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

Prepared by Rev. Rob for COTC Updated 2.1.17

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>

* **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>
* **Sunday, Jan. 29, 1-3pm, Copley Square:** [**Boston Protest Against Muslim Ban and Anti-Immigration Orders**](https://www.facebook.com/events/1808560036070492/?ref=1&action_history=%5B%7B%22surface%22%3A%22permalink%22%2C%22mechanism%22%3A%22surface%22%2C%22extra_data%22%3A%5B%5D%7D%5D)**:** [https://www.facebook.com/events/1808560036070492/](https://www.facebook.com/events/1808560036070492/%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank)
* **Muslim Solidarity at Logan Airport (Cosecha sponsored):** [**https://www.facebook.com/events/944350065697564/**](https://www.facebook.com/events/944350065697564/)
* [**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)
* **Thursday, February 2, 6:30pm: GBIO ACTION**

Bethel AME Church 40 Walk Hill St Jamaica Plain, Near Forest Hills T Station

Join us as we come together to address, with key elected officials and stakeholders, the critical issues facing us around:

* + Criminal Justice--Passage of true Criminal Justice Reform: Ending Mandatory Minimums for drug offences, Pre-trial and Bail Reform, Ending Long Term Solitary Confinement, Eliminate excessive probation and parole fees and fines
	+ Affordable Housing--The post election implementation of the Boston Community Preservation Act (CPA)
	+ Healthcare--The post election effect on our Massachusetts Universal Healthcare System (MassHealth)
	+ Gun Safety--Update on the “Do Not Stand Idly By” Campaign

The purpose is to continue building power relationships to keep GBIO’s recent work and platforms in the forefront and moving towards winning on our issues.

RSVP to Kathryn Barry, Anne Crane, Anita Gram, Tim Groves or Faith Perry

* **Saturday, February 4, Arlington Street Church 10:00 am - 3:00 pm: Countering Islamophobia: Organizing as a Unified Force**

Featured Speakers: Shannon Erwin, Muslim Justice League, Hayat Imam, Dorchester People for Peace, Speaker from Jewish Voice for Peace

Back the Muslim community which is facing escalating bigotry and hate by building relationships with Muslim individuals and organizations. Fight Islamophobia by becoming allies, on an individual and collective level. Work with Local Government, Schools and Muslim Organizations to forge institutional backing for tolerance, solidarity, civil liberties, safety and refuge in our cities. Interactive sessions at this workshop will help us develop a wide variety of positive actions. All are welcome! Space is limited! $10 per ticket, lunch included; Register Here: <https://www.facebook.com/events/782431385237879/>

* **City Mission: Cookie Day at the Massachusetts State House: 2/8 9:45am**

JOIN CITY MISSION AT HOMES FOR FAMILIES’ ANNUAL LOBBY DAY TO INCREASE HOUSING AFFORDABILITY FOR FAMILIES IN MASSACHUSETTS

WHEN? Wednesday, February 8th, 2017 from 9:45am-12:30 p.m.

We’ll meet at the City Mission offices at 9:45am for fellowship and a brief orientation. Then, we will join other advocates for Cookie Day programming at the State House and visits to legislator offices. WHERE? Meet us at City Mission’s offices (14 Beacon Street, Suite 203 Boston, MA 02108) followed by a walk across the street to the MA State House.

* **City Mission: HUD 101: Feb 7 6:30-8:30pm: Federal Housing Policy, the New Administration, and What We Can Do in Boston** February 7, 2017, 6:30-8:30 p.m. First Baptist Church in Jamaica Plain
* **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.

**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/>