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

Prepared by Rev. Rob and Supported by our Mission & Advocacy for COTC Updated 3.3.17

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>

**In these days, it is critical that people know their rights.** Here is a useful link from the ACLU: <https://www.aclu.org/know-your-rights> (especially important for those who are at increased risk in these days of targeting: immigrants, people of color, homeless, the poor – and people who protest in general)

* [**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.
* **Stand with Planned Parenthood Rally:** Sat. March 4, 11am-1pm, Boston Common: <https://www.facebook.com/events/1335928073133418/>
* **Forward Together, Not One Step Back: Moral Movement, Repairs of the Breach** encourage us to sign this letter: <https://action.groundswell-mvmt.org/petitions/open-letter-to-attorney-general-sessions-join-us-in-selma-on-the-right-side-of-history?source=gse> inviting Attorney Jeff Sessions to join them in his own home town of Selma, AL **this March 5.**
* **RISE UP for Trans and Queer Youth: Sunday March 5:** [https://www.facebook.com/events/129037014285912/](https://www.facebook.com/events/129037014285912/%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank)

**What**: RISE UP! For Trans and Queer Youth

**When**: Sunday, March 5th, 12pm

**Where**: Boston Common, in front of the State House

**Who**: Join the Mass Trans Political Coalition, along with trans and queer youth, teachers, and allies to support trans and gender nonconforming students whose rights are under attack.

* **A Day Without A Women: March 8 (International Women’s Day):** https://www.womensmarch.com/womensday , Here is a great summary article passed on by Kathryn: <http://www.nydailynews.com/news/national/day-woman-strike-article-1.2987450>
* **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)). 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.    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.

* March 8th: A Day Without a Woman. We are joining the Women's March on International Women's Day to support thousands of women across the U.S. who will take the day off from paid and unpaid labor, avoid shopping for one day (with the exception for small, women and minority owned businesses) and/or wear read in solidarity. On that day, we invite you to attend the artistic uprising and mass protest in Washington DC in front of the Department of Labor with One Billion Rising. To get involved: <https://www.womensmarch.com/womensday>
* **March for Science, Boston: April 22, 2017**, 2-4pm, Boston Common: <https://www.facebook.com/events/246381619134165/>
* **April 28-30: The Revolutionary Love Conference.** You are invited to attend the conference "Revolutionary Love: Disruptive Ethics to Dismantle Racism." We are co-hosting this conference at Middle Church in NYC with our sister Rev. Dr. Jacqui Lewis. The line up includes signatories on the Declaration of Revolutionary Love, including Rev. William Barber, Brian McLaren, Rev Jacqui Lewis. It will be an opportunity to think together about the theory and practice of love in our movement. Please register here: <http://revolutionaryloveconference.com>
* **April 29 The People’s Climate March,** Washington DC: <https://peoplesclimate.org/> (COTC is listed as a partner)
* **A Day Without Immigrants: 5-1-17** On May 1st, Cosecha invites workers to leave the fields, the factories, the restaurants, and hotels to paralyze the economy and demonstrate the millions of dollars that immigrants contribute daily. <https://www.facebook.com/events/176782792807762/>
* MIRA (**Massachusetts Immigrant and Refugee Advocacy Coalition (MIRA)**

**Ongoing:**

* **Pipeline Resistance:** <https://act.350.org/sign/nokxl-nodapl-pipeline-pledge/>
* **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)
* **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/)

**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!/ <http://www.lahuelga.com/> ¡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.

**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/>

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/>