

The Immigrant Justice Task Force's recent activities: Sara Wohlleb, Cindy Stahler, Meg Evans, Craig Mousin, and Chris Inserra joined Palestinians and allies at the lakefront for kite flying in solidarity with the Burin Palestine Kite Festival while simultaneously protesting Palantir's involvement in supporting genocide in Gaza, military aggression, and ICE surveillance and detention. Chris earlier helped lead a SWG training of over 20 volunteers, including Cindy Stahler, to accompany individuals and families to DHS check-ins, immigration court, and other government appointments at North Shore Baptist Church. WUCC was honored at the Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights luncheon celebrating the partners ICIRR has worked with over the last forty years. Recognizing that many of WUCC's ministries overlap, Craig sat at the table with SWG member, Rev. Sandra Castillo from the Episcopal Diocese, and ARISE's Executive Director Laura Garza and ARISE's Margarita Valenzuela Klein. The photo also includes ICIRR's Executive Director Lawrence Benito.

Following the ongoing tragedy of ICE mercenaries murdering people throughout our nation, national UCC staff member Megan Bergert shared two UCC responses to the ICE killings of Lorenzo Salgado Araujo in Houston on July 7 and Johan Sebastián in Biddeford, Maine on July 13 and urged us to join in several action steps.

1. Rev. Karen Georgia Thompson, UCC General Minister and President/CEO, issued a [statement](#) on July 17 condemning the ICE killings of Araujo and Johan Sebastián. In addition to calling for an independent investigation into the killings and the cessation of unchecked funding to ICE and CBP, Thompson also offered a prayer to the UCC community, asking God to “stir us to action that demands justice and change, as we seek a just world for all.”
2. Rev. Molly Carson, Interim Conference Minister for the South Central Conference, wrote an Op-Ed about Araujo's life and death, “[In a Sea of Silence](#).” Rev. Carlson urges us to “Say his name” and reminds us, powerfully, that “the cross should forever make us wary of confusing what the state permits with what God blesses.”

Tools for Action

1. Rev. Noel Andersen, UCC Minister for Immigration Justice, shared an [Action Toolkit](#) he developed with the [Interfaith Immigration Coalition](#) for organizing vigils for the Day of Action for Lorenzo and Johan on July 25 as well as other responses.
2. Also included in the Interfaith Immigration Coalition outreach are two nationwide faith letters. Individuals who identify as persons of faith can join and share this national [Faith Leader Sign On](#) by July 31, 2026.