



Sanctuary + Solidarity

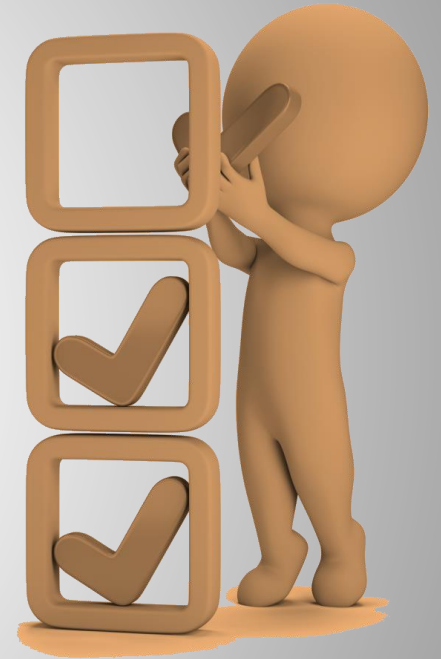
How to frame *and* train the Big
Picture Sanctuary effort



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Today's Agenda

- Why Sanctuary AND Solidarity?
- Prepping a Solidarity training
- Training Dos & Don'ts
- Multi-faith perspectives overview
- Additional Resources



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“Beyond” Sanctuary?? ☐



- An Intersectional Sanctuary Movement
- **Solidarity** as central to today's Sanctuary movement
- **Imam Ismaeel Chartier**, Clifton Mosque, Cincinnati (AMOS)
- **Rev. Alan Dicken**, Carthage Christian Church, Cincinnati (AMOS)



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Prepping a Solidarity Training

- Sample Training Overview
 - Faith Reflection
 - What is Sanctuary/Solidarity (historically and today)
 - Testimony (if possible)
 - The Opportunity for Faith Communities
 - The Legal Question
 - How To Get Involved + Next Steps (Action Plan)



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Sanctuary + Solidarity Roles

Sanctuary

- Create a sacred space of refuge
- Provide food, clothing, hospitality, and company to those in your care
- Practice radical sacred hospitality

Solidarity

- Provide tangible physical resources for sanctuaries
- Physically accompany those in need of Sanctuary
- Develop Rapid Response teams
- Host prayer vigils
- Publicly declare support

What are other ways congregations show up?



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Sanctuary Trainings: What's NOT Working

- Debating the language of sanctuary
- Urgent mandates for participation
- Lists of demands (to provide services/materials/etc.)
- Pastors acting independently of congregations
- Congregations acting independently of pastors
- “Service” model



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Sanctuary Trainings: What IS Working

- Start with a **faith reflection**
- **Invite** into participation
- Broaden **who** Sanctuary is for
- Creation of an **organized resistance**
- Build a network
- Congregation-wide engagement
- Focus on **organizing opportunity**
- Connect to Rapid Response teams
- Agitation
- Anything else?



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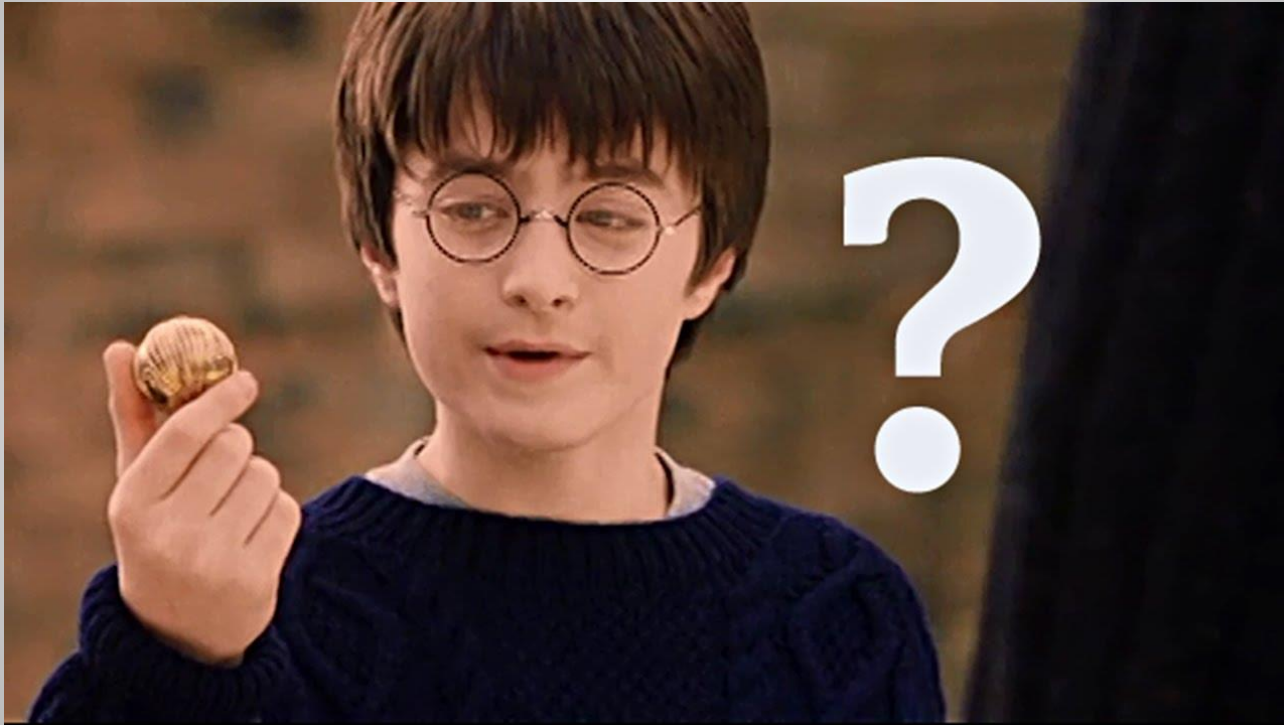
The Opportunity for Faith Communities

- Practice what we preach
- Develop strong interfaith/ecumenical relationships
- Build out organizing strategy and credential
- Burst our bubbles
- Unite to national effort



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Overview: Theological Themes in Sanctuary/Solidarity



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Overview: Theological Themes in Sanctuary/Solidarity



- Fleeing **persecution**
- Seeking **refuge**
- Providing **hospitality**
- **Sanctuary** and the presence of God
- **Solidarity** as an act of faith
- The **stranger** as neighbor



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How to Talk the Theological Talk

- **Find the stories**
 - Look out for stories/examples from sacred texts or religious traditions that reference:
 - Refuge/Shelter
 - Empathy
 - Care for the stranger
 - Stranger as neighbor
 - Solidarity
 - Hospitality
 - What else?



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How to Talk the Theological Talk

- **Use these themes to ask open-ended questions:**
 - Tell us a story about someone seeking refuge in your sacred scripture or religious experience.
 - Share the different ways in which your tradition practices hospitality. Are there limits to this hospitality? Why? Who does your religion consider eligible for hospitality?
 - Share an example of a time when you or your religious community has been persecuted or marginalized. Did you experience solidarity from others during that time? What difference did/might it have made?



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How to Talk the Theological Talk

- **Make the connections:**

- What do these stories mean for us as people of faith today?
- Is our faith as strong as the faith of the people in these stories, or as strong as the Scripture demands?
- How are we called to be faithful prophets in this age?

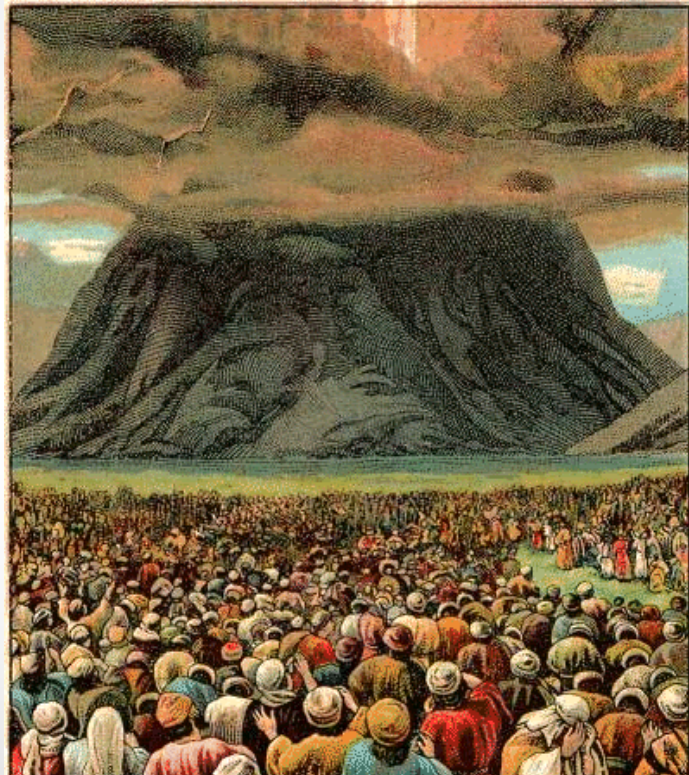


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Overview: Multi-Faith Perspectives on Sanctuary/Solidarity

Jewish

- Long history of **fleeing persecution and seeking refuge**, stretching from the Exodus from Egypt to the Holocaust during WW2
- Sanctuary as **God's dwelling place** (Exodus) - we create Sanctuary so that God may dwell among us
- The **Holiness Code** in Leviticus: "Love the stranger among you for you yourself were strangers in the land of Egypt."



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Overview: Multi-Faith Perspectives on Sanctuary/Solidarity



Islamic

- The story of the Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) **seeking refuge from King Negus** (a Christian) in Abyssinia and the **Prophet's migration to Medina**
- Experience of **migration is a strong theme** in the Quran
- “They love those who migrate to them...and give preference to them over themselves, even though they are also in need” (Quran 59:9).
- **Hospitality ethos** in the Koran emphasizes mutuality and relationship through encounter



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Overview: Multi-Faith Perspectives on Sanctuary/Solidarity

Unitarian

- [2013 Statement of Conscience](#)
- Long history of support for Sanctuary (since 1980s)
- [Summary](#) of Sanctuary Statements
- Underground railroad as an example of humanist solidarity (primarily Quakers who showed up)



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Overview: Multi-Faith Perspectives on Sanctuary/Solidarity



Christian

- **Imago Dei** - all persons are made in the image of God (Genesis 1:26)
- Jesus, Mary, and Joseph **sought refuge in Egypt**
- Christians are taught to see and serve **Christ in the "Other"** (the stranger) - Matthew 25
- **Good Samaritan** - Luke 10
- Various denominational statements (Presbyterian, Episcopal, Lutheran, etc.)

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- Sanctuary Congregation [Toolkit](#)
- PICO leader [faith reflections](#) on Sanctuary (keep on scrolling)
- Sanctuary & Solidarity [Roles Description](#)
- [#SanctuaryRising](#)



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