Summary
NPYM Learning Session on Immigration
December 11, 2025

Present: Theo Mace (South Seattle Friends) and Susan Cozzens (Eastside Friends) conveners; Pedro Sosa and Alonso Oliveras (AFSC Salem OR), Tina Visscher and Ita Killleen (Bozeman WG, Bienvenidos), Joe Snyder and Jane Snyder (Multnomah Meeting and Bridge City Meeting – presenters; John Allcott (Eugene FM), Paul Barker (Eugene Friends Meeting), Alan Binney (Spokane WG), Jessica Bucciarelli (Bridge City), Pat Carrick (Dillon WG), Celia Castle (South Seattle Friends), Laurie Childers (Corvallis Friends), June Harper (Mountain View WG), Tara Hunter (Bellingham Friends Meeting), Peter Husby (Bozeman WG), Leonora Kent (Eugene Friends Meeting), Darcy Leach (Lopez Island Friends, Orcas island WG), Jewel Murphy (Eugene Friends Meeting), Gail Sanford (Multnomah Meeting), Norma Silliman (Camas Friends North Pacific Yearly Meeting)Tom Tao (?) (Billings Friends Meeting), Linnea Wang (Bozeman WG), Sonneva Wood (Eastside Meeting)

We began the meeting (on zoom) with silent worship and then asked the presenters to let us know what they are doing regarding immigration resistance in their communities.

Joe and Jane Snyder, Multnomah and Bridge City Meetings

Jane spoke about the **Multnomah Immigration Support Fund**, active since 2019. It supports the work of a Multnomah member who is an immigration attorney. A committee overseeing the work distributes money to her clients, pays bail bond, living expenses, etc. as needed. Other people in Multnomah Meeting have contributed to her clients as well.

Joe spoke about the initiative started in 2025 with Rick Siefert and other Friends from West Hills to create a **vigil at the Portland ICE center** on Monday mornings each week. Now friends from 5 meetings and other

congregations attend, as well as folks from the local Indivisible group. Altogether about 90 people show up, some in frog costumes to lighten the tension. From this have grown **Silent Solidarity Walks** on Saturday nights monthly. Multnomah Monthly Meeting organized non-violent **civil disobedience training**, creating pods of trainees in various congregations in the area. Clergy in the area started the **Together Lab,** twice monthly vigils and worship at the ICE building. Some of the Multnomah members have acted **as buffers** between right wing demonstrators and anarchists gathered at the ICE center. Some Multnomah members have connections with **PIRC** (Portland Immigrant Rights Coalition) that works to check people in and out of the ICE center. Joe has been part of a **pastor group** urging the city to step in to pressure ICE to cease its violence. Joe reports that Norma has provided everyone with a **whistle.**

Tina Visscher and Ita Killeen, Bozeman, Bienvenidos

Tina is a clinical social worker, member of the Bozeman worship group. She has left off direct work in Bienvenidos, but Ita remains involved. In 2019 **Bienvenidos** was started when some members of the meeting heard about the needs of Honduran immigrants coming into the community. They worked with the school district to help provide shoes and clothes for the kids who were coming from a warm climate. Over time this service expanded to **mentoring families**. In 2020 the group trained volunteers who were matched with 16 families. Now there are 55 families and 100 community volunteers. They also provide a **binder resource guide, a website, a fund** like the Multnomah fund. Out of this has arisen the **Migrant Community Coordination Group** that brings together many community members every two weeks to deal with emerging immigration related issues. Also they promote **REACHOUT visioning** (Positive Communication, Active Listening, Respect, Empowerment, Autonomy, Celebration, Humanity. They have helped families prepare **emergency plans** for care of children in case parents are picked up by ICE;the ACLU recommends this step. They urge groups to line up families who will take kids ahead of time so they can go through training and be ready to take the

kids immediately as the need arises. They have established a **Montana Immigrant Peer Network.** Bienvenidos now has a paid Latino executive director and other program directors – it is a Latino lead non-profit helping the broader immigrant community. It has provided **Know Your Rights trainings**, reached out to other faith groups and participated in the **Gallatin Community Rapid Response Teams.** Based on ideas from the SIEMBRA (North Carolina) Defend and Recruit website it has implemented **La Migra Watch, educated employers about 4th Amendment rights and connected with the National Immigration Project.**

Pedro Sosa and Alonso Olivares, American Friends Service Committee, Salem OR

AFSC has had an immigrant support program based in Oregon for decades. In the current crisis, AFSC started doing **popular assemblies** in November last year. About 100 people gathered to find out their rights if stopped by ICE. Since February this year, AFSC has done 36 such **trainings** in cities across the state and in the Washington community of Forks. AFSC has divided Salem into 4 sections to facilitate **patrolling for ICE activities**. Since 2005 AFSC has been doing **trainings in several areas:** legal, social service, fundraising, emergency help, political action, mobilization for civil disobedience and work with different faith communities. All this has laid the groundwork for resisting ICE now. Most recently AFSC has started doing **collective healing workshops** after raids have occurred and finding ways to address the emotional fatigue of rapid responders. In November 2025 AFSC went to Salem City Council to get **affirmation of the city's sanctuary status** and to get the city to declare an emergency. Other nearby communities have promised financial support for immigration assistance.

Tara Hunter, Bellingham

In the spring of this year 27-37 people were swept by ICE from a local roofing company in the Bellingham area. Thirty representatives from local faith communities founded a **Food Box program** for the people left behind,

which has expanded to other families as well. A large group of Quakers made a massive **freeway banner** “We Stand with Immigrants” to drape over a freeway bridge. A Quaker group out of Chestnut Hill established the **North Star Network** to help people immigrate to Canada. The biggest barrier to success is that Canada requires those seeking asylum to ask in the first country they enter, before they seek asylum in Canada. However, a minor can come in and then later bring family members, or if family members have a family member already a citizen of Canada they can come in. The group is looking for people to transport folks from other parts of the US, or to put folks up temporarily while awaiting transport.

Laurie Childers, Corvallis

A lawyer in Corvallis Meeting has conducted 2-hour **trainings on ICE Watch** and Human Rights – 65 people attended the one held at the Quaker Meeting. Laurie cautioned that if you engage in civil disobedience, be prepared with the medications and other things you might need if you are arrested. She emphasized the importance of videotaping ICE activity. **A number you can call in Oregon if you see ICE people or activity is 1-888-622-1510**. Oregon for All has a good video on how to film ICE activity.

Leonora Kent, Florence Worship Group

Leonora is part of the Florence Worship Group (Oregon). She has taken the **Migra Watch Training**. Also Florence has an **ICE Watch group** and an **accompaniment group** that provides rides to court appointments. She points out that **EMERGE i**s an interfaith group that also does trainings and accompaniment. She is slowly getting connected and building trust but not many in her little worship group are interested.

Susan Cozzens, Eastside

The Seattle area **Church Council** has been very active on immigration issues. It held a meeting that brought 800 people together in November. It is part of a coalition that supports a **deportation hotline: 1-800-724-3737;**

a bail bond fund that accepts donations from the public; and accompaniment groups. WAISIN (the Washington Immigrant Solidarity Network) has provided trainings for Rapid Response Teams. Again, it is important to videotape ICE actions, though sometimes they kidnap people on the highway in false traffic stops which makes it hard to summon an RRT in time. The Church Council has contacts with and puts pressure on local city governments on immigration matters.

The Tacoma Meeting has a **welcome wagon team at the ICE detention center** located nearby to help those coming out of the center. They maintain political neutrality so that they can be permitted to continue their work.

Norma Silliman, Camas Friends Church

Camas Friends took in an Afghan girl whose father was taken by ICE so that she could avoid being put into the CPS system. **LULAC** is another organization that helps kids left behind when their parents are taken by ICE.

John Allcott, Eugene Friends Meeting

There is an immigration advocacy **yard sign** put out by AFSC – it costs $16.50 and can be ordered here. AFSC also offers poster templates to download free.