How can we sing the Living God's song in a foreign land?

The Illinois Conference Task Force on Immigration has heard a call to open a space for God's song to be sung by immigrant people and communities in our land.

We believe that song carries with it the possibility for building a nation on values of justice, love, and compassion.

If there are ways we can help you create that space in your church or local community, please contact us.

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How can we sing the Living God’s song in a foreign land?
—Psalm 137

A Ministry of the Illinois Conference of the United Church of Christ
Where do I start?
Immigration 101

The immigration crisis in our country has incredible complexity. As leaders in non-governmental organizations, churches, and in our communities, we are wading through deep waters to develop a broad understanding of the issues, respond to the many questions, gain necessary experience, and prepare theological reflection to speak thoughtfully and prayerfully about this crisis.

We recognize that bringing the immigration issue to churches can be a daunting prospect for pastors and lay leaders. We recognize this in offering resources, experiences, and theological reflection that can promote dialogue and understanding within your faith community or organization.

We are not neutral. Millions of lives are at stake. We believe the immigration crisis is a struggle for the soul of our nation.

If real change and transformation are to take place, however, we must strive to open a space where God’s call can be heard. How can we help you create that space in your church or community?

Resources
Groups across the country are organizing to create resources for every level of understanding. Faith leaders, communities, and institutions have developed study guides, created film series, put together a list of children’s books, compiled frequently asked questions and answers, written worship services, book studies, and sermons, and assembled guides for people who are working with immigrant communities.

We can share those resources with you, consult with you about what might work well with your local church or community group, recommend strategies for help recruiting volunteers, or help organize a plan that might lead all of us to a greater understanding of this complex issue.

Experiences
Many of us came to this issue through some experience with an immigrant community. We can use these experiences to help organize events for local churches and communities within the Illinois Conference.

Delegations with immigrant communities have been organized in Chicago; to Postville, Iowa, to see the effects of a raid on a community; to the Arizona border where we speak with the many people involved in the crisis; and to Mexico where we see the effects of our nation’s policies on another people.

If you would like to join a specific delegation or want to organize one specifically with your local church or community group, please let us know.

Theological Reflection
If you would like us to lead a workshop or some kind of theological reflection with your local church or community group, we would welcome the opportunity.

Different people within our group come from a wide variety of perspectives. Some of us understand the immigration issue from the perspective of hospitality, others from the way we welcome the stranger or alien, some in the way we treat the most vulnerable of our sisters and brothers, and still others see the Bible as the ultimate immigration handbook.

We would be delighted to learn your perspective and craft a workshop that will help you to create a space for God’s call in your church or community.

Illinois Conference
Task Force
On Immigration

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