ICE surge resources - Jan 2026

*** *If you have a question or need that isn't covered here, contact ptca.anti.racism@gmail.com (Anna Kendig Flores)* ****

Many of these resources were pulled from other sources, including Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, and specifically their Migrant Accompaniment Office. Link to their full resources **HERE**

None of what is contained in here is legal advice, but resources or language that was reviewed by PTCA legal counsel is noted as such.

New resources and announcements

‼Please make a report using this resource if doing any school monitoring or ICE watch work not share with your folks who are doing so): Federal Action Reporting Form

> The Minnesota Attorney General's Office has developed a form for reporting incidents or impacts related to, or caused by, recent federal actions in Minnesota. This includes—but is not limited to—violations of constitutional rights (such as racial profiling, excessive force, or retaliation against protestors, observers, or media), business closures, reduced access to healthcare or education, impacts on public safety and civil liberties, federal funding cuts, grant terminations, or other administrative actions by federal agencies. This record keeping will be critical in the medium and long term and should be captured in real time (hours to days) when possible.

Key events, rallies, and opportunities:

- ➔ NEW **Target Store sit-ins 1/31**
- ➔
- ➔

Guidance: Building Use/Campus Safety

Sample building use procedure for security in the ICE surge, based on the policy from House of Hope that was vetted by several lawyers. This version has been reviewed by PTCA legal counsel as helpful for congregational use

Generic sample building use policy from PDA

Please note: contacting the PTCA offices (Zach Wilson is the best direct contact for emergent congregational needs that are not about polity) is always welcome, but please allow for some delay time - we can usually do phone or text within a few hours or get answers to questions in a day or two. Thanks for understanding, especially in this time of increased support needs.

"Private Property" signage - City of Minneapolis posted

"Private property" sign from PCUSA resources

- **Legal considerations for Minnesota Congregations Serving Immigrant Community Members** (March 2025) noted by our legal counsel as STILL an excellent resource as of Jan 2026

- **Public Guidance from ** MN Attorney General Keith Ellison's Office**** about the specific implications for sensitive locations re: changing ICE practices (from May 2025)

The content below was reviewed by PTCA legal counsel in 2025. *This is information and not legal advice*.

Planning to Avoid Confrontations

While cases of ICE in church property have been somewhat more rare than initially expected across the country, in some places it has been frequent. Federal laws and practice are shifting regarding respecting churches as "sanctuary" spaces, and while early advice/practice included putting door signage on outer doors advertising "no warrant, no access, etc.," ***this signage has not necessarily been heeded by federal agents seeking to enter the property***.

Other practices that congregations have tried:

- **Being clear internally** - connecting in-person/verbally with people and groups directly, including both leaders and individuals/families who may be feeling unclear about their

safety in your space, or your commitments and values. Particularly valuable has been connecting with deacons/greeters who may be near external doors or worship-space access.

- **Designating "Private" rooms for refuge** - some congregations have designated some or many rooms in their space as "Private" (with signage) as a way to clarify the no-public-access nature of the space, and people know to retreat to those spaces if they have concerns about entry to the building. Please consult the information from the office of the MN Attorney General in the "Knowing Your Rights" section above for more information about how to do any sort of "signage" and designation to more helpful effect, should you choose to do so.

- **Clarifying with volunteers and staff what your practices are around off-hours in the building.** Balancing welcome with safety is not an easy combination, so verifying that people are following healthy practices is never a bad thing.

Knowing Your Designated Upstanders

While it would normally be appropriate to expect that interactions with local or federal officials could be calm and cordial, recently this has not always been the case.

Congregations may wish to invite or clarify *who among them are willing to be "upstanders"* if authorities/officials are on-site. This is a powerful way to leverage one's privilege, but is not without its own risks.

People have been arrested or experienced physical force as a result of seeking to be an upstander. This is a reality of our moment, and also may be a part of the gospel call for some Christians to practice this sort of peaceful interruption-practice nonetheless.

Roles Upstanders can play:

- Understanding questions that can be asked of officials if they seek to enter (or enter) church property/grounds
- Knowing what to quickly ask or how to support someone if they are detained
- Having deescalation & nonviolence training for tense situations
- Sharing contact information and follow-up plans with others in the congregation and your family as an upstander in case of arrest/detention for exercising your individual rights

Stay Up to Date: Colleague Networks and Local Info Forums

Build your colleague network

Knowing other congregations in the PTCA or your area who may be facing similar questions is important. Staying connected can help with both the stress, with questions, and more. Please continue to reach out to the PTCA offices as helpful, and we can connect you with other congregations facing similar questions if helpful.

Considering Broad Avenues of Support

Sometimes what our siblings in Christ and community members need isn't simply direct protection from intimidation, but also other resources that may feel "cut off" due to being unable to feel trust in government or large entities at this time.

Are people feeling intimidated by increased ICE raids able to access basic healthcare and education for themselves or their families? Food support? Legal support?

There are ways to support vulnerable people in this time that go far beyond the moments of direct confrontation with authorities.

Know Your Rights

- **Individual Rights of Any Congregant** (Regardless of legal or documentation status)
- **ACLU MN to report rights violations** by ICE/Feds
- **Reminder:** When reporting an ICE Raid or sighting, use the **SALUTE** acronym.
- **Know your Rights for Immigrants Participating in Protest Actions**

Know Your Rights Flyers (CLINIC)

Catholic Legal Immigration Network (CLINIC) has put together English flyers of what to do when confronted by ICE or local and state lawenforcement.Available in English, Spanish, Creole,and French.

Know Your Rights Cards (Immigrant Legal ResourceCenter)

Know your rights cards available to print in several languages. You can show these cards to law enforcement to exercise your right to remain silent. Available in Arabic, Bengali, Burmese,Chinese, English, Farsi, French, Haitian Creole,Hmong, Karen, Korean, Pashto, Punjabi, Russian,Spanish, Somali, Swahili, Tagalog, Tigrinya,Ukranian, and Vietnames

Other Legal Questions

Limits of what count as “political speech”:

The Supreme Court recently expanded this to even endorsing political candidates, but minimally:

- Advertising events in partnership with nonprofit community aid orgs is *not* considered by the IRS as political speech, so feel free
- Neither is contextualizing a critique of a leader or political issues or choices within the context of preaching the gospel and Scripture witness, so feel free
- **But <u>Don't</u>:** spend church dollars on a candidate's political campaign, or *lobby* for a particular candidate internally or externally

Grants and Funds

For Grant/Funding NEEDS:

Please contact Zach Wilson or Anna Kendig Flores for timely needs related to community support or other impacts to your congregation.

The PLT has released a first round of emergency grants to congregations who have reached out to us so far, and additional dollars are likely available through PDA or from outside donations we are receiving. *Please don't hesitate to call us or contact us on Signal if there are confidential needs.*

For Opportunities to GIVE from your congregation:

- **Dios Habla Hoy** church for food delivery/food bank in Minneapolis
- **Midway Food and Empowerment Project** - mutual aid for the community in St. Paul since 2020
- Donate to **help immigrant families with food and legal needs at Minneapolis schools** (vetted source, emergent need)
- **We have needs in some of our own PTCA congregations** and will be taking special offerings to support, or volunteers.

  If you would like to take a **special offering** in your congregation or direct others from outside the PTCA to **a place to support the resistance and care work of our congregations, HERE** is a link to the PTCA online donation page.

  All donations received to this line will go directly for congregational ministry that addresses this impacts of this current moment in our communities (e.g., support to our sanctuary congregations, direct support for food shelves run by our congregations that are supporting community members in need, and community aid for our immigrant congregations who are being affected).

  Go to **this link** and choose **"Community Care Fund"** and enter the desired amount, etc.

  OR: https://bit.ly/PTCADonations

If you would like to **VOLUNTEER yourself or your congregation** to directly support our sibling congregations experiencing direct effects of ICE, contact Anna at ptca.anti.racism@gmail.com. With the subject: “PTCA Volunteer Needs”

Volunteering Opportunities

Coming soon!

- **Neighbors Helping Neighbors** - volunteer to help in various ways in your part of the city
- **Great handout** with opportunities to get engaged

ORGANIZING

- **Grassroots Organizing Guide** **from the PC(USA), "Holy Discontent"**

Donations

To support the resistance and care work of our PTCA congregations, all donations received will go directly for congregational ministry that addresses this impacts of this current moment in our communities (e.g., support to our sanctuary congregations, direct support for food shelves run by our congregations that are supporting community members in need, and community aid for our immigrant congregations who are being affected).

Go to this link and choose the option "Community Care Fund" and enter the desired amount, etc.

OR: https://bit.ly/PTCADonations

Another local option, where some of our congregations are working directly as distribution centers is:

Dios Habla Hoy food delivery/food bank in Minneapolis with hubs in at least one of our congregations:

https://dhhmn.elvanto.net/form/8f54a7ff-c817-4159-8312-95bdcf0c877b?fbclid=Iwb21leAPNoKBjbGNrA82gnmV4dG4DYWVtAjExAHNydGMGYXBwX2lkDDM1MDY4NTUzMTcyOAABHkKh9fzNc7ITWp0nTa-GdB26NcvpssoG_rwnQqtNwF-Cibe1mh3HJPuR4uOz_aem_cMvG8PYGLEXFiB8OPxOn0w

Where to DONATE ITEMS (where to give things like food or diapers, etc. that are being requested)

- Scan the **Minneapolis Mutual Aid clearinghouse** of vetted orgs to support (mostly with money, but some orgs will take direct donations)

Where to PICK UP/ SEEK Donations for folks you are supporting, etc.

- Diaper Hub at Bethlehem Lutheran in Midway - formula, wipes and diapers in bulk quantities, *for churches or food shelves to receive deliveries and distribute in their area more than for walk-in requests for individuals, but they will serve needs that come* (Anna has a contact there if you have specific questions or requests)
- Valley Presbyterian in Golden Valley is now a food shelf location, and does not require in-person pickup for families unable to leave their homes
    - Other similar options include: Joyce Uptown Foodshelf and Community Aid Network MN, and Twin Cities Pride, all on Facebook.

Training Opportunities

More coming soon!

- SURJ 2-part solidarity training starting Tues Jan 20th **LEARN MORE HERE**
- short **"Organizing for People of Faith"** training, Jan 22nd, 7-8:30 pm. Recording available for all who register. Led by rev. dr. abby mohaupt of Garrett Seminary

Worship and Spiritual growth for All Ages

- **Poems and Prayers for these times**

Worship supports for tricky Sundays

Check out **Firebird worship supply kits** - offering prayers pre-written liturgies, music ideas and more that can be led by clergy or other congregational leaders. They are a compassion and justice-centered org, and may be worth engaging. Cost = cost of pulpit supply.

> *The PTCA offices may be able to help offset for congregations where this would be an impediment to getting clergy or laity this support at this time - reach out to Co-EP Zach Wilson with questions.*

Pulpit supply

> Jennifer at the PTCA offices can provide an updated version of the pulpit supply list

Communications

- **Guidance for communicating about this unprovoked state violence in a way that deescalates but still speaks clearly to the need for action toward justice and peacemaking**
    - The statements and words shared in the *preaching & praying* section below are good examples of how we can speak deeply to our faith and need to respond with action while not escalating**,** and this skillset can also be **useful for general community communication beyond our congregations or Sunday morning**
    - NEW: **More communication guidance from CRD after the killing of Alex Pretti**

Music:

> https://commonhymnal.com/songs/when-will-we-overcome

Spiritual Formation (Spiritual Practice and Bible/Book Studies)

- **6-week embodied spiritual practices** - FREE for all PTCA congregations and leaders, otherwise this is a paid resource. Contact Anna Kendig Flores for

Children and Youth for parents or those who work with children/teens

- NEW LINKS ADDED: **How to communicate with children and teens** about Renee Good's murder or the ICE surge

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Self Care

More coming soon!

Worship and Christian Life tab also has resources to support weeks where time and energy are thin, etc.

Mental Health Care Support for Immigrants or People of Color from Immigrants Rising

4-week embodied antiracism series for clergy - embodied self-awareness and self-care, mostly for white-bodied clergy

Faith Leader Respite Support

- **PDA has respite support grants** for faith leaders who have been immersed in disaster, experienced traumatic events or have been involved in unusually challenging work for extended periods of time. This is a small grant that allows help to offset costs for, say, an extra week of vacation and pulpit supply.
- There is also support from the PTCA and through PDA for more significant respite needs, or times for **wider discernment in ministry life** after significant stress or disaster.

For questions on either of these, please reach out to either of your Co-EPs, Anna or Zach.

Faith Leader Support Discussions

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance offers virtual, conversational meetings that are tailored to the participants' situation in a 60 or 90-minute option. A panel of PDA presenters offers opportunities for reflection and tools for self-care and resilience and responds to questions and comments from faith leaders. The 90-minute program includes opportunities for small-group breakout conversations. A common theme in recent months has been the challenges of leadership and ministry in the midst of national and community issues that can be divisive and difficult to tackle in the congregational setting.

Our programs are responsive to the challenges posed by the effects of natural disasters and the tragedy of human caused disasters such as mass shootings. In our programs, PDA team members facilitate discussions and offer materials on maintaining self-care and building

personal resilience through relationships, story telling and spiritual practices. We offer ways to prevent and mitigate burnout, compassion fatigue and secondary traumatic stress, and offer practices that foster compassion satisfaction, joy and hope. Participants have the opportunity to share their experiences and wisdom with one another.

PDA programs are available in virtual format or in-person gatherings and are offered at no cost to the sponsoring entity. For links to our pre-recorded programs and handouts, please go to https://pda.pcusa.org/page/esc-webinar/.

Signal and data security

Signal app for secure messaging

Signal is an end-to-end encrypted messaging app. Some people use it for fun, but it has become a key place to communicate much more securely than by email or traditional text apps that are in our phones.

- **Why Signal for our communications at this time** (read just the first part - you don't need to got through all the sections)
- **How to secure your Signal app** for safer community safety actions
- **Basic guide to starting to use Signal** (this is NOT designed for activists, so read the data security suggestions in the first two links first)
- We have a secure group on Signal for the presbytery, and reach out via your normal modes to Anna and Zach directly by phone or email to get connected.

Other Tech Security Related

- **Wider security "checklist" for direct activism or community action** - with the caveat that there is no such thing as *perfect* safety, so doing even some of these will increase security for yourself and others you are collaborating with, which may feel valuable to you
- **Announcement/notice re: security on your phone** at a protest or near ICE action
- **Consider moving your email to ProtonMail** or creating an account there for sensitive work
- **Cryptpad for a SECUREsubstitute for Google Docs, Dropbox, etc.** (This document and other will move there over time)

Engaging “purple” or small town spaces

More coming soon!

Communication/Messaging

- **Deescalation of harmful rhetoric or misinformation** with links to sources and clear messaging/language - this is a nonpartisan and trusted org based in MN

Bible Studies or Book studies to open conversation:

This year, the *Presbyterian Outlook* is offering a new Lenten devotional — ***Discipleship in a Divided Age*****.** Written by *Outlook* Publisher/Editor **Teri McDowell Ott,** This devotional offers:

- **Six daily readings each week** grounded in Scripture
- **Reflection questions** to help integrate faith into everyday life
- **Closing prayers** shaped for personal or communal use
- Weekly ***visio divina***
- A **pastoral voice** that meets readers with honesty, clarity and hope

What do you get with your order?

- A **digital, daily devotional** that you can insert into your bulletin, email out to your congregation, or read like a book at home while drinking your morning coffee
- Adaptable files that can be printed on a half page or full page
- Basic printing instructions
- All files sent to your inbox on **January 8, 2026**

Intrigued? **View a sample of week one.**

Ways to engage in community safety that don’t “feel” as political (focus on caring for neighbor via food, etc.)

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Tools for engaging conflict

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Supporting children affected by federal enforcement actions | Institute of Child Development
https://share.google/YiPukRjy75snpBeZs