

## HERE'S HOW WE CAN HELP MINERVA

- ☞ Sign the online petition urging ICE and the DHS to grant her a stay of removal: [tinyurl.com/minervapetition](http://tinyurl.com/minervapetition).
- ☞ Consider handwriting a note to Senator Thom Tillis. In a genuine, civil, and invitational tone, ask him to intervene for Minerva. Suggested text below.
- ☞ Volunteer. Sign up online for a shift to provide some company and be present if needed for the family: [tinyurl.com/cucchosts](http://tinyurl.com/cucchosts).
- ☞ Volunteers are also still needed for other tasks, such as laundry, food, shopping. To sign up, go to [tinyurl.com/cucchelpersucc](http://tinyurl.com/cucchelpersucc).
- ☞ Make a contribution to help defray costs to the church. Here's how:
  - Write a check to CUCC with "Sanctuary Program" on the memo line.
  - Make an online gift to the church. From the home page of our website, [congregationalucc.com](http://congregationalucc.com), select the GIVE button and click give **HERE**
- ☞ Pray each day for Minerva and her family, for our church, and for those who are in positions of power and influence – that they will make humane and moral decisions.
- ☞ Read the helpful information about talking points when you are speaking with friends and family. See the reverse side.

### SAMPLE LETTER TO ELECTED OFFICIALS

*Please personalize it, adapt it, and keep the tone calm and positive.*

Dear Senator Tillis, or Burr, Representative Walker, or Budd,

I want to thank you for your concern for Comprehensive Immigration Reform. I am a member of the congregation that welcomed Minerva Garcia (ICE case A# 078-325-986) and her beautiful little boys into our church. We want them to be safe while her case continues to receive due process.

Minerva is a kind and hard-working woman, a loving mother. She and her family pose no threat to our country; in fact, they love our country and want nothing more than to live in safety and contribute to our community.

I am asking you to do all you can to intervene on her behalf and help attain a stay of removal. Thank you for your attention; we are all holding you in our prayers.

# TALKING POINTS FOR FRIENDS AND FAMILY

*We hope you will talk to people about what we are doing,  
and encourage others to get involved.*

*Below is a sample script we encourage you to follow.*

*What we hope you will **not** do is speak with the media,  
to the public, or to government authorities.*

*When dealing with the public, either Julie or Paul  
will be the **sole** spokespersons for the church.*

Our church, Congregational United Church of Christ, is taking the bold step of declaring itself to be a Sanctuary Church. We do this after many meetings, much discussion, and much prayer. We are willing to accept into protective Sanctuary an immigrant or an immigrant family who has been told by Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) that they must leave the country. The vast majority of folks who have been told to leave have heard this because they regularly check in with ICE. For years they have been told by ICE, “Thanks for stopping by. See you next year.” The people we will take into Sanctuary are law-abiding, hard-working, tax-paying, America-loving people. They have no “home” to go to because this is home. The people we take into Sanctuary will be those who have a reasonable chance of being told by ICE that their notice to leave will be overturned. Their case is good; they just need more time to make their appeal.

Our church will be doing nothing illegal. We will tell the authorities exactly what we are doing, so we will not be harboring anyone. Everything we are doing is open to the public. The people staying with us will not be hiding; they will just be temporarily staying at our church. They are brave, wonderful people.

Our church is doing this because we take seriously the Biblical command to welcome the stranger or the sojourner. That’s what Jesus said in Matthew. To quote Micah, God calls us “to seek justice, to love kindness, and to walk humbly with our God.”

I hope you will go to our church’s website, [congregationalucc.com](http://congregationalucc.com), where you can get more information about our church. Or I hope you will come with me to church one Sunday and see for yourself what I see — our church is a special place with special people, seeking to serve God as best we are able.