

Jake, Tandy, and Jenni,

After participating in two Town Hall meetings, thinking about the excellent written and verbal information presented, and visiting with several members of the congregation, I suggest that any type of vote on the question of ORUUC's offering sanctuary to undocumented US residents be postponed until more information can be gathered, absorbed, and discussed by our members.

The information has given me a great appreciation for the importance of the sanctuary movement to members of the church and the community, the hard work that has gone into it, the necessity for continuing the forward momentum, and the desire of members I have talked to, to make an informed, compassionate, moral, and thoughtful decision. To do this, they want more information.

The Board and Minister set the initial schedule and process for pursuing the question of sanctuary. In response to the meetings, I believe the Board should change their previously announced schedule. Yes, it slows down the process; yes, many might work hard collecting information to have the idea derailed in the ultimate vote; but when the vote is actually taken, the members of the congregation will be educated, and not feel pressured. If taken now (even on a concept), I know several who will either vote no or abstain because they are so unclear about the ramifications.

Some issues I believe need consideration and clarification are (with my comments in italics):

- Reasons ORUUC wants to become a Sanctuary Church/Congregation and the different types of sanctuary offered: *Are we taking this action:*
 - A. *to make publicly a courageous statement to the community and world what we believe about undocumented residents (I'm not sure what to fill in here since I have heard little discussion about our proposed stand) and we are helping selected individuals - or*
 - B. *to quietly help selected individuals who meet certain criteria?*
- Have we already identified individuals whom we want to help or who have requested sanctuary status?
- What are UUA requirements regarding the physical space and amenities needed? What are the requirements ORUUC believes are needed to provide a safe, and emotionally comfortable space for our guest(s) to live? *For example - can the person go outside onto the grounds? What areas of the church are most appropriate for living space? Which, if any areas in the building would be off-limits to the person or their visitors? Medical and mental help, food, recreation, exercise, etc. Maximum number of guests in residence at a time.*
- What has been the experience of other sanctuary churches? Discussions with other local churches considering offering sanctuary.
- Behaviors we might request of our guest(s): *Smoking policy? Alcohol? Visitors - number at any given time. When visitors may come? Overnight visitors in case of family, etc. Cleanliness and neatness of quarters? Adherence to virtual house arrest?*
- ORUUC presence required while a person is in residence: *Twenty-four/seven? Only when others are using the building? Etc.*
- Other support needed: *Shopping, laundry, meals, companionship? Financial? Legal? Medical? Support for family? Advocacy?*
- Types of help from other congregations?
- Ramifications for ORUUC programs and operations: *Insurance? Security of building and*

records? Impact on current use of dedicated space? Renters? Participation of guest(s) in ORUUC activities?

- *Ramifications for staff, members, and friends of ORUUC: Security clearances? Moral ambivalence about breaking the law? Feeling of privacy, comfort, community, and security by members while in the church under various circumstances?*
- *Legal: Legal basis for ICE with sanctuary churches? Options and recommendations for response if ICE and local police arrive with arrest warrant? Understanding the relationship with local police force. Zoning considerations - not a trivial question sometimes when it comes to types of law enforcement.*
- *Community response: ORUUC has not been afraid of taking potentially unpopular social justice positions or actions. We are now more aware of security concerns and ways to explain our positions to the wider community. What needs to be considered?*
- *And others - many at the Town Halls brought up interesting points. This is my start for making an informed decision.*

I would be glad to help a group define the issues/questions and research the answers. Those answers which seem to be negative, I believe, should be looked at further to see if there are mitigating strategies.

Thanks for your compassion, work, and, as always, making me think and broaden my horizons.

Marty