FOUNDED 1708
PLYMOUTH MONTHLY MEETING
OF THE
RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS
PLYMOUTH MEETING PA. 19462

When Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) Agents Come to the Meeting House

On August 18, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit affirmed the U.S. District Court of Maryland order blocking a Trump-Vance administration policy that seeks to give immigration officers free rein to carry out enforcement actions at or near the houses of worship of the plaintiffs while this litigation proceeds.

<u>Procedure for when ICE agents disobey the court injunction</u>

When ICE agents come to the Meeting House:

- ICE agents will be asked to wait outside for Meeting Representatives to come and talk with them.
- Friends will continue their worship
- The convener of worship will select* two Monthly Meeting representatives from the volunteer list to go out to the porch to speak with the ICE supervisor. No other members or attenders will engage with the ICE agents
    - They will point to the sign beside the door that states that the Meeting House is a House of Worship which is protected by the Federal Court injunction that protects the worship spaces of PYM's affiliated meetings from unrestrained immigration enforcement.
- If the injunction is not honored by the ICE agents and they enter the Meeting House, Friends will continue in worship and not engage the ICE agents. Agents will be asked by Monthly Meeting representatives not to bring weapons into the Meeting House.
    - If entry occurs during plain worship, and if one member who is in attendance is willing, the ICE activity will be filmed on a cell phone.

    - If entry is during Blended worship the record option on the Zoom will be turned on. If ICE agents inspect other areas of the Meeting, and if one member is willing, the ICE activity will be filmed on a cell phone.
- At all times members and attenders will respond with restraint and strive to be a motion of love. Friends are encouraged to step out of the Meeting if the stress of the situation becomes damaging to their ability to respond in a peaceful way.
- Once the ICE agents have left the Meeting the clerk or delegate will gather people together in prayer to settle the community.
- As way opens after those in attendance have been cared for a written account of the event will be created and shared with the Quarter and Yearly Meeting. Plymouth will seek legal guidance from Philadelphia Yearly Meeting (PYM) as to how to respond to the disobedience of the ICE agents to the Federal Court injunction.

If there is a person(s) of interest that the ICE agents choose to remove from the Meeting House, the agents are violating the law and our house of worship which is a place of sanctuary within which the person of interest may remain.

- If ICE agents act to remove a person from the Meeting House that action will be recorded and provided to legal counsel of PYM.
- If a member(s) or attender is led to <u>peacefully and nonviolently</u> stand in the way of the person of interest removal that is a personal decision which the Monthly Meeting will respect.

*Selection of Monthly Meeting representatives who will speak with ICE agents will be selected from a list of volunteers that will be kept in the Meeting House under the cushion of the facing bench where the convener of Meeting for Worship sits.