

First Parish Cambridge TASK FORCE APPLICATION FORM

Task Force Name: Beyond Borders-Sin Fronteras	
Lead organizer's name: Rebecca Balder	Phone: 413-214-5968
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Primary purpose/mission of TF (describe the <i>Issue, definition of social problem, religious values involved</i>):	
<p>The purpose of Beyond Borders-Sin Fronteras (formerly Immigration Task Force) is to promote education and awareness of local and global immigration issues through various activities and events, and to advocate for local, state and national policy and legislative changes in concert with local partners. We bear witness to our partners' efforts and participate in various actions around immigration. Our overall goals are to educate, bear witness, create awareness, and participate as advocates in immigration issues. In keeping with our congregation's journey toward a multiracial, multicultural, justice-making future, and in affirming the inherent worth and dignity of every person, we take action to support positive social change.</p> <p>The migration of people—driven by economic, social, political and environmental factors—is taking place around the world. Millions are currently in transit, in refugee camps, in detention centers, or living and working in places without full legal status and without access to social services or protection of civil rights.</p> <p>As UUs we draw on the universal faith tradition of welcoming the stranger and practicing prophetic hospitality. Unitarian Universalists, in accordance with our core values, have consistently supported immigrant workers, families, and immigration reform. The following principles resonate in particular:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The inherent worth and dignity of every person; • Justice, equity and compassion in human relations; • The goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all; • Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part. <p>First Parish in Cambridge UU participates actively in the Standing on the Side of Love campaign, which includes solidarity with immigrant families. Our congregation sent a record number of members to "Justice GA" in Phoenix in 2012 and contributed to the Statement of Conscience on Immigration as a Moral Issue.</p>	
TF Objectives for church year 2017-2018	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase involvement of members/friends of First Parish in the Cambridge Interfaith Sanctuary Coalition (CISC) • Identify ways to support CISC financially as needed • Involve at least 50 members/friends of First Parish in a service, advocacy, or educational event related to immigration. • Raise awareness about the causes of migration and the history of immigration law in the United States • Attend vigils outside outside the Suffolk County House of Correction, and bring at least 10 members/friends of First Parish to every vigil. • Encourage at least one month of the Shared Offering to be designated to go to one of our immigrant-led community partners. • Look into the feasibility of offering physical sanctuary at First Parish in the future. 	

Possible strategies, activities or events planned for church year 2017-2018:

- Encourage members/friends of First Parish to attend educational and community-building events sponsored by CISC
- Attend vigils outside outside the Suffolk County House of Correction as they occur. Organize transportation from First Parish to encourage attendance.
- Legislative advocacy to support the Safe Communities Act and other pro-immigrant legislation and policies
- Attend witness events organized by Centro Presente and other community partners
- Hold an after-church event and/or retreat workshop related to the causes of immigration and the immigration and citizenship process
- Hold or encourage people to attend a bystander training about what to do if they see someone get approached by ICE

Organizers commit to serving on the task force and actively working on this issue.

Identify Organizers:

Signatures:

1. Rebecca Balder

2. Julie Duncan

3. Julia Gallogly

4. Karin Lin

5. Susan Shepherd

Supporters agree to participate in activities of the task force.

Identify Supporters:

Signatures:

1. Alison Altman

2. Cathy Schwartz

3. Susan Leslie-Pritchard

4. Allegra Stout

5. Valerie Fullum