

Peace and Justice news



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Sanctuary

The Lord spoke to Moses, saying: Speak to the Israelites, and say to them: When you cross the Jordan into the land of Canaan, then you shall select cities to be cities of refuge for you, so that a slayer who kills a person without intent may flee there. The cities shall be for you a refuge from the avenger, so that the slayer may not die until there is a trial before the congregation. – Numbers 35:9-12

The word *sanctuary* has several synonyms: refuge, haven, harbor, oasis, and shelter. Robin Hynicka* describes Sanctuary as so much more than the dimensions of some physical space. Sanctuary is a timeless tabernacle of trust. It is the last place someone goes seeking justice during a period of personal plight or a season of systemic oppression. So whenever and wherever the world’s systems of governance violate basic human rights, deny due process, and operate to privilege the powerful, a universal system of sacred resistance based on the rule of love arises.

Sanctuary arises from empathy, not imperial edict; arises from the spirit of the law, not the letter of the law; and arises from the uncommon courage of the oppressed to resist evil and demand justice. Sanctuary is a spiritual designation, not a religious or political statement. Sanctuary is a way of living out a sacred covenant to seek justice, love kindness, and walk humbly.

*Robin Hynicka is Senior Pastor of Arch Street United Methodist Church in Philadelphia where Javier Flores – an immigrant from Mexico – has taken refuge.

Immigration Enforcement and Sanctuary*

Deportation: Returns and Removals

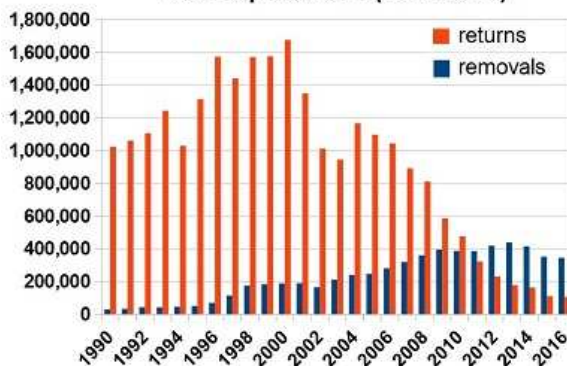
People who are deported from the U.S. can be either “*returned*” or “*removed*.” For many years, the majority of immigrants that the U.S. sent home (primarily from Mexico) were simply “*returned*.” U.S. authorities put them on buses and sent them back across the border. There were no fingerprints taken or permanent immigration records created. “*Removal*,” on the other hand, involves some form of individual review with an

immigration officer or judge and becomes part of a deportee’s permanent records. Anyone who is “*removed*” can be charged with a felony for entering the U.S. again.

In recent years far fewer Mexicans and single adults have attempted to cross the border without authorization, but more families and unaccompanied children are fleeing poverty and violence in Central America.

While the number of *removals* increased significantly under President Obama, his administration prioritized keeping out and deporting people who pose “threats to national security, public safety, and border security.”

U.S. Deportations (1990-2016)



(continued on page 2)

Immigration Enforcement ... (continued from page 1)

Obama also initiated the DACA and DAPA programs which provide some relief for undocumented children and families.

However, shortly after President Trump took office, he issued two executive orders which have radically changed the priorities for immigration enforcement, under which ICE is now directed to more aggressively arrest and deport people. A second priority is using private prisons for immigrant detention, whereas President Obama had begun to phase out the use of private prisons for immigrant detention.

The new priorities for deportation effectively include those suspected of crimes, those who are charged with crimes, and those who are convicted of crimes. So really, any contact with the criminal justice system -- even for minor crimes can be grounds for deportation. However, the DACA and DAPA programs are still in place, and ordinarily ICE agents will avoid making arrests in sensitive locations, such as churches, temples, mosques, hospitals, or public demonstrations. These policies, together with Trump's executive orders to temporarily ban travelers, including refugees, from six Muslim majority nations, have kindled a new urgency for communities seeking to protect immigrants and refugees.

The **Sanctuary Pledge** (below) reflects the values that are the foundation for the work of sanctuary congregations.

The Sanctuary Pledge

As people of faith and people of conscience, we pledge to resist the newly elected administration's policy proposals to target and deport millions of undocumented immigrants and discriminate against marginalized communities. We will open up our congregations and communities as sanctuary spaces for those targeted by hate, and work alongside our friends, families, and neighbors to ensure the dignity and human rights of all peoples.

Here are some additional details that elaborate on the meaning of the Sanctuary Pledge:

1). Undocumented immigrants and marginalized communities. Leaders of undocumented communities have emphasized that the umbrella of sanctuary needs to hold a lot more folks than we usually include when we are talking about sanctuary – not just folks from Central America and Mexico. We also need to think about African-American communities, and Native Americans, and people of color of any nationality who have been threatened in their communities for a long time, or threatened by the encroachment of gentrification, or experienced threat by law enforcement, as well as those who are indeed undocumented. People with dark skin are overrepresented in deportation facilities, and people who are U.S. citizens and legal permanent residents have sometimes been stopped or detained because of racial profiling. LGBTQ

U.S. Immigration Enforcement Agencies and Policies

U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS)
– **Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE)**
– **Customs and Border Protection (CBP)**

ICE and CBP are agencies under DHS.

Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA)
DACA is an immigration enforcement policy introduced by President Obama in 2012 and updated in 2014 that temporarily defers deportations from the United States for undocumented youth and young adults who came to the U.S. before age 16 and meet certain other criteria; DACA youth may also be eligible for temporary Social Security numbers and work permits. DACA status must be renewed every three years.

Deferred Action for Parental Accountability (DAPA)
An undocumented parent of a child who is a U.S. citizen or legal permanent resident (and meets other requirements) may apply for a three-year temporary deferment from deportation. DAPA status also includes eligibility to apply for work authorization in the U.S.

folks are also overrepresented in the deportation facilities. It's quite often the case that people are not housed in deportation facilities according to their gender identity, which is incredibly dangerous for them. Marginalized people can also include Muslim neighbors, documented and undocumented, who are sometimes under threat in our current political climate.

2). We will open up our congregations and communities as sanctuary spaces. We typically think of sanctuary as physically housing someone in our church space, but that is only one of many ways of doing sanctuary. It can be rapid response "street sanctuary," or accompaniment, especially for those who are legally released from ICE Custody. Sometimes the greatest need may be for legal and financial support; or it may be for meeting space, so that minority folks have a place to gather to figure out what they want to do and how to go about it. It may be that someone needs consistent food and child care or a ride to work. Many things can come under the umbrella of sanctuary, depending on what the needs are.

3). We work alongside our friends, families, and neighbors. "Alongside" means sharing leadership and decision-making power. Even if a church sees a chance to do something that could be really effective with media, or really build relationships with other churches, it will not go forward unless it is the decision of the person seeking sanctuary or others who are directly affected. Shared responsibility invites solidarity.

* There are links to immigration and sanctuary resources on page 4, and many more resources on our web page: efjpc.ppjr.org.

Climate Change: Warning and Opportunity

Thirty years ago scientists were just beginning to study the possible consequences of rapidly rising concentration of “greenhouse gases” such as carbon dioxide in earth’s atmosphere as a result of human activity. Today climate change is no longer just scientific theory; we can see its effects all over the world.

First the bad news. Thirty years ago who would have believed that by this time we would have lost half the summer sea ice in the Arctic or that the great ice shelves of the Antarctic would be disintegrating. Sometime this month scientists expect an iceberg about the size of Delaware will break off the Antarctic Larsen C ice shelf. Who would have believed that the ocean would be 30% more acidic now, than 30 years ago, interfering dramatically with the ability of small creatures at the bottom of the food chain to reproduce.

People said, no, that’s 75 or 100 years out. We thought it would take longer, but it didn’t take longer. Satellite data today shows that Arctic sea ice is at a remarkable record low for this time of year. Bill McKibben reports that this past winter (Feb. 9, 2017) when he was lecturing at the University of the Arctic in Tromsø in Norway, 200 miles above the Arctic Circle, it was pouring rain! And that day the temperature at the north pole was 50°F!

Each year from 2013 to 2016, unusually warm water (dubbed *the blob*) spread along the Pacific Coast of North America. As the warm water met nutrients rising from the deep ocean, algae spread from Southern California to Alaska. With the additional heat, these algal blooms lasted much longer than usual, and many were highly toxic. Seabirds, whales, sea otters, sea lions, and various other marine creatures turned up dead in unprecedented numbers on ocean beaches as the entire food chain was disrupted.

In the spring of 2016 a wave of warm water in the course of about two weeks crossed the South Pacific Ocean and wiped



out a substantial part of the Great Coral Reef along the coast of Australia – the greatest living structure on the earth, except that huge parts of it aren’t living any more as of this year.

Everywhere we look we see this rapid and dramatic change. Warmer temperatures on land are causing drought on a scale that we’ve never seen before, because warm air holds more water than cold, giving rise to more evaporation. Severe drought in the Middle East and Africa has precipitated what the United Nations calls the largest humanitarian crisis since World War II. From 2006 to 2011, large swaths of Syria suffered an extreme drought which was a major factor leading to Syria’s civil war; and now more than 20 million people

across Yemen, Somalia, South Sudan and northeast Nigeria are facing or are at risk of famine.

And once all that water is up in the air, it comes down with much greater intensity, causing flooding and mud slides, washing away fertile farmland.

So far the earth has warmed about 1°C (1.8°F) relative to the pre-industrial age. The last time the planet was steadily 2°C warmer than pre-industrial times, some 120,000 years ago, sea levels were 5 to 10 meters higher than today. It’s likely we’ll hit 2°C of warming by 2100, unless we take extreme measures to mitigate emissions. In fact, right now we are on track to reach a global temperature rise of 3.5°C (about 7-8°F), enough to melt earth’s polar ice and raise sea levels by about 200 feet, as it was about 40 million years ago. If we allow that to happen, it will be the end of civilization as we know it. There is still time to avert the most disastrous effects of climate change, but the time is growing short.

However, there’s good news, too! Although there are still climate change skeptics, millions of people around the world now recognize the very real threat that climate



change poses and have challenged their governments to respond. Engineers have spent the last decade or so lowering the price of renewable energy -- solar power and wind power – to the point where it’s actually possible to do something about climate change. Denmark generated half the power that it consumed last year from the wind, and California is on track for 100% renewable energy by 2045.

And even though President Trump has decided to withdraw from the Paris climate accord, he has faced stiff opposition not only from environmental organizations, but also from state governments and major corporations such as Apple, Google, Nike, Microsoft, and even giant oil companies Exxon-Mobile and Conoco-Phillips.

Climate Change Resources

- **Climate Change Teach-In** (Bill McKibben & friends)
 - **Part 1** (12:33) - basic science of climate change <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XvHCjsDBwxM>
 - **Part 2** (8:15) - solutions to the climate crisis https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cPV_coPAkCE
- There are many **resources on climate change** at www.350.org, including presentations, photos, graphics. There are also videos at www.350.org/resources/
 - **"Do the Math"** video (44:52) on the climate crisis and the fight with the fossil fuel industry
 - **"Disruption"** video (52:27) - takes an unflinching look at the devastating consequences of our inaction

Peace and Justice Calendar

Undoing Racism Training and Resources

“Changing Racism: A Personal Approach to Multiculturalism, Inclusion and Equity”

– **October 27-29, 2017** (Fri. 6:30pm - Sun. 3:00 pm)
2017 sessions will be at Dalesford Abbey in Paoli, PA

See efpjc.ppj.org/undoracism for details on these sessions and MCUSA “Tools for Racial Healing.”

“White Privilege: Let’s Talk”

is an adult curriculum that's designed to invite church members to engage in safe but substantive conversations on race.

<http://privilege.uccpages.org/> (free download, from UCC)

Web Resources from Recent Events:

- **Waging Peace: Summit for Peace and Justice**, Organized by AFSC (American Friends Service Committee). Resources and video recording of keynote presentations at the April 20-23 event in Philadelphia are now posted on the event website www.afsc.org/summit

Keynote speakers: Erica Chenoweth, Oscar Arias

- **Confronting Chaos, Forging Community**

Ecumenical Advocacy Days: Washington, DC --- recalling Martin Luther King, Jr’s sermon of April 4, 1967, when he spoke about the intersectionality of “the giant triplets of **racism, extreme materialism, and militarism**” Resources and video recording of keynote presentations at the April 21-24 event are now posted on the event website: www.advocacydays.org

Keynote speakers: Tamika D. Mallory, National Co-Chair, Women’s March on Washington; Ellen Nissenbaum, Center on Budget and Policy Priorities; and several others.

Extreme Racial Bias in PA School Funding

About 50 years ago, as Pennsylvania consolidated the state’s 2,277 school districts into 500 new districts, legislators had no shame about racial bias. They created districts for white suburban students and other districts for poor and minority students. Today, state funding of Pennsylvania school districts is significantly correlated with the economic status of each district, with well-to-do districts receiving more funding per student than less affluent districts. However, there is an even stronger racial bias in school funding, as demonstrated in a 10-minute documentary video by David Mosenkis. If state funds were fairly distributed, Philadelphia would have received about \$1,900 more per child this year.

- **June 21, 2017** (Wednesday) Harrisburg-State Capitol POWER is organizing a rally and lobby day in Harrisburg to fight for fair education funding.

(See <http://powerinterfaith.org/campaigns/education/>)

- You can watch the 10-min. documentary “*Racial Bias in PA School Funding*” by David Mosenkis on youtube at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NbVILri7X2A>.

Immigration Bible Study Guide:

“Radical Hospitality: Responding to the Issue of Immigration”

This (free) 6-week study produced by MCUSA in 2015 includes five on-line video clips of about 20 min. each. <http://mennoniteusa.org/resource/radical-hospitality-core-curriculum/>

Drones: Protest and Peacemaking

June 24, 2017 (Saturday, 12n-2pm) Horsham, PA. and July 29, August 26, ... Monthly protests at Reaper Drone Command Center, Horsham Air National Guard Station.

For details, and other related events see:

www.brandywinepeace.com/events/

July 8, 2017 (Saturday, 9:30am-3:00pm) Lancaster, PA
Sanctuary Training for Faith Leaders in Lancaster.

Citizen’s Immigration & Refugee Action Committee is hosting a training by Sanctuary Philadelphia, a member of the New Sanctuary Movement. This training event is free, but reservations are required and donations will be accepted.

Location: Hafer Center at Lancaster Theological Seminary, 555 West James Street, Lancaster PA 17603

For details, see www.pachurchesadvocacy.org/event/

July 23, 2017 (Sunday, 4pm) Lansdale, PA

Growing out of this year’s winter peace retreat with Todd Wynward, a “**Watershed Way**” **small group** plans to hold quarterly meetings. The theme for the July meeting is “Eating Locally” (i.e., locally grown food). For more information about the group and meeting location, contact John Stoltzfus, 215-362-2675 ext. 417 or email: jstoltzfus@franconiaconference.org.

Mass Incarceration: Bail Bond

More than 63% of people in U.S. jails (and 70% in Philadelphia jails) have not been convicted of a crime. They are there because of an antiquated bail system that rakes in huge profits for bail bond companies and disrupts the lives of people who may or may not be guilty of a crime. Yet bail is no more effective than a phone call reminder to ensure that someone shows up in court.

A person arrested (or family member) who cannot come up with the full amount of bail will need to pay a non-refundable fee, typically 10% of the bond value, to the bail bond company. Anyone who cannot afford to pay bail may lose a job, housing, and personal belongings while sitting in jail, perhaps for months. Paying bail (or not) is often a major hardship for someone who is poor.

There is an 18-minute documentary video on bail bond, called “**The Bail Trap**,” distributed by Brave New Films (<http://www.bravenewfilms.org>), a non-profit that produces short documentaries on a variety of social justice issues and makes them available for free.

Also see our web page efpjc.ppj.org for additional information about bail bond in Pennsylvania.