



**NEW  
SANCTUARY  
MOVEMENT**  
OF PHILADELPHIA

2601 Potter St  
Philadelphia, PA 19125  
(215) 279-7060  
[www.sanctuaryphiladelphia.org](http://www.sanctuaryphiladelphia.org)  
Twitter: @NSMPhilly  
Facebook: New Sanctuary Movement of Philadelphia

**For Immediate Release**

**CONTACT:**

**Peter Pedemonti, New Sanctuary Movement of Philadelphia**

[\(215\) 756-6445](tel:2157566445) – [Peter@sanctuaryphiladelphia.org](mailto:Peter@sanctuaryphiladelphia.org)

## **Jamaican and Honduran families take Sanctuary at Germantown church to stop deportation**

**Where:** First United Methodist Church of Germantown (FUMCOG), 6001 Germantown Ave

**When:** Wednesday, September 5th, 9:30am

**Who:** Two families from Jamaica and Honduras, Clergy, immigrants, and allies

*Philadelphia* – On September 5<sup>th</sup>, two families who have lost their asylum cases will take physical Sanctuary at FUMCOG, a church in Germantown. Refusing to be separated from their families, they enter Sanctuary to stop their deportation and to protest immoral and unjust immigration policies. Oneita and Clive came here from Jamaica 15 years ago fleeing gang violence. They have seven children, two of which are citizens. They lost their asylum case and now face being separated from their five children. They take Sanctuary with their two youngest. Suyapa and her five children are from Honduras and came here four years ago fleeing violence. They have also lost their asylum case. Suyapa enters Sanctuary with four of her five children.

They are only two examples of the millions of people who have been affected by the Trump Administration's extremist anti-immigrant agenda. Separating children from their parents at the border, ending TPS for many countries, increasing enforcement and arrests, and changing asylum rules to exclude domestic violence and gang violence have devastated immigrant communities here in Philadelphia and across the country. Tomorrow the Jamaican and Central American communities stand together to challenge these policies, showing that this is not just a Latino issue, but affects all immigrant communities.

In taking Sanctuary, they step into a tradition thousands of years old that confronts immoral and unjust laws. FUMCOG was part of the 80's Sanctuary Movement. In September 1984, they provided physical Sanctuary to a Guatemalan couple fleeing persecution and organized to change US policy. Thirty-four years later – almost to the day - they again answer this sacred call in an urgent time.

On Wednesday, immigrants, clergy, and allies will come together to stand with Oneita, Clive and Suyapa; to pray; and to send a clear message to ICE and the Trump Administration that they must stop taking away our loved ones, and must listen to the holy teachings to love your neighbor and welcome the stranger.

#####