

UU Congregation of Danbury Explores New Sanctuary Movement

On Sunday, October 7, the UU Congregation of Danbury (CT) kicked off a process of education and discussion about the New Sanctuary Movement, with a service devoted to this topic. The New Sanctuary Movement is a coalition of interfaith religious leaders and participating congregations, dedicated to responding actively and publicly to the suffering of immigrants residing in the US.

The Danbury congregation will decide whether, in the words of UUA President Rev. William Sinkford, to join “other people of faith and conscience in calling for the passage of just and comprehensive immigration reform and an immediate stop to federal raids that . . . create a climate of fear and repression.” [Read Rev. Sinkford’s complete statement at <http://www.uua.org/pressroom/pressreleases/24270.shtml>.] If the UUCD chooses to become a “New Sanctuary Congregation,” its members will pledge to 1) take a public, moral stand for immigrant rights, 2) reveal, through education and advocacy, the actual suffering of immigrant workers and families under current and proposed legislation, and 3) protect immigrants against hate, workplace discrimination, and unjust deportation. There will be upcoming educational workshops on this topic at the congregation’s fellowship hall. This is a direct application of Unitarian Universalism’s affirmation of the inherent worth and dignity of *every* person – faith in action.

For more information about the New Sanctuary Movement, visit <http://www.newsanctuarymovement.org>. For information on UU involvement in the New Sanctuary Movement, contact Susan Leslie, Director, UUA Office for Congregational Advocacy & Witness, 617-948-4607, sleslie@uua.org.