

The Portland New Sanctuary Movement

June 20, 2007

RE: Statement in response to July 12, 2007 ICE raid in North Portland

As communities of faith, we uphold the inherent worth, rights, and dignity of all people. Faith communities have a long tradition of providing hospitality, safe haven, and sanctuary to those who are threatened and in fear. We stand in solidarity with the most vulnerable in our midst, particularly immigrants whose lives are being torn apart by raids and deportations.

In particular, we are united in our support of the individuals and families affected by the ICE raid at the Del Monte Fresh Foods plant on June 12, 2007 in north Portland.

We denounce this raid and all ICE actions locally and nationally that have trampled on the rights of working people. We denounce the tearing apart of parents from their children, the disruption to the fabric of our communities, and the creation of fear, hate and divisions that such raids engender. We denounce the hypocrisy of a system that relies on immigrants to bring food to our tables, yet criminalizes these men and women as they simply work to provide for their families.

We are called by our faith to respond to these injustices. We call for an immediate moratorium on all raids and deportations. We demand that our legislators propose and enact real, humane, and just immigration reform that addresses the economic causes of global migration. This reform must protect the rights of all workers, uphold families, provide a fair opportunity to our immigrant brothers and sisters to work and live among us, and provide a path to citizenship for those who desire it. Finally, we call on our spiritual, political, and community leaders to build bridges of understanding between communities and across borders, and to reject the racism inherent in our nation's current immigration policies.

We will work together to open our hearts and our doors to those who are suffering. Our faith and love know no borders.

American Friends Service Committee, Portland
Augustana Lutheran Church, Portland
Bridgeport United Church of Christ, Portland
Church of St. Anne, Gresham
David A. Leslie, Executive Director, Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon
First Unitarian Church, Portland
Fr. Armando López, OFM, Ascension Catholic Church
Fr. Charles Lienert, St. Andrew's Catholic Church
Holy Redeemer Catholic Church, Portland
Justice Commission, Ainsworth United Church of Christ, Portland
Metanoia Peace Community, Portland
Social Action Committee, Ascension Catholic Church
St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church, Portland
The Downtown Chapel of Saint Vincent de Paul Catholic Parish, Portland
The Rev. Caroline J. Litzberger, Ph.D, St. Michael and All Angels Episcopal Church, Portland
The Rev. Dana Worsnop, Atkinson Memorial Church, Unitarian Universalist, Oregon City
The Rev. Deacon Marla McGarry-Lawrence, St. Michael and All Angels Episcopal Church, Portland
The Rev. John S. Scannell, Rector, St. Michael and All Angels Episcopal Church, Portland
The Rev. Lynne Smouse López, Pastor of Ainsworth United Church of Christ, Portland