD Social Justice Coordinating Committee proceeds generated by "Love" sign sales.

If UUCD becomes a member, ACT would send an organizer to Yolo County to begin orientation and training on how the organization works. It's up to the congregation to decide what immigration issues we want to work on with ACT.

Immigrant students on campus

There is considerable interest in working with undocumented students at the UC Davis campus and several questions about the best way to do this.

A faculty member at UC Davis, Jose Torres would like to connect with other UUCD faculty and staff interested in working with undocumented students on campus. He — and perhaps others — already have a close connection with students that could help guide activities at UUCD.

UC Berkeley has a work-study program for undocumented students. Kathy Robertson will find out more about how it works.

There is continued interest in fundraising to informally hire students to teach UUCD members Spanish.

Legal observers and more

There's interest in these activities and training programs that prepare people to engage in them.

Watch for announcements regarding upcoming training sessions.

Proposed sanctuary declaration

There was enthusiasm about the proposed declaration, so the group launched a discussion about wording. A number of small changes were made before a final proposal was sent to all church members later that day. Text of the declaration and fact sheets about the proposed activities are posted on the church website.

A congregational vote will be held at a special membership meeting Oct. 29 from 12:45 to 1:45 p.m. No absentee or proxy voting is permitted. A quorum is required, so all interested members are encouraged to participate.

This will be an up or down vote for the proposal as a whole, but people will have an opportunity to speak out for or against the declaration.

If the declaration is approved, UUCD will be recognized as a Sanctuary Church. UUCD will publicize the news and notice will be posted on the UUCD and UUA websites.

Submitted by Kathy Robertson 10/17/17

