

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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