



OFFICE OF IMMIGRATION ISSUES

The 222th General Assembly
(2016)
Resolution Reaffirming the Ministry of
Sanctuary by Congregations

Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

222th General Assembly (2016) of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) resolves to do the following:

1. Reaffirms the support of previous General Assemblies for the ministry of sanctuary and for those congregations that have supported and offered sanctuary for refugees and immigrants threatened with deportation.
2. Reaffirms the ethical responsibility of congregations and governing bodies of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) to defend the unity and integrity of families when an immigrant mother or father is threatened with deportation.
3. Calls upon congregations and individual Presbyterians to provide hospitality, accompaniment, and sanctuary for mothers, children, unaccompanied minors, and refugees

fleeing the murderous gang violence of the Northern Triangle of Central America (El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras).

4. Recognizes that offering sanctuary is one way in which Presbyterians are living out the Gospel call to love our neighbor and welcome the stranger, including but not limited to:

- advocacy to end family detention
- visitation programs for detained immigrants
- advocacy and organizing to stop the criminalization of immigrants and end the collaboration of local police with Immigration and Customs Enforcement
- immigration legal clinics
- support of and engagement with immigrant-led congregations and organizations
- advocacy and organizing for humanitarian, just immigration policies on the local, state, and federal levels