

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 car-  
ries 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.



Illinois Conference  
Task Force  
On  
Immigration

---

Chicago Religious Leadership Network on Latin America  
4750 N. Sheridan Road  
Suite 429  
Chicago, IL 60640  
773/293-2964, Fax: 773/293-3677  
E-mail: [jdale@chicagosanctuary.org](mailto:jdale@chicagosanctuary.org)

ILLINOIS  
CONFERENCE  
TASK FORCE  
ON  
IMMIGRATION



---

*A Ministry of the  
Illinois Conference  
of the  
United Church  
of Christ*

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

773/293-2964,  
Fax: 773/293-3677  
[jdale@chicagosanctuary.org](mailto:jdale@chicagosanctuary.org)

## 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

Chicago Religious Leadership Network on Latin America  
4750 N. Sheridan Road  
Suite 429  
Chicago, IL 60640

773/293-2964, Fax: 773/293-3677  
E-mail: [jdale@chicagosanctuary.org](mailto:jdale@chicagosanctuary.org)