

YOUR HELP IS NEEDED

Here are ways to help with Immigration Justice in the Twin Cities through Mount Zion.

Prepared by Mount Zion's Tzedek (Social Action) Committee

Why act now?

Immigrants from countries all over the world have been at risk in the United States for many years, but that risk has increased in the past year. For example:

- Elimination of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) that would put thousands of young Minnesotans at risk of deportation if the program is not renewed before March.
- Ending Temporary Protective Status (TPS) for Salvadorans, Liberians, and others
 if the federal government allows these programs to end.
- A compromise federal legislative immigration **proposal that could end family-based immigration**, dramatically cut the number of visas provided to new immigrants and end the diversity lottery system.
- Significantly reducing the number of refugees allowed into the United States, including the ban on refugees from majority Muslim countries.
- Dramatic increase in the funding of immigration enforcement including increasing the number of detention beds to over 50,000, including more beds in Minnesota.

What has Mount Zion done?

The Mount Zion Board of Directors has voted to become an immigrant justice congregation as part of the national work of the Union for Reform Judaism. You can find the Board's unanimously adopted resolution under "Act" on the website: www.mzion.org. This resolution came after seven months of study and congregant input and debate. As part of the resolution, Mount Zion became a sanctuary supporting congregation through ISAIAH, only the third synagogue to join this network of more than 50 congregations from multiple faith communities.



Mount Zion is partnering with **The Advocates for Human Rights** to undertake the initiatives below. The Advocates will provide ongoing support and mentoring ranging from group training to case-by-case assistance.

What can you do as a member of Mount Zion?

For Mount Zion to make a difference and turn the words of the Board's resolution into action, the participation of our members is critical. The following are ways to get involved, including the name of a contact person for each action:

Which of the following six opportunities will you do?

- Deliver free legal services to immigrants at risk of deportation. Immigrants are much more likely to succeed in immigration court with an attorney representing them. For lawyers. Contact: Alan Milavetz <u>alanmilavetz@comcast.net</u>
- 2. **Assist lawyers with research**, gathering stories and meeting immigrants and their families. Contact: Deb Moses dmosesstpaul@gmail.com
- 3. Assist immigrant families to find interpreters in any number of different languages, including networks outside of Mount Zion you may know. Contact: Michael Kuhne Michael.Kuhne@minneapolis.edu
- 4. **Become a court observer and attend immigration hearings** to build more transparency into the proceedings. Contact: Vic Rosenthal <u>vic.rosenthal@gmail.com</u>
- 5. **Join a rapid response team** to show up for hearings, protests, caucuses and other ways to support immigrants. Contact Tom Marver tommymarver | @gmail.com
- 6. Work with other congregations to provide funds, food and other essential necessities for immigrant families. Contact: Deb Moses dmosesstpaul@gmail.com