

Greetings to UCC churches and friends in immigration ministries,

Starting in January, I will be hosting a monthly Zoom meeting on the second Tuesday at 6pm ET, making the first meeting on January 11, 2022, at 6pm ET. This meeting is open to any individual or church engaged in refugee & migration ministries. The tenor will be intentionally reflective for churches to deepen their spiritual engagement with the powerful and important ministries we share together in addressing refugee and migration issues across the denomination.

When building ministries that engage vulnerable populations such as refugees and asylum seekers, I encourage taking time between setting up apartments and securing DHHS social benefits to reflect and self-examine in the company of peers. On the journeys we take with vulnerable populations, very heavy moments can arise that we need help processing, or situations of power and privilege that we may not recognize without preparing ourselves, or we may just need each other to know that we're not alone when we're walking around in dark places with flickering candles. This space will be designed to provide that well of healing and empowerment for you, so that you have the strength to carry that courage and love to those you work with in your ministries. We will be using time-honored reflection tools, share best practices of engagement, and open space for prayer and testimony during these meetings.

Our brothers and sisters who practice the steps of Alcoholics Anonymous in our church basements make intentional commitments to self-reflect, grow, and become more purposeful in their ministries to lifting others out of addiction. Just as they do this mindfulness work to serve vulnerable addicts, we should also do in our work to serve vulnerable immigrants.

A separate check in time is available for those who intend to engage in long-term leadership with Refugee & Migration Ministries, please inquire if this separate meeting is of interest to you. I'm looking forward to working with you in immigration ministries and sharing intentional space with you to strengthen our ministries together. Here is the link for the January meeting, please keep it in your calendar and a reminder will be sent closer to the date:

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://UCC.zoom.us/j/94643912990?pwd=emImSEJ4enp4VzQzVlVXRkVaZ1I6QT09>

Meeting ID: 946 4391 2990

Passcode: 867164

One tap mobile

+16468769923,,94643912990# US (New York)

Dial by your location

+1 646 876 9923 US (New York)

Meeting ID: 946 4391 2990

Find your local number: <https://UCC.zoom.us/u/ad4YmhdMU0>

Peace,

**Irene Willis Hassan, MDiv**

Minister for Refugee and Migration Ministries

Global H.O.P.E. – *Humanitarian. Opportunities. Progress. Empowerment.*

United Church of Christ, National Ministries

700 Prospect Ave East | Cleveland, OH 44115-1100

216.736.2135 | [hassani@ucc.org](mailto:hassani@ucc.org) | [UCC.org](http://UCC.org)