

California-Pacific Conference Immigration Strategy

One-Page Summary

Purpose

To mobilize United Methodist churches across the conference into a coordinated, compassionate response to immigration crisis, and immigrant injustice by building a movement of resistance, accompaniment, advocacy, while building mutual relationships—grounded in theology, Wesleyan doctrine and values, .

Structure

1. Conference Immigration Strategy Group

- Leads strategy, training, partnerships, and communications.
- Includes lay/clergy reps from districts.
- Includes representatives from immigration-related ministries within the Annual Conference.

2. District Immigration Strategy Groups

- Coordinate rapid response, court accompaniment, education, advocacy, service and acts of mercies.
- Convened by a District Coordinator who is a member of the Conference Strategy Group.

3. Local Church Liaisons

- Appointed by each congregation.
- Serve as point persons for communication, action, and education.

Core Areas of Work

Resistance: Theology and Praxis, education and knowledge, organizing, acts of mercy

Accompaniment: Rapid response to ICE raid alerts, legal referrals, family support, pastoral and spiritual care, trauma-informed and cultural appropriate support

Advocacy: Partner with nonprofits, host “Know Your Rights” and legal clinics, public witness & policy advocacy, campaigns, vigils, and statements rooted in faith

Relationship and Mutuality: Building relationship with immigrants and impacted community, service providers, inter-faith partners, and denominational partners

Process

Organic and grass root organizing on each district level that is informed by the distinctive contexts of each district, with the goal of increasing the entire annual conference’s capacity to respond to the current immigration crisis in the nation.

Contact

<https://www.calpacumc.org/ministries/ministries/>

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Job Descriptions

Local Church Immigration Liaison

Purpose: Serve as the key point of contact between your church and the broader UMC immigration response network.

Responsibilities:

- Stay informed about local accompaniment and advocacy opportunities focusing on local schools, neighbourhood, and businesses.
- Stay informed via alerts, emails, and district meetings.
- Mobilize your congregation for actions (vigils, accompaniment, direct service).
- Coordinate Know Your Rights events or training locally.
- Connect immigrant members with legal or pastoral support.
- Communicate and check-in with district strategy group.

Time Commitment: 2–5 hours/month (more during emergencies or actions)

Desired Qualities:

- Compassionate, reliable, good communicator
- Committed to justice, familiar with or willing to learn immigration issues

District Immigration Strategy Coordinator

Purpose: Coordinate the district-level strategy group and liaise between the Conference Immigration Strategy Group and local churches.

Responsibilities:

- Convene and lead regular meetings of the district strategy group.
- Support local church liaisons with resources and training.
- Develop relationships with local legal and advocacy partners.
- Activate rapid response communication channels when needed.
- Represent district on the Conference Strategy Committee or relay updates.

Time Commitment: 5–10 hours/month, flexible

Desired Qualities:

- Leadership experience, ability to coordinate volunteers
- Understanding of UMC structure and immigration justice issues

Purpose of the District Immigration Strategy Group

Core Purpose:

The District Immigration Strategy Group serves as the regional organizing body within the California Pacific Conference's immigration response network. Its core purpose is to coordinate, equip, and mobilize local churches within the district to respond faithfully and effectively to immigration-related crises and injustices, through resistance, accompaniment, advocacy, while developing and building connections and relationships .

Key Goals:

1. Build Capacity

- Mobilize, train and support Local Church Immigration Liaisons
- Organize Know Your Rights workshops, legal clinics, and sanctuary discernment

2. Coordinate Rapid Response

- Activate district-wide communication during ICE activity or family emergencies
- Mobilize court accompaniment and emergency support volunteers

3. Connections and Relationships

- Serve as a bridge between the Conference Immigration Strategy Group and local congregations
- Develop partnerships with legal aid groups, social services, inter-faith partners, denominational bodies, and immigrant-led organizations

4. Promote Justice and Advocacy

- Encourage and organize district-wide vigils, actions, and public witness
- Help churches engage in policy advocacy grounded in theology and UMC Social Principles