

NEW SANCTUARY AND IMMIGRATION COMMITTEE—Annual Report 2009

The committee's goals for 2009 primarily included continuing to educate the congregation about immigration issues, particularly through the lens of Scripture, PC (USA) General Assembly guidance, and our Christian faith; and implementing the Session's decision to partner with Roxroy Salmon, a father, and grandfather and 32-year-US resident facing deportation. We would like to thank the pastors, the Church & Society Committee, and the congregation for their support for Roxroy and his family.

The Committee co-sponsored two forum/workshops: **“The Presbyterian Church USA on Immigration: Welcome and Justice, Parts I and II”** with the Adult Education Committee, both of which included the active participation of those attending and were very well-attended.

The Committee also mounted an intensive campaign to support Roxroy in his struggle to stay with his family in Brooklyn, New York. These actions included: a January 18 “Poster Party” at FPC; vigils and our presence at Roxroy's appearances January 27, 2009, and July 7, and August 17; participation on Roxroy's Defense Committee; petition signing at FPC, Presbytery and in other faith communities; a “Rolling Fast” and website; accompanying Roxroy to speak at other faith communities; writing letters of support to put in Roxroy's case file; composing a song, “Roxroy,” to sing at Vigils; organizing an FPC supporters phone tree and listserv; May 5th “Politics and Popcorn” community event to show film “Roxroy” at FPC; participation in the June 20 “Children's Day” to support the Child Citizen Protection Act (HR 182); a postcard campaign to ICE Field Office Director Christopher Shanahan; and organizing and attending delegations to Representatives Towns, Clarke, Nadler, Serrano and Velazquez, and Senators Schumer and Gillibrand asking them to support Roxroy's case.

Sadly, on August 18, we learned that all of the Committee's and others' efforts had failed. This failure informs our plans for 2010, which include expanding the size of the committee, further education of our congregation, and advocacy to prevent the destruction of immigrant families.

Members: Kathryn Bache*, Virginia Baron, Sally Collins*, Chris Lotz*, Grania Marcus (co-chair), Suzanne Mecs, Geoffrey Riggs, Liz Hubbell-Riggs, Rita Rochford (co-chair), Reade Ryan, David B. Wilson, Bonnie Voit

Respectfully submitted,

Rita Rochford and Grania Marcus, Co-chairs

*Members that have moved or no longer attend FPC