

IMMIGRATION AND NEW SANCTUARY COMMITTEE - Annual Report 2010

The committee's goals for 2010 included the further education of the congregation about immigration issues; the expansion of the size of the committee; and continued advocacy to prevent the destruction of immigrant families. We would like to thank the pastors, the Church and Society Committee, and the congregation for their support of the various actions suggested by the committee. The committee would also like to thank the Rev. Mark Hostetter and Richard Korchak for facilitating the forums, Tony Feliciano and staff for their work in setting up for meetings/forums, and especially Grania Marcus, our co-chair, whose expertise, wisdom, and humor helped to move our work forward. We will miss her.

The Committee co-sponsored the following two forums/workshops with the Adult Education Committee: **“Healing Through Action: Confronting Detention and Deportation** and **“Haiti and US: How Do U.S. People of Faith Support Haiti and Haitians.”** Ways to participate and take action were offered to the attendees: sign up sheets for those interested in participating in NSM Legislative visits and rallies, writing/calling to support the Gutierrez immigration reform bill, signing up for training in Deportation 101, becoming involved in a First Presbyterian Church project started by the members of a 2009 Mission Trip and an invitation to join the Immigration and New Sanctuary Committee.

The Committee participated in citywide coalitions working to influence the debate over comprehensive immigration reform, including New Sanctuary Coalition of New York City, New Agenda for Broad Immigration Reform (“NABIR”) and the New York State Working Group to Stop Deportation. Through the work of committee members/others and additional faith communities the deportations of Jean Montrevil and Joe and Mai Chen were postponed. Their cases are still precarious and their families continue to work for a just outcome. The Committee also continued to support the Salmon family, including seeking a pardon by Governor Paterson. The Committee will continue to advocate for immigrant families in 2011, keep our congregation informed and educated about immigration issues, work to repeal the Federal “Secure Communities” initiative in New York State, and encourage our city government to end collaboration with Immigrations and Customs Enforcement officers (“ICE”) on Rikers Island.

Members: Virginia Baron, Grania Marcus*, Suzanne Mecs, Geoffrey Riggs, Liz-Hubbell-Riggs, Rita Rochford (co-chair), Reade Ryan, Madeleine Sinor, David Wilson (co-chair). Bonnie Woit

Respectfully submitted,

Rita Rochford and David Wilson, Co-chairs

*Member has moved