



Mission Presbytery Outreach and Justice Committee

Ruling Elder Tom O'Meara, Moderator

Information on ways to be involved with Immigrant/Refugee Issues.

1. Learn about the root causes of Central American migration.
<https://genesisofexodusfilm.com/thefilm/>
2. Become a welcoming congregation.
 - a. Pray for refugees' every time you gather.
 - b. Join "We Choose Welcome" campaign:
<http://www.presbyterianmission.org/we-choose-welcome/>
 - c. Host *Know your rights training* at your church.
www.aclu.org/know-your-rights
 - d. Host a Family care plan workshop at your congregation. <http://pcusa.org/familycareplan>
 - e. Hold Vigils in support of people held in detention, asylum seekers and immigrants separated from their families.
 - f. Volunteer for Hosting Program or providing rides to San Antonio through Casa Marianella <http://www.casamarianella.org/about-us/>
 - g. Volunteer your skills, e.g., healing modality, attorney, interpreting or translating to organizations that work with immigrants: <http://grassrootsleadership.org/immigration>
3. Support the work of the following:
 - a. RAICES in San Antonio, TX. <https://www.raicetexas.org/volunteer/>
 - b. Volunteer and support the South Texas Human Rights Center in Falfurrias, Texas:
<https://southtexashumanrights.org/>
 - c. Sacred Heart Catholic Church Respite Center in McAllen, TX.
<http://sacredheartchurch-mcallen.org/immigrant-assistance/general-information/>
 - d. Interfaith Welcome Coalition. <http://interfaithwelcomecoalition.org/get-involved/>
 - e. Casa Marianella and Posada Esperanza – including the Hosting Program
<http://www.casamarianella.org/about-us/>
 - f. Angry Tias and Abuelas of the RGV. A group of women founded in June 2018 in response to family separations. Read more here <https://www.texasstandard.org/stories/angry-tias-and-abuelas-group-in-the-valley-brings-resources-to-people-waiting-at-the-border/>
Send donations to: Progress Texas Institute, 1023 Springdale - #11D, Austin, TX 78721.
Memo note for Angry Tias & Abuelas of the RGV.
 - g. Texas Impact – People of Faith working for Justice: Courts and Ports Ministry of Witness.
<https://texasimpact.org/project/courts-ports/>
4. Volunteer with the Resettlement Program for Texas: <https://www.rstx.org/>
For more info contact Miranda Roberts in Austin at: mroberts@rstx.org

- a. Become part of a Refugee Resettlement welcoming team with RAICES: RAICES resettles families in central Texas through the San Antonio office. To participate, go to raicestexas.org/volunteer .

5. Advocacy – visit your representatives:
 - a. <http://www.pcusa.org/resource/grassroots-advocacy-skills/>
 - b. Advocate for closing private for profit detention centers.
 - c. Volunteer to visit people in detention facilities:
<http://grassrootsleadership.org/immigration>

6. Ask attorneys in your congregation to get involved. There are several legal aid organizations throughout Texas that need your help. You do not have to be an immigration attorney or speak another language. Here are just a few:
 - a. RAICES: www.raicestexas.org/volunteer
 - b. Workers Defense Project: <http://www.workersdefense.org/volunteer/>
 - c. CARA Pro Bono: <http://caraprobono.org/volunteer/>
 - d. Equal Justice Center: <http://www.equaljusticecenter.org/take-action/intern.html>
 - e. American Gateways: <http://www.americangateways.org/get-involved/>

7. Resources - PCUSA Office of Immigration Issues: <http://oga.pcusa.org/section/mid-council-ministries/immigration/legal/>
 - a. ICE Policies and procedures involving detained parents and legal guardians fact sheet: <https://www.ice.gov/doclib/detention-reform/pdf/factSheetDetainedParents.pdf>

8. Become a Sanctuary Church: PC(USA) Sanctuary Page: <http://www.pcusa.org/sanctuary>
 - a. Support events held by the Sanctuary Networks in Austin and San Antonio or Initiate a Sanctuary Network in your City or Town with help from established networks.
 - b. Volunteer with the Accompaniment Program through the Austin Sanctuary Network <https://www.facebook.com/Austin-Sanctuary-Network-1739318732967795/>
 - c. Provide Physical Sanctuary to immigrants fleeing violence and facing deportation Network <https://www.facebook.com/Austin-Sanctuary-Network-1739318732967795/>

9. Consider calling in to discuss immigration issues each month with other church leaders: Mission Presbytery Immigration Task Force Conference call held every 4th Thursday of the month at 10:30 am. **Call-in number: 605-313-5442. Access Code: 204825**

10. Request to all Congregations: report your refugee support activities to the Mission Presbytery Outreach and Justice Committee, to encourage others to Tom O'Meara, Chair at: Tom.omeara@sbcglobal.net

11. Additional Contacts:

Rev. Chad Lawson – Canyon Lake Presbyterian Church
<http://canyonlakepres.org/>
clpcpastor@gmail.com or call: 830-743-5999.

Rev. Meagan Ludwig – First Presbyterian Church of Beeville
<http://www.fpcbeeville.org/#lent>

pastor.fpcbee@gmail.com or call: 512-567-7299