

*God is still speaking,*  
**UNITED CHURCH  
OF CHRIST**



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**United Church of Christ leaders among hundreds of activists to risk arrest in another push for immigrant rights**

*On National Day to Fight for Families, more than 300 faith leaders, immigration activists will take part in largest act of civil disobedience in the history of the immigrant rights movement.*

**Washington, D.C. (Aug. 27, 2014)** – In another push for fair and humane treatment of immigrant children and families, advocates will gather in Washington, D.C., on Thursday, Aug. 28 for what is expected to be the largest act of civil disobedience in the history of the immigrant rights movement. Sandy Sorenson, director of the United Church of Christ's Justice and Witness Ministries office in Washington, D.C., will be among more than 300 faith leaders and immigration activists who will risk arrest on the National Day to Fight for Families as they call on the Obama Administration to grant deferred action to the nation's immigrants and stop the separation and deportation of immigrant families.

The crowd will gather at the Immigration and Customs Enforcement national headquarters before activists march to the White House. There, Sorenson and 300 faith leaders and advocates will stage a peaceful protest, demanding that President Obama stop deportations and provide relief to workers, families and children.

**The following is a statement from Sorenson regarding her participation:**

*"The situation facing unaccompanied children on the border has only taken on greater urgency in the last several weeks, as it is now being reported that some children who have been deported to their home countries have been murdered, victims of the very violence they risked so much to try to flee. The fact that we are returning children to such danger is unconscionable.*

*There is, at the heart of this issue, a core that binds us inextricably together, no matter what border seemingly divides us. Our faith tells us that every person bears the image of God. Our heart tells us that as part of the human family, we all share common hopes and dreams – we want the best for our*

*children, the opportunity to live out our God-given gifts and talents to their fullest measure, the chance to contribute to our communities.*

*Why do I feel called to join this witness? The answer for me is simple – I know that I must again stand beside the thousands upon thousands of faithful witnesses, including so many United Church of Christ members and congregations, who tirelessly call for justice and for a fair, humane and compassionate immigration system.*

*In these days, I think often of the ancient rabbinic teaching in which the students of an old rabbi ask their teacher how you can tell when the night has ended and the day has begun. “Is it when you can see an animal in the distance and tell whether it is a sheep or a dog?” “No,” the rabbi answers. “Is it when you can look at a tree in the distance and tell whether it is a fig tree or a peach tree?” “No,” the rabbi answers. “Then when is it?” the students ask. The rabbi replies, “It is when you can look on the face of any woman or man and see that it is your sister or brother. Because if you cannot see this, it is still night.”*

*I am called to join my heart and my voice with so many others who are working to clear the way for the dawn to break in our country.”*

**MEDIA OPPORTUNITY:**

**To coordinate an interview with Sorenson, please contact Emily Schappacher, United Church of Christ Communications Specialist, at 216-736-2177 (office), 216-571-8967 (cell) or [schappachere@ucc.org](mailto:schappachere@ucc.org). Sorenson will be available for pre-coverage interviews on Wednesday, Aug. 27 and before and after the action on Thursday, Aug. 28 and Friday, Aug. 29.**

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**About the United Church of Christ:**

The United Church of Christ is a mainline Protestant denomination with nearly 1 million members and more than 5,100 congregations nationwide. Headquartered in Cleveland, Ohio, the UCC is a church of many firsts, including the first mainline denomination to ordain a woman, the first to ordain an openly-gay man and the first predominantly white denomination to ordain an African American.

The UCC and its members are tireless advocates for social issues such as immigration reform, racial equality, LGBT rights, marriage equality, environmental protection and economic justice.