

A Sandwich Monthly Meeting Plan for Meeting the Moment

The Moment:

National publicity about NEYM participation with other Quaker meetings in a lawsuit against policy changes allowing ICE detentions at houses of worship. Our meetings should be prepared for people of different types to show up: people wanting help, people wanting to join with us, people wanting retribution for our failure to support Trump, people suspecting they can find immigrants to detain at our meetinghouses, curious people. We don't have much time to be prepared to respond to this set of opportunities and challenges.

General plan:

Consider separately the different “people showing up” situations. For each, identify the type of response called for, the Friends responsible for arranging the response, and resources that are available or needed.

The situations listed below are in order from those anticipated as most to least likely.

Type of situation: **New seekers** contact or arrive at our meetinghouse, perhaps surprised to learn that Quakers still exist.

Friends responsible for response to new seekers: Ministry and Counsel committees at Monthly and Preparative Meetings **Add to agenda for Monthly Meeting M&C a discussion of how Preparative Meetings are welcoming new seekers.*

Resources needed, and where they are available:

- The NEYM Tuesday evening Meeting Leader call scheduled for 11 February will address this.

Type of situation: **Media** representatives inquire about the lawsuit and our involvement.

Friends responsible for responding to these media inquiries:

**Refer all media requests to NEYM (see Noah Merrill info). We do not speak about the lawsuit.*

Resources needed, and where they are available:

- Yearly Meeting Secretary Noah Merrill at ymsec@neym.org

Type of situation: Representatives of other faith or NGO (*non-governmental organizations*) groups want to **network** or exchange information about our meetings' actions.

Friends responsible for responding to requests for networking: Clerks of Monthly and Preparative Meetings **Encourage to seek out groups that are already acting on questions regarding immigrants (interfaith councils, Cape Cod council of churches).*

Resources needed, and where they are available:

- The rest of this plan.
- Sarah Gant, clerk of the Yearly Meeting Accompaniment Group at accompaniment@neym.org.

Type of situation: **Vulnerable people** want help in meeting threats posed by the federal policies and enforcement actions.

Friends responsible for Preparative Meeting readiness to respond to these requests: **Each preparative meeting needs to be prepared if a vulnerable person/people arrive.*

- For now, ask Monthly Meeting M&C to check on arrangements at Preparative Meetings and share guidance and resources for response.

Resources needed, and where they are available:

- The NEYM Accompaniment Group is developing a list of resources and planning a recorded Zoom meeting to share the resources and address questions. The Zoom meeting is scheduled for 11 AM, Saturday Feb. 8.
- Email from Neym@neym.org on Jan. 30, with subject line “Update on Litigation and Witness for Religious Freedom”
- FCNL Know Your Rights page at https://www.fcnl.org/resources/immigration-know-your-rights-and-deportation-defense?akid=86069.28874.tIU9uI&rd=1&t=28&utm_campaign=&utm_medium=email&utm_source=ak&utm_term=86069.28874.tIU9uI
- Know your rights cards, <https://www.ilrc.org/red-cards-tarjetas-rojas>
- Mass. Attorney General resources, <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/resources-for-immigrants-in-massachusetts>
- NEA resources <https://www.nea.org/resource-library/guidance-immigration-issues>

Type of situation: Representatives of Quaker meetings outside NEYM want to **join lawsuit**.

Friends responsible for responding to these requests: NEYM

Resources needed, and where they are available:

- Encourage clerk of the outside meeting to contact NEYM.

Type of situation: People **harass or threaten** harm to Friends or meetings because they are offended and angry.

Friends responsible for responding to the incident: **protocol: call local police, call the Clerk, call Noah Merrill*

- A preparative meeting leader that is available, for a example meeting clerk, a committee clerk, or a member of Ministry and Counsel Committee.

Resources needed, and where they are available:

- **Immediately contact** Yearly Meeting Secretary Noah Merrill at 617-615-6396 or at ymsec@neym.org

Type of situation: **ICE agents** arrive seeking to detain people.

Friends responsible for Preparative Meetings’ readiness to respond to the incident: Monthly

M&C ensures Preparative Meetings arrange that prepared Friends will be present at meetinghouses.

Resources needed, and where they are available:

- An [article reporting on guidance](#) from the State of Massachusetts to religious leaders on preparations
- The NEYM Accompaniment Group is developing a list of resources and planning a recorded Zoom meeting to share the resources and address questions. The Zoom meeting is scheduled for 11 AM, Saturday Feb. 8.
- **Immediately contact** Yearly Meeting Secretary Noah Merrill at 617-615-6396 or at ymsec@neym.org