

Immigration Committee Charter

Mission Statement:

The Immigration Committee's mission is to help immigrants in their struggle to integrate into the community, to work for more just and humane immigration policies, and to engage as many volunteers as possible in the process.

Goals:

1. To educate ourselves, the congregation, and the community as a whole in the history of and current issues concerning immigration in the United States.
2. To support both documented and undocumented immigrants in their efforts to transition and integrate into our society. Among other things, this support would, include material, administrative (e.g. help with taxes, school registrations, etc.), physical, and social aspects.
3. To partner with appropriate local organizations that focus on immigration (such as IICON, Neighbors Link Stamford, other UU's in Fairfield County) to more efficiently serve the immigrant community.
4. To help build public awareness of the governmental policies that interfere with the immigrants' integration into the community and the eventual naturalization process as American citizens.
5. To explore cooperation with UU congregations across the country that have pressing needs different from ours relating to immigrants.
6. To identify legal aspects and organize advocacy efforts when needed.
7. To establish subcommittees (i.e. Advocacy; Awareness; Material Support; Sanctuary; Fundraising) that will facilitate accomplishing the objectives stated above.

Roles:

- Two co-chairs will serve for a 2-year term (Nov. 2014 - June 2016: Barbara Steeg and Marjolijn de Jager). Succession plans yet to be determined.
- Each subcommittee will elect its own facilitator who will report to the whole group at monthly meetings. Each subcommittee will decide its own length of term.

Responsibilities:

- Co-chairs will alternate chairing the monthly meeting and taking minutes. They are responsible for distributing Minutes within no more than 2 weeks after monthly meetings and the Agenda no less than 1 week before the subsequent meeting.
- Members are expected to attend the monthly meetings whenever possible, to read email messages from the co-chairs and subcommittee facilitators and to offer feedback.

Guidelines:

- The committee meets monthly throughout the year (i.e. 12 months).
- Subcommittees will determine their own interim meeting schedules.
- Co-chairs head monthly meetings, take minutes, distribute minutes and agendas to all the members of the group, help guide subcommittees, perform other duties as needed, and keep David Vita, Director of Social Justice, informed.

Accountability:

The annual report (in May) will summarize the committee's activities of the year past; review goals met, goals needing more attention, goals no longer needed, and/or new goals to be set.