

# UUCA PHYSICAL SANCTUARY INFO SHEET

1. Sanctuary involves providing a safe living space for a person at risk of immediate deportation.
2. Usually a legal team and/or an immigrant organization, who is familiar with the case & has reason to believe it is winnable, recommends the person(s) for sanctuary. Not every immigrant facing deportation is recommended for sanctuary.
3. Faith communities are one of the enumerated “sensitive locations” identified by the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) as locations where immigration enforcement actions should not occur. This is not a law, just a longstanding policy. While we cannot prevent Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agents from entering our space, tradition holds that they will not.
4. Declaring sanctuary and providing shelter to someone in need is an act of faith and an act of justice, not political, so does not affect our non-profit status. Non-profits are only prohibited from engaging in political campaign activity, or supporting or opposing a candidate for elected office.
5. Because sanctuary is most commonly provided in conjunction with a public declaration, there is no intent to “harbor,” and so has not been considered to be a crime.
6. No congregation has been prosecuted for providing sanctuary in the past forty years.
7. There are over 130 congregations in 19 Western North Carolina (WNC) counties who have shown an interest in supporting sanctuary.
8. The WNC supporting congregations as a Coalition will see to the needs of the person(s) in sanctuary, such as food, laundry, medicines, transportation for family members, 24 hour supervision volunteers, etc. As a hosting congregation, UUCA will provide physical space that includes some privacy and bathroom, including shower, and kitchen facilities.
9. The person(s) in sanctuary may stay as long as their case is unresolved, but can be ended either by the person(s) in sanctuary or the congregation offering sanctuary. That time period could be a few days or many months.
10. The person(s) in sanctuary can not leave the premises during sanctuary, although unaffected family members can.
11. Although many faith communities are interested in supporting sanctuary in our area, few, if any, have pre-existing shelter that is mostly already in place to support an individual or family.
12. UUCA is uniquely positioned to provide this support, since we have two houses, complete with kitchens and bathrooms, already on our property.