

# Tools for Ministry 2025

**Immigration 2025: What Churches and  
Congregations Need to Know Now**

# A Scriptural Basis for Immigration

- MATTHEW 25:35 “For I was hungry, and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty, and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in.”
- JOB 31:32 “But no stranger had to spend the night in the street, for my door was always open to the traveler.”

# A Scriptural Basis for Immigration

- EXODUS 23:9 “You shall not oppress a stranger, you know the heart of a stranger, for you were stranger in the land of Egypt.”
- LEVITICUS 19:33-34 “When an alien lives with you in your land, do not mistreat him. The alien living with you must be treated as one of your native-born. Love him as yourself, for you were aliens in Egypt.”
- PSALM 146:9 “The Lord watches over the foreigner and sustains the fatherless and the widow, but he frustrates the ways of the wicked.”

# ROADMAP

- Scriptural Basis for Immigration
- One Immigration Story
- The Current Immigration Crisis
- Trump Administration Executive Orders
- People of Faith Respond
- ICE Response Policy
- Q&A

# **One Family's Immigration Story**

# The Current Immigration Crisis

- The Trump Administration Attack on the Immigration Process
  - Executive Orders – Day 1
    - Sensitive locations
    - Registration of Undocumented Immigrants
    - Extreme Vetting
    - Denaturalization
    - Gender Identification Markers
    - Criminalization of Immigration Status ("Crimmigration")
    - Public Benefits
    - Action Against Protestors
    - Erosion of the Federal Workforce
    - Birthright Citizenship
    - Attacks on Federal Funding

# Big Impacts from New Immigration Policies

- Deportation of Migrants
  - ICE emboldened
  - Coordination with state and local police
  - Death of Temporary Protected Status
- Changes at the Mexico Border
  - Use of Migrant Shelters in Mexico
- Death of Asylum
  - Halting processing of asylum applications
  - Cancelling existing migrant appointments

# People of Faith Respond

- Education
- Written Policies
- Litigation
- Organizing
- Protest



# Litigation

- Birthright Citizenship
- Changes to Immigration Forms
- Defunding of Immigration Non-profits
- Defunding of Sanctuary Cities

# Litigation Continued

## "Sensitive Locations Memorandum" Litigation

- Mennonite Church USA, et al. v. DHS
  - U.S. District Court for District of Columbia
  - UMC Plaintiffs: New York, North Georgia, Western NC Annual Conferences, plus General Commission on Religion & Race
  - Freedom of Religion, Freedom of Association, Religious Freedom Restoration Act
- Society of Friends (Quakers), et al. v. DHS
  - U.S. District Court for District of Maryland
  - Freedom of Religion, Freedom of Association, RFRA, APA
  - No UMC Plaintiffs
  - Preliminary Injunction Granted, limited scope

# Language from Injunction Ruling

"Plaintiffs have provided evidence that the willingness of their congregants to attend worship and participate in ministry services is presently being chilled, and that, particularly at CBF (Cooperative Baptist Fellowship) and the Sikh Temple, attendance at such activities has already declined. Plaintiffs have thus shown that religious exercise is being hindered by the 2025 (Trump) Policy for entire congregations, including U.S. citizens and immigrants with legal status, whose ability to worship is undermined by such reduced participation." Quakers v. DHS (D.Md. 2/24/2025)

# ICE Response Policy

- Available now in EPA-UMC and GNJAC
- Intended to protect Churches and Church Schools during ICE raids / enforcement activity
  - Point Person
  - Signage (Private Areas vs. Public Areas)
  - Exercise of Constitutional Rights
  - Notification
  - Documentation
- Available in English and Spanish (soon)

# ICE Response Policy

- Point Person
  - Meets ICE at the door
  - Determines whether ICE paperwork is Judicial Warrant or Administrative Warrant
  - Consents / Does not consent to ICE entry and search
  - I-9 Audits
- Signage (Private Areas vs. Public Areas)
  - Public Areas vs. Private Areas
  - Difference between Churches and Church Schools
- Exercise of Constitutional Rights
  - 5th Amendment right to be silent
  - 4th Amendment right due process / unreasonable searches
  - 6th Amendment right to speak to an attorney

# ICE Response Policy

- Notification
  - Notify persons inside Church or School to move to private areas
  - Notify persons whether ICE is armed (Church Schools)
  - Record ICE activity inside building
- Documentation
  - Immigration Red Cards
  - What vulnerable persons should carry
  - Family separation plan
  - No false or fraudulent documents

# OPEN QUESTIONS

- Public areas vs. Private areas
  - Food Pantries
  - Sanctuary
  - Times when vulnerable populations present
- Criminalization of persons who help to protect immigrants
- Possible revocation of 501(c)(3) status for churches
- Defunding of non-profits
- Impacts to U.S. Immigration Courts and BIA

# IMMIGRATION RAPID RESPONSE TEAM

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- Coming Soon:

Immigration Rapid Response Team Legal Services



# Final Prayer

Wise and compassionate God, help us to respond to the needs of migrants, refugees and asylum-seekers, not to see them as burdens but as valued members of our community. We pray for people living in fear of arrest, deportation, family separation and for those who are currently afraid, facing an uncertain future. We ask that they know your love, and presence, and are filled with your peace. Open our eyes, that we may see injustice; open our ears that we may hear a stranger's cry. Open our mouths that we may speak words of welcome. Bless the work of our hands so that together we may act to rebuild our communities and to fight inhumane immigration policies. Amen