

ICE Readiness Guide for Sessions & Councils

A concise action-oriented guide for governing bodies to prepare faithfully, safely, and responsibly for possible ICE activity in their community.

PURPOSE

This guide equips the Session/Council to act **before** a crisis—grounded in faith, committed to accompaniment, and attentive to safety, legality, and power.

1. GOVERNING COMMITMENTS (Approve These First)

- ☐ We commit to **accompaniment, not saviorism**; impacted communities lead.
 - ☐ We affirm that **preparation ≠ panic**; readiness is faithful stewardship.
 - ☐ We acknowledge this is **long-term work** requiring sustainability.
 - ☐ We will act within **one clearly defined lane** and coordinate with others.
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2. OUR CONGREGATION'S LANE (Choose ONE)

- ☐ Mutual aid (food, rent, utilities, rides)
- ☐ Space provision (meetings, childcare, storage)
- ☐ Accompaniment (with legal training only)
- ☐ Education & internal organizing
- ☐ Financial pass-through support

We will say NO to requests outside this lane to avoid harm and burnout.

3. ASSETS & LIMITS (Name Both)

Assets we can offer safely:

- ☐ Flexible funds
- ☐ Space
- ☐ Transportation
- ☐ Time/availability
- ☐ Language skills

Limits we must honor:

- ☐ Who should not be visible
 - ☐ Buildings we cannot secure
 - ☐ Capacities we do not have
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4. SAFETY & LEGAL READINESS

☐ Appoint a **small trained response team** (not everyone)

☐ Identify who:

- Speaks to law enforcement
- Documents encounters
- Alerts leadership

☐ Establish relationships with **immigration attorneys now**

☐ Train leaders to recognize **valid vs. invalid warrants**

☐ Approve and practice a basic ICE-response protocol

5. COMMUNICATION & DATA SECURITY

☐ Use secure platforms (e.g., Signal) for sensitive coordination

☐ Avoid storing sensitive personal data in shared documents

☐ Share information on a **need-to-know basis** only

6. FINANCIAL AUTHORIZATION

- ☐ Pre-approve rapid release of emergency funds
 - ☐ Reduce documentation barriers in crisis situations
 - ☐ Trust relationships over excessive vetting
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7. RISK & PASTORAL CARE

- ☐ Normalize varying and changing risk tolerance
 - ☐ Do not pressure members into visibility or arrest
 - ☐ Attend to emotional and spiritual regulation in leadership
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8. FORMATION & ANTI-RACISM

- ☐ Name and resist white saviorism
 - ☐ Emphasize listening, consent, and dignity
 - ☐ Frame accompaniment as discipleship
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FINAL WORD

- ☐ We are not called to do everything.
- ☐ We are called to be **faithful, prepared, and accountable**.
- ☐ This work is collective—and holy.

Date Approved: _____ Reviewed By: _____