**COVENANT: A Call to Action – Following the Star of Justice**

Prepared by Rev. Rob and Supported by our Mission & Advocacy for COTC Updated 2.7.17

In these days of massive and scary national political upheaval, many of us are craving places to look for hope and action in the spirit of non-violent, loving resistance. Here are some suggested ways to live into the Spirit of Christ’s peace in this season of Epiphany and national change (and if you would prefer an e-copy of this to have the links easier, please email rob.mark@cotcbos.org to request one): First, for inspiration Listen, I Can’t Keep Quiet: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xeQD9QwYC5M>

* [**https://100action.org/**](https://100action.org/)Convergence is calling on anyone who envisions a more just and generous world into a life-giving initiative called, “100 Days of Action.” We are challenging congregations and leaders to partner together for the next 100 days in a shared voice, curriculum, and series of events that will mobilize our churches to action, not because of what we are against, but because of what we are for.
* **Moral Mondays, Pledge to engage in Non-Violent Civil Disobedience:** [**https://action.groundswell-mvmt.org/petitions/we-support-civil-disobedience-as-a-form-of-moralresistance**](https://action.groundswell-mvmt.org/petitions/we-support-civil-disobedience-as-a-form-of-moralresistance)
* **Repairers of the Breach: Rapid Response Guide for People of Faith & Moral Conscience:** [**https://docs.google.com/document/d/142a1jq4JKN3G3mognT05sEUafnaXBGMs4sHFOQjykT8/edit**](https://docs.google.com/document/d/142a1jq4JKN3G3mognT05sEUafnaXBGMs4sHFOQjykT8/edit)
* **A CALL TO SOLIDARITY WITH MUSLIMS:** With recent and pending Presidential Executive Orders, our Muslim neighbors face unprecedented challenges against a new form of McCarthyism. An second round of Presidential Executive Orders or Memorandum targeting American-Muslims could isolate our neighbors, threaten civil liberties and attack human dignity. However, we are not without recourse. Please take action.

 1.       Become a ‘Friend of ISBCC’: Make a financial contribution (no matter how small) to our beloved interfaith partners at the Islamic Society of Boston Cultural Center ([http://links.masboston.org/interfaith-supporters](http://links.masboston.org/interfaith-supporters%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank)) and help them reach *100 Friends of ISBCC* by February 11th. Your gift will  (1) Offer tangible support to Muslims as they face the additional costs of P.R. work, advocacy, security and hosting community events. (2) Support is a distinctly Christian way of saying “we are all Muslim”!

2.       Talk to Muslim friends and colleagues, and visit a local mosque to express your care, support and solidarity in person.  The more personal the better - a note, a hug, a delivery of some home baked goods!

3.       Join ISBCC at their Winter Gala: Leading With Love on Feb 11th.

4.       Stay informed:  Sign up for e-newsletters from the Council on American Islamic Relations ([http://www.cairma.org/](http://www.cairma.org/%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank)) or the Islamic Society of Boston Cultural Center ([http://isbcc.org/](http://isbcc.org/%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank)) to learn about community events, local actions and calls you can make to resist discrimination.

* **Attend the Islamic Society of Boston Cultural Center’s Winter Gala:** Leading With Love on Feb 11th 6:30pm [**https://www.facebook.com/events/1164187347032113/**](https://www.facebook.com/events/1164187347032113/)
* **Tuesday 2/12 8:30am The Winter Walk is a 2-mile walk** through the streets of Boston to benefit people who are homeless. This first annual Winter Walk, next Sunday Feb. 12th from 8:30-11am, will start and finish on Copley Plaza where participants will share a meal, along with members of many of the City’s organizations addressing the needs of Boston’s homeless community. There will be stories, poetry, and sharing from men and women who have or are experiencing homelessness, and all proceeds raised from the Winter Walk in this first year will be donated to five organizations that collectively serve a broad population of homeless individuals. Please visit [winterwalkboston.org](http://winterwalkboston.org" \t "_blank) for more information.
* MIRA Open Meeting (**Massachusetts Immigrant and Refugee Advocacy Coalition (MIRA):** **Thursday, February 16th, 6:30-8:00 pm, MIRA Coalition Office (105 Chauncy St., Suite 901, Boston, MA 02111** If you are a lawyer, teacher, medical resident, grad student, or anything else, and you want to do something about all the craziness you've seen happen in the last few weeks, come on over.  We are going to talk about what MIRA does, what's going on with these Executive Orders, and then try to figure out how to get you all involved. It might be a bit messy, but we want to make sure that we are using each of your unique talents and skills to the fullest and connecting you with like-minded individuals. So, please come join us, bring a friend, and let's figure out how we can make Massachusetts a place where immigrants and refugees feel welcome.  #NoBanNoWall #refugeeswelcome #safecommunitiesact
\*\*\*Location may change if we have more than 50 interested in attending. If it does, we'll still be in downtown Boston area.\*\*\*\* Email: jrivera@miracoalition.org with questions and RSVPs.
* **Standing Rock:** While Trump says he wants to push ahead DAPL and Keystone pipelines, there is still hope of stopping this – one way is through public comments. Before Feb 20, take time to submit public comments to the Army Corps of Engineers with your thoughts about the pipeline and need for a full environmental review. See this for more info: <http://www.ecowatch.com/stop-dakota-access-pipeline-2216655918.html>

**Ongoing:**

* **The Injustice Boycott:** <http://www.injusticeboycott.com/> Convened by Shaun King. On December 5 1955 when Dr. King and others began the 381-day Montgomery Bus Boycott little did they know they were beginning one of the most significant events in US civil rights history. On December 5 2016 we, a group of organizers and activists from around the country, started our own boycott to show every city, state, institution and corporation in this country that meaningful, reasonable, achievable reforms on police brutality are not our long-term demands. They are our immediate emergency priority. [Join us now](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeAE_wudiv65yUiLUC7PyYUyZ-hfhHNs-yAz_DZkjudQu4FFw/viewform?c=0&w=1" \t "_blank) to put an end to police brutality in the U.S. Today, on Monday, Dec. 5, 2016 — the 61st anniversary of the launch of the Montgomery Bus Boycott — and now just hours after a major victory was won for the people of Standing Rock, hundreds of thousands of us have joined together to take an organized stand against racial injustice and police brutality in the United States of America. This is the [Injustice Boycott](http://www.InjusticeBoycott.com" \t "_blank). It’s not a petition. It’s not a Facebook page. It’s not a retweet or a hashtag. It’s an organized resistance, driven by local people and activists, supported by passionate believers all over the country and around the world. J[ust as the Montgomery Bus Boycott lasted for 381 days](http://www.nydailynews.com/news/national/king-boycott-injustice-police-brutality-article-1.2812999%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank), we are prepared for this boycott to last as it takes to make change happen. Indeed, we won’t stop until it does. This boycott will not weaken, but will grow in size, strength, reach, and power every single day.
* **Sanctuary:** In light of the incoming administration’s campaign promises to deport millions of people (which stands in direct contrast to our faith commitments of Jesus to care for the stranger in our midst), faith communities including Church of the Covenant are rising up and reaffirming our commitment to provide sanctuary to those immigrants most in need through advocacy, solidarity, spiritual support and if necessary, physical housing. We are active members of the Boston New Sanctuary Movement, and Rev. Rob and Rev. Julie and other congregants support the Cosecha Movement. See below for more specific information, including a background video about the Sanctuary Movement: <https://vimeo.com/189690725>

**Boston New Sanctuary Movement: *Called by our faiths to welcome the stranger.*** [**http://www.bostonnewsanctuary.org/**](http://www.bostonnewsanctuary.org/)

**Solidarity and Sanctuary:** Wondering what your options might be for effective congregational action in a heightened time of hostility and violence and possible deportations? This webinar will review a range of strategies appropriate for congregations of many sizes and political contexts.

**Faithful Discernment: Is Your Congregation Called to Offer Sanctuary?
Monday, January 30, 7:00-9:00 pm (ET)**[https://uusc.zoom.us/webinar/register/fb4f4080f785bcffc5b9141539e44ee6](https://uusc.zoom.us/webinar/register/fb4f4080f785bcffc5b9141539e44ee6%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank) **The Path Toward Sanctuary: A Practical Guide: Monday, February 27 7:00-9:00 pm (ET)**[https://uusc.zoom.us/webinar/register/fb4f4080f785bcffc5b9141539e44ee6](https://uusc.zoom.us/webinar/register/fb4f4080f785bcffc5b9141539e44ee6%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank)

**Resources:**

* BNSM Considerations for Offering Sanctuary: <http://bit.ly/offersanctuary>
* National Sanctuary Movement’s (NSM) Sanctuary Toolkit:
* <http://sanctuarynotdeportation.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/10/Sanctuary-Toolkit-New.docx>
* Sanctuary Tactics and Strategy (NSM): <http://sanctuarynotdeportation.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/10/Sanctuary-Tactics-and-Strategy.docx>
* Legal toolkit: [bit.ly/sanctuarylegal](http://bit.ly/sanctuarylegal)
* For Immigrants: Rights, Links to Legal Resources <https://www.informedimmigrant.com>

**Articles:**

* Sanctuary 101: <http://www.groundswell-mvmt.org/sanctuary-101-how-churches-and-synagogues-are-stopping-deportations/>

# US Immigration Sting on Church Breaks with Policy on 'Sensitive Locations': <https://news.vice.com/article/us-immigration-sting-on-church-breaks-with-policy-on-sensitive-locations>

* NYC Sanctuary Movement - https://www.thenation.com/article/inside-the-churches-that-are-leading-new-yorks-sanctuary-movement/

**Videos:**

* [Sanctuary In a Trump Era](https://vimeo.com/192845356) NSM 11/21/16 webinar
* [*One Border One Body: Immigration and the Eucharist*](http://www3.nd.edu/~onemass/Assets/OneBorderOneBody08.pdf.) John Carlos Frey and Father Daniel Groody

## Join the Cosecha Movement!/ ¡Únete Al Movimiento Cosecha! Cosecha is a nonviolent movement working to win permanent protection, dignity and respect for the 11 million undocumented people in this country.  Cosecha National Assembly is in Boston this coming Feb. 10-12! Join this to help plan for a Year of Resistance, Community Center• 14 Cushing Ave, Boston, MA 02125 Sign up: <https://actionnetwork.org/events/segunda-asamblea-nacional-2nd-national-assembly-2?source=direct_link&> and <https://www.facebook.com/events/1304726179570779/>

**CosechaFe (Faith):** CosechaFe is organizing clergy and lay leaders to invite people of faith to learn more about the struggles of undocumented immigrants, to spark conversations about our role in this moment as people of faith, to show support for undocumented immigrants by hosting public actions, and to push back on the increased enforcement and ICE activity that we are expected to see when Trump becomes president. The results of the November 8th election have put millions of people in this country at increased risk. And under a Trump Administration, immigration agents will be bolder than ever. We will draw the line on enforcement practices and publicly denounce ICE, and push them away from our communities. Sign up to take part in one of three working groups here: <http://www.lahuelga.com/cosechafe/> and join the **National Day of Action for People of Faith this TUESDAY Jan. 17. At COTC come for a Public Vigil on our steps with our Immigrants & Refugees Sign at 11am**.

Toolkit: [https://docs.google.com/document/d/1jHSnaxHlh7nPib6CFt3EbOjzalu26o4aXXQaydiQDMQ/edit#](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1jHSnaxHlh7nPib6CFt3EbOjzalu26o4aXXQaydiQDMQ/edit%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank)

[https://www.facebook.com/pg/National-Sanctuary-Movement-442764462779808/events](https://www.facebook.com/pg/National-Sanctuary-Movement-442764462779808/events%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank)

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSd_0NG7gwDXWZTlubT4ytp0HiZ2k7Eo_ybKRjIpm1Ec7ThTzQ/viewform?c=0&w=1>

* **Refuse Fascism:** *In the Name of Humanity, We Refuse to Accept a Fascist America!* Cornel West and many others are determined to speak truth to power and call out the incoming administration for its unjust stances and policies. See [www.refusefascism.org](http://www.refusefascism.org) for more information.
* **Showing Up For Racial Justice Boston (SURJ**) <http://www.surjboston.org/> **SURJ BOSTON** is a local chapter of **[Showing Up For Racial Justice](http://www.showingupforracialjustice.org/%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank)**, a national network of groups and individuals organizing white people for racial justice. Through community organizing, mobilizing, and education, SURJ moves white people to act as part of a multi-racial majority for justice with passion and accountability. We work to connect people across the country while supporting and collaborating with local and national racial justice organizing efforts.   SURJ provides a space to build relationships, skills and political analysis to act for change. Next meeting is Monday 2/27, 6pm, and other ideas for taking action: <http://www.surjboston.org/take-action/>