



Washtenaw
Congregational
Sanctuary



- An interfaith coalition of congregations and unaffiliated individuals through Washtenaw County, joined together to support immigrants and their families in our community
- Led by the Interfaith Council for Peace & Justice (ICPJ) and Washtenaw Interfaith Coalition for Immigrant Rights (WICIR)
- Formed in response to intensified and increasingly unjust activities of Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) in our community



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what is

Congregational Sanctuary?

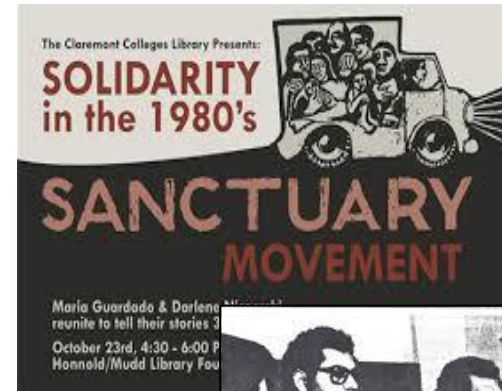


a safe place from unjust laws

Congregational sanctuary is providing protection for an immigrant, refugee or asylum-seeker (individual or a family) who is in danger of unjust persecution and/or at imminent threat of deportation by offering them physical residence within the walls of a faith community.

Sanctuary Movements

Sanctuary is one of the most ancient traditions that we have as people of faith. During the Sanctuary Movement of the 1980's, 500+ congregations provided safe haven for refugees from Central America's civil wars.



Today's Congregational Sanctuary Movement is a response to recent changes in U.S. immigration policy and practice. It is distinct from other similarly-named initiatives, including Sanctuary Cities, Campuses, and Restaurants.



More than 800 religious congregations across the U.S. are engaged in today's Sanctuary Movement. This map shows the zip codes where people have signed a pledge to the principles of sanctuary.



Congregations across Michigan are participating:

- 3 in Kalamazoo including First Congregational Church
- 6 in Detroit including Central United Methodist Church
- 3 in Washtenaw County
- All Saints Episcopal in East Lansing

"If you want these families, you're going to have to come through us." - Rev. Jill Zundell, CUMC





Levels of Participation

- | | |
|--------------------------|--|
| LEVEL 1: HOST | Physically host an individual or family |
| LEVEL 2: SUPPORT | Provide support to a congregation that is physically hosting an individual or family |
| LEVEL 3: ADVOCATE | Join a political advocacy campaign for a specific case |

a brief summary of

Elements to Consider

- The physical sanctuary that will be provided
- Expectations for what will and won't be provided
- Networks in place for referrals and support
- A plan for funding and logistical needs
- A legal course of action to provide relief from the threat of deportation
- Advocacy campaigns, as appropriate, including community, public officials, and media



It's important that those receiving sanctuary are in agreement with (and play a leadership role) in setting the parameters of the support being offered.

understanding the

Legal Risks

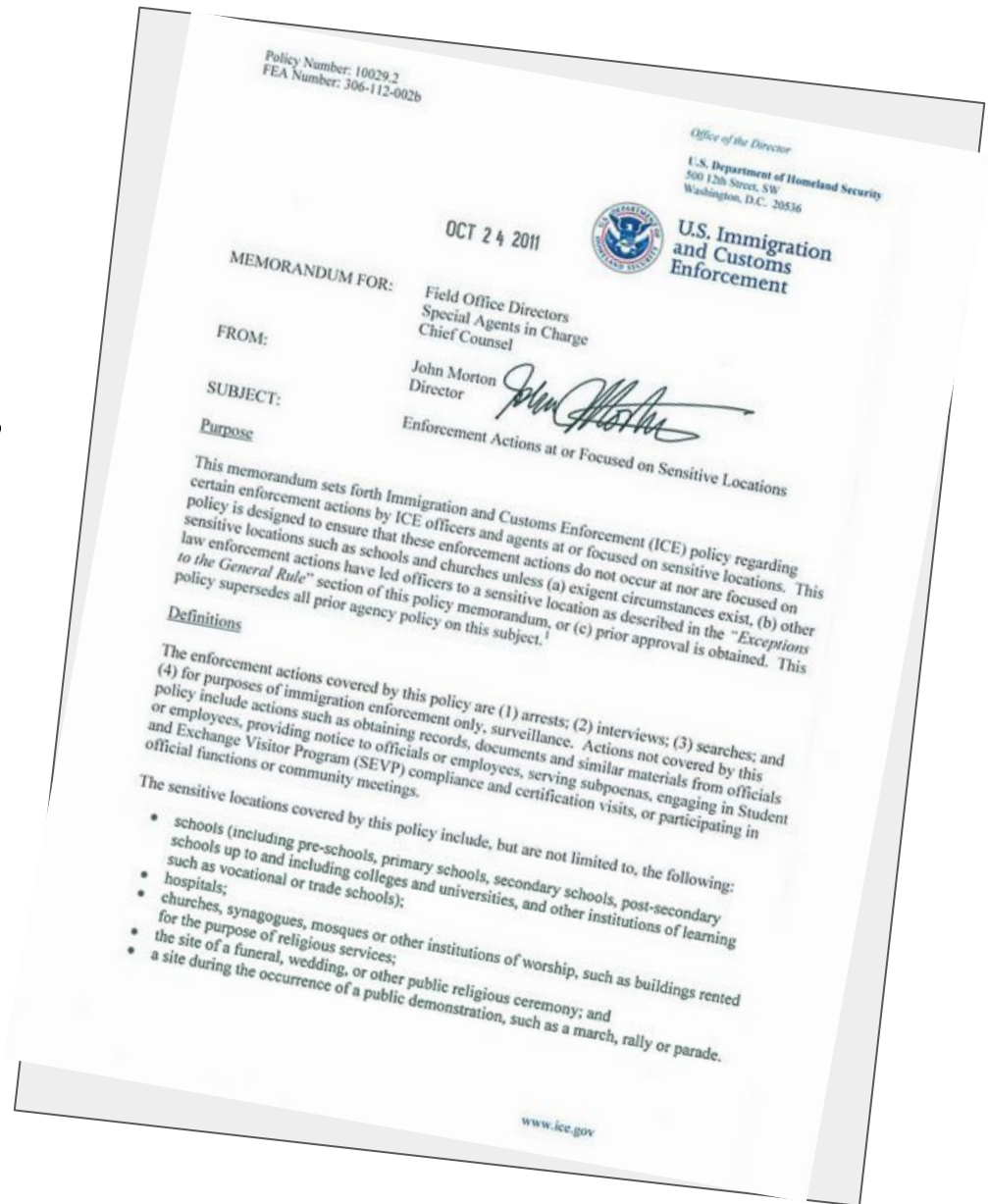
Becoming a sanctuary congregation is an act of civil disobedience. Because it is a public act and the intent is not to conceal, the Center for Constitutional Rights maintains the congregation will not be violating federal law. For over forty years, no congregation has been prosecuted for providing sanctuary.



In 2011, the Department of Homeland Security clarified its policy:

Immigration enforcement activities (including interviews, arrests, searches and surveillance) should not occur in “sensitive locations.”

The memo lists “churches, synagogues, mosques, or other institutions of worship” as examples of these sensitive locations.



Next Steps

1. Complete the Individual Pledge Form and use it to guide your personal next steps.
2. Join the general WCS email list or one of four subcommittees:
General: washtenawcongregationalsanctuary@lists.icpj.net
Education/Outreach: wcseducation@lists.icpj.net
Advocacy/Action: wcsadvocacy@lists.icpj.net
Legal/Fundraising: wcsfundlegal@lists.icpj.net
Logistics: wcslogistics@lists.icpj.net
3. Follow WCS events and updates on our facebook page:
<http://facebook.com/WashtenawCongregationalSanctuary>



INDIVIDUAL PLEDGE FORM

I will take the following actions in order to better defend and protect vulnerable immigrants and their families in my community:

- Educate** myself and others about congregational sanctuary.
- Advocate** for immigration reform and justice for immigrant families.
- Talk** with others in my congregation about the need for congregational sanctuary.
- Encourage** my congregation to participate in Washtenaw Congregational Sanctuary.
- Provide** specific support to an individual or family in congregational sanctuary:
 - Food/Laundry
 - Financial
 - Transportation
 - Advocacy
 - Solidarity and friendship
 - Translation services

Signature

Date

Share your pledge with WCS! Send a copy of your pledge with your contact information to:

Washtenaw Congregational Sanctuary

Email: wcs@icpj.org · Tel: 734 663-1870 · Website: icpj.org/WCS · Facebook: [WashtenawCongregationalSanctuary](https://www.facebook.com/WashtenawCongregationalSanctuary)



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Facebook.com/WashtenawCongregationalSanctuary

Interfaith Council for Peace & Justice (Latin America Task Force)

<http://icpj.org>

Washtenaw Interfaith Coalition for Immigrant Rights

<http://facebook.com/WICIR>