

Sanctuary Now

2017



UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST
CHURCH OF BOULDER

Chalice Lighting & Opening Words



UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST
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UUCB Mission

The Unitarian Universalist Church of Boulder will become a beacon of liberal religion, committed to:

- Nurturing the spiritual growth of our diverse and multigenerational religious community
- Fostering ministry and hospitality between and among our members, friends and visitors
- Actively promoting Unitarian Universalist values here and in the wider world
- Sustaining these efforts through our culture of social justice and generosity



Covenant of Respectful Relationships

Our spiritual health and growth requires our best efforts to maintain respectful relationships with each other, especially when we encounter conflicts among our members or with our Minister or staff.

As a member of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Boulder, I covenant to do the following to the best of my ability:

1. I will treat others in our community with the same love and respect that I would like to receive.
2. I will listen to others with attention and empathy, recognizing that it is as important to understand as to be understood.
3. I will speak honestly and directly, with care and compassion.
4. I will honor the right of others to form and hold differing opinions.
5. I will speak directly with anyone with whom I have a concern.
6. I will focus on the present and the future, rather than on the past.
7. I will keep an open mind and remain engaged in the process of seeking a resolution when conflict occurs.



Discernment Timeline

- September - Share Our Plate recipient:
 - Metro Denver/Boulder Sanctuary Coalition.
 - Stories all month during worship.
 - We are members of the coalition so from our operational budget, we offer \$1000.
 - These funds support immigrant families directly
- September - Sanctuary Now team meets with Affinity Groups, Ministry Teams and Committees
- September 18 - Immigration 101 Part 2
 - First Congregational Church, 7-9 p.m.
- September 27 - COSM training on Covenant and Covenantal Conversations



Discernment Timeline continued

- October 8 - All Church Meeting to answer questions
- October - Sanctuary Now Gatherings so everyone can get questions answered
 - Thursday, October 12 6:00 pm in Emerson Room
 - Wednesday, October 18 10:00am Emerson Room
 - Sunday, October 22 10:30 and 12:15 - Emerson Room
- October 29 - Congregational Vote
 - 12:15 Earth Room
 - Light lunch provided
 - Let's have a very large turnout



What is Sanctuary?

Sanctuary provides temporary protection from ICE arrest, detention, and/or deportation, usually while the immigrant has legal proceedings pending.

This protection is not LEGAL protection but instead is PRACTICAL protection.



Sanctuary is a Political Action

- Non violent direct action that leads to political advocacy and seeks to change the system
- Immigrant guest is most often wanting to make a public statement by going into Sanctuary.
 - Press coverage
 - ICE knows the guest is here



How Does it Work?

- Metro Denver/Boulder Sanctuary Coalition staff screens all potential Guests



Why Now?



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How Long Do Guests Stay...Typically?



General Legal Advice to Boulder County Churches Regarding Sanctuary

Johnson & Klein Law

Boulder, CO

(303) 444-1885

Who we are and our current role

- Federal criminal defense and civil rights attorneys
- Not yet representing any of you as individuals nor your congregations
 - But we could in the future
- If we represent a congregation, we cannot also represent an immigrant guest of that congregation
 - Conflict of interest
 - Immigrant guest should have their own immigration counsel

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Federal “Sensitive Locations” policy

- Oct. 24, 2011: Dep’t of Homeland Security issued a policy letter advising officers to exercise discretion and not enforce federal immigration law in “sensitive locations.”
 - Places of worship
 - Schools (incl. colleges and universities)
 - Hospitals
- <https://www.ice.gov/ero/enforcement/sensitive-loc>
- This policy has not yet been rescinded, but could be rescinded at any time.

Sanctuary – What's the potential legal risk?

- Federal criminal law
 - Harboring
 - Transporting

Illegal Harboring

8 U.S.C. § 1324(a)(1)(A)(iii)

- First: [name of alien] was an alien;
- Second: [name of alien] entered or remained in the United States unlawfully;
- Third: the defendant [knew] [or] [recklessly disregarded the fact] that [name of alien] was not lawfully in the United States; and
- Fourth: the defendant concealed, shielded from detection, or harbored the alien;
- Fifth: the defendant intended the concealment, shield from detection or harboring to facilitate the alien's continued illegal presence.

Is merely providing food and housing illegal?

- Probably not—as long as there is no intent to hide the person’s whereabouts from federal authorities.
- The trend in the current sanctuary movement nationwide is for the church to enhance its own legal protection by publicizing the fact that it is providing sanctuary to a particular individual.
 - This may or may not be in the individual immigrant guest’s best legal interests.
 - Immigration cases often get resolved through discretion, and discretion is influenced by media attention, public sentiment.

Law on the books v. law in practice

- Prosecutorial discretion
- Political pressure
- Media attention
- Boulder County

Additional resources

- ACLU Foundation handout: *Sanctuary Congregations and Harboring FAQ* (8 pages)
- *An Overview of Potential Legal Issues and Potential Liabilities for Minnesota Congregations Providing “Sanctuary” to Undocumented Immigrants* by Dorsey & Whitney (10 pages)

Where Would a Guest Live?

- Archives/Music Room
 - Both Ministry Teams have agreed to move
- Temporary shower will be installed in bathroom on West side
 - There are drains
 - Temporary hose attached to sink
- Nothing will be moved until a Guest is ready to reside here



What About the Preschool?

- The Directors of the preschool are supportive and enthusiastic
- We have prepared a handout for their parents
- If they have questions, we will host an information meeting if needed.



Stories...Why Sanctuary Now?

Immigrants from our community



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This Process Will Prioritize Covenant!

Covenantal Conversations Training

- September 27, 6:30 - 8:30pm
- Sky Room
- Led by Committee on Shared Ministries
- Food and childcare provided
- For everyone in the church, and a great tool to use during this process



Questions and Answers



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Resources That Will Be on UUCB Website

Go to: About > Member Documents

- These slides
- Resources from Johnson and Klein
- Sanctuary Toolkit from the UUA
uua.org/sites/live-new.uua.org/files/sanctuary-toolkit-2017.pdf
- Other documents as they are prepared



Closing and Extinguish the Chalice



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