

PRESBYTERY OF NEW YORK CITY

475 RIVERSIDE DRIVE, SUITE 240
NEW YORK, NY 10115-0240

TEL: (212) 870-2221
FAX: (212) 870-2737



PRESBYTERIANS GATHER IN NYC TO PROMOTE IMMIGRATION REFORM

New York, NY – April 17, 2007, 4:00 p.m. As New York City celebrates “Immigrant History Week,” Presbyterians who live in and near the city hope to shape the future of US immigration. On Saturday, April 21, they will host an all-day conference on “Immigration, Justice and Christian Hospitality.” All are invited! The sponsors hope that stirring speeches from the pulpit, roll-up-your-sleeves workshops on advocacy and immigrant services, and joyful worship in the sanctuary of the Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church will strengthen the spirit of America on behalf of a compassionate and just reform of immigration laws. The conference is also designed to help individuals and congregations develop ministries that meet the needs of new immigrants, and to provide new immigrants with helpful information and resources.

FAQ's About the Conference:

When and where will the conference be held? The conference “Immigration, Justice and Christian Hospitality” will be held at the Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church (FAPC), 7 West 55th Street, New York, New York 10019. Please enter through the 7 West 55th Street entrance. The conference will be held on Saturday, April 21, 2007, from 9:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m.

Who will speak at the conference? Julia Thorne, Esq., Immigration Counsel and Manager for Immigration Issues for the Presbyterian Church (USA), will speak about the history of the church's efforts on immigration reform, and on the human cost of doing nothing in the present situation. Deborah J. Notkin, Immediate Past President of the American Immigration Lawyers Association, will speak about the prospects for comprehensive immigration reform in Congress.

Who will lead worship at the conference? Rev. Paul Rock, FAPC Associate Pastor, will give a welcome. Rev. Agnes Blackmon, Interim Associate Executive Presbyter for Congregational Ministry and Nurture, Presbytery of New York City (PC (USA)), will preach at the closing worship service. Worship music will be led by members of local immigrant fellowships.

Who will lead workshops at the conference? Breakout sessions at the conference will give all who attend the opportunity to participate in the following workshops:

- * *PC (USA) Strategies To Impact Federal Legislative Reform – Or If There Is No Reform This Year?* – led by Julia Thorne, Esq.
- * *Local and National Advocacy for Reform* – led by a representative from The New York Immigration Coalition (NYIC).
- * *Basics of US Immigration Law (The Path To Citizenship)* – led by Thomas J. Shea, Esq., Director, Immigration Advocacy and Training, NYIC

- * *Resources for (documented and undocumented) Immigrants* – led by Carmen Torrent, Office of the New York State Attorney General, Labor Bureau, and Theo Oshiro (morning), Make the Road By Walking, and Jennifer Rejeske (afternoon), Health Outreach Coordinator, NYIC
- * *Raids, Detention and Deportation: What Is Happening / How You Can Respond* – led by Alix Nguetack (morning), Detention Project Coordinator, American Friends Service Committee (AFSC); Chia-Chia Wang (afternoon), Civic Participation Coordinator, AFSC Immigrant Rights Program
- * *Sanctuary Then and Now* – led by Angad Bhalla, Community Minister for Immigration at Judson Memorial Church, and Grace Goodman, Member of the Judson Memorial Church Task Force on Sanctuary
- * *Multiculturalism vs. Assimilation* – led by Rev. Dr. Wanda M. Lundy (morning workshop), Pastor, Church on the Edge, Adjunct Faculty, New York Theological Seminary, and Moderator, Presbytery of the Palisades (PC (USA)); and by Rev. Lilia Ramirez (afternoon workshop), Pastor, Hispanic Presbyterian Church in Paterson, NJ, and member, Latino Ministry Team, Presbytery of the Palisades (PC (USA))
- * *The Future: US and Global Policies That Will Support Justice and Hospitality* – led by Rev. Dr. Lois Livezey, New York Theological Seminary, and Jonathan R. Nelson, Esq., elder, Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church
- * *Borders, Security, Criminal Justice and Immigration Policy* – led by Dr. Robert McCrie, Professor, John Jay College of Criminal Justice, and Presbyterian elder, and Joanne Macri, Esq., Director, Immigrant Defense Project, NYS Defenders Association
- * *A Congregation-based ESL Model* – Lunchtime discussion led by Rev. Lazarus Gomes, First Presbyterian Church, Flushing, member of Murray Hill Neighborhood Association.

What Is The Charge To Attend The Conference? – There is no charge to attend the conference. Lunch (Thai cuisine) will be provided free of charge to the first 225 conference volunteers and other persons to register. Other participants beyond this number will be invited to patronize neighborhood vendors – but come back in time for the afternoon sessions!

Who Is Sponsoring the Conference? – The conference is being sponsored by the Presbytery of New York City (PC (USA)), and by the Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church Advocates for Peace and Justice and Compass Fellowship.

How do I register for the event? – You may pre-register for the event by contacting Lilly Santiago, Presbytery of New York City, by telephone at (212) 870-2221, or by email at lsantiago@presbynyc.org. Or, you may simply show up at the door on the day of the event. Registration opens at 9:00 a.m. Everyone must check in at the door to receive a lunch ticket.

For further information, contact Annie Rawlings, Interim Associate Executive Presbyter for Social Witness, Presbytery of New York City, telephone: (212) 870-2221, x4249. Join us as we advocate for just immigration reform and build ministries to new immigrants!