

More Light Presbyterians Stand With Immigrants

The board and staff of MLP condemn the actions of the Department of Homeland Security, Customs and Border Patrol, and Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), and all who have collaborated with them in recent immigration actions. We are horrified by the following:

- The abductions, detentions, and deportations of immigrants and asylum seekers, citizens and non-citizens — frequently without due process, frequently to a country the deportee is not from
- The horrific conditions that detainees are subjected to in immigrant detention centers / concentration camps, including starvation, abuse, and the separation of children from their families
- The terrorizing of communities across the country, including violence against protestors and invading homes in the middle of the night
- The deployment of federal troops without local or state consent

We recognize that queer liberation and immigrant rights are intertwined; that queer and trans immigrants are particularly likely to experience violence during detention and in the countries to which they are deported; that to be queer is to constantly question and transgress dominant systems and to disrupt every false binary of “us” and “them.”

We call on all of our members and friends to join us in resisting the sins of xenophobia, racism, and white supremacy that fuel anti-immigrant activity and in journeying toward God’s promised liberation and flourishing for all creation.

Together, let us seek to follow the God of the stranger — the God of Abraham, Sarah, and Hagar, of Ruth and Naomi, of Mary, Joseph, and countless other biblical immigrants and refugees. Let us seek to follow God the stranger, the One who migrated from the heavens to earth, from Bethlehem to Egypt and Nazareth, the immigrant and refugee who was persecuted by local authorities and found a home in a foreign land.

We each have a part to play in ushering in God’s Kin-dom, which has no walls, no borders, no prisons.

Here are actions you can take to fight ICE and be in solidarity with your immigrant neighbors:

- Reach out to immigrant friends and neighbors; what do they need?
- Learn about ICE and help organize your community to defend against ICE raids <https://www.immigrantdefenseproject.org/raids/>
- Educate yourself and then talk to your friends, family, coworkers, church communities about these issues, including [debunking pervasive anti-immigrant myths](#).
- Integrate God's love for immigrants into your worship, such as praying the "[Immigrant Apostles' Creed](#)" by Rev. Jose Luis Casal or Fran Pratt's "[Litany for Dreamers](#)."
- Join in or help organize rallies and marches; be aware of your [rights as a protestor](#).
- Spread information about noncitizens' rights [as protestors](#) and [when encountering ICE](#).
- Support and learn from protestors taking on ICE in target cities like Chicago, Denver, Los Angeles, Washington DC, and the Twin Cities by following [social media](#) groups, checking out the [Detention Watch Network](#), and sending aid.
- Participate in petitions, lawsuits, and lobbying.
- Support immigrant businesses and any local institutions (places of worship, schools, immigrant centers) that are under attack.
- Connect with the PCUSA's advocacy offices ([Washington Office of Public Witness](#) and [the Office of Immigration Issues](#)) to be updated on what's happening and ways you can engage.

May we repent, act, and commit to be in solidarity with our immigrant neighbors today and always.