

What is the current demand and why now?

President Trump's current Executive Order states that all deportations are a priority, similar to the situation in the first 4 years of the Obama Administration. However, the system is different than it was the last 4 years of the Obama Administration. Currently when someone has final orders of deportation, the flights are already purchased, there is no time to react. The new reality is that stays of deportation are not being granted for humanitarian reasons. Even if a stay is granted, the maximum time is 90 days. The level of fear in the immigrant community is high because of the current rhetoric. These are uncertain times for everyone. Recently, immigrants in Colorado have sought Sanctuary, and there has been no place for them to go.

Who goes into Sanctuary?

People who ask for sanctuary have final orders of deportation. They have already exhausted most legal alternatives. They are usually in the process of one last effort to get a legal solution. Asking to go into Sanctuary is a political statement. People who go into Sanctuary are not only giving up personal freedom, but are also willing to make their lives public.

What is the role of the Metro Denver/Boulder Sanctuary Coalition (MDBSC)?

Most individuals who ask for Sanctuary have been supported by the Coalition for a period of time. Each participant is vetted and the host congregation is provided information. The Coalition also has some funds to help the Host Congregation prepare space for the Immigrant. And the immigrant community will often volunteer their time to help prepare the space.

So, why UUCB as a Host Congregation?

We have been a member of the Coalition since its birth, as a Supporting Congregation. Our Immigration Ministry has been active since 2012 and has already done educational work with the UUCB congregation. Our UUCB members are more educated and more aware than many other faith-based congregations in the local area.

What are the space requirements to be a Host Congregation?

All we need is one private room with a door that can be shut for privacy. Jennifer Piper, lead organizer for the MDBSC, has approved the room currently being used for UUCB archives and choir. This room would be adequate once made into a bedroom/living space. The guest's family and friends could spend visiting time in the Sky Room, kitchen, listening room and west patio. This is more space than many churches have been able to offer. We could hook up a temporary shower in one of the restrooms (only hooked up when in use). The Buildings and Use Committee is evaluating the best possible options for a shower.

What about use of our church space while a person is in Sanctuary?

Anyone who rents space will be notified of our status as a Sanctuary Congregation. We've

already initiated conversations with Active Boulder Kids Preschool, and will continue to have open and clear communication with their staff and parents.

Are there possible legal risks to the UUCB Board, Staff & Members?

There are two federal statutes that may be applicable, and those center on “harboring and transporting” someone who is in the country without documentation. Both require concealment, while the current sanctuary movement is predicated on making a public, political statement (and typically the Metro Denver Sanctuary Coalition notifies U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) immediately and holds a press conference). As a result, the risk of being convicted of violating these statutes is reduced. Sentencing guidelines allow up to 5 years (for individuals/persons) and a \$25,000 fine. However, these are not set in stone, and the only prosecutions under these statutes for providing sanctuary have resulted in probation. The political climate of Boulder, and Boulder County, is favorable for providing sanctuary as well.

What is the financial impact to UUCB and its Members for providing Sanctuary?

UUCB would incur minimal additional costs associated with hosting a guest; this would include things like marginal increases in utility costs. The Metro Denver/Boulder Sanctuary Coalition Supporting Congregations help with unforeseen costs which may arise. The Coalition has a pro-bono attorney on call if the Host Church or any Member has a problem (separate from the guest’s immigration attorney).

So, what are our next steps?

1. The Board of Trustees have agreed that we should we move quickly and also thoroughly informing the Voting Members about becoming a Sanctuary Host Church.
2. The Board of Trustees has set the date of October 29th 2017 for a Special Congregational Meeting to vote on becoming a Sanctuary Host Church.
3. Sanctuary Now Ministry will host several Sanctuary Now gatherings and educational forums for the Congregation. They will also meet with Affinity groups to discuss Sanctuary.
4. We are not alone. Other churches in the Boulder, Louisville and Lafayette are in the process of committing to being Supporting Congregations. Members of these congregations will take responsibility for tasks such as shopping, carpooling, laundry, meal preparation, etc.
5. Additional information can be found in the [UUA Sanctuary Toolkit](https://www.uua.org/sites/live-new.uua.org/files/sanctuary-toolkit-2017.pdf) (<https://www.uua.org/sites/live-new.uua.org/files/sanctuary-toolkit-2017.pdf>)

The discernment process is something we’re undertaking as a faith community, bound together by covenant. You may have more questions about this process. Additional resources can be found on the UUCB website (uuchurchofboulder.org) in the Members section. If you have other questions, please contact Mary Dineen, marydineenslp@gmail.com.

Members of the Sanctuary Now Ministry: Jenny Fitt-Peaster (co-chair), Mary Dineen (co-chair) Barbara J. Richards, Fred Cole, Caitlin Moore, Kaitlin Abbitt, Philip Ogren, Laurie Mazzola