

Action: Session approves the following policy and authorizes the senior pastor to direct staff in its implementation:

*The Session of Village Presbyterian Church authorizes only members of the Executive Team and the director of the Village Church Food Pantry and the director and business director of the Village Church Child and Family Development Center to act on behalf of Village Presbyterian Church in any official capacity with Immigration and Customs Enforcement or Customs and Border Patrol. All public-facing staff and volunteers will be instructed to ask law enforcement officers to wait until one of the authorized persons is available. Those empowered by Session to act on behalf of Village Presbyterian Church will comply with all current laws while following the guidance from the National Immigration Law Center, including requests to produce judicial warrants for activity on Village Church private property.*

Background:

On January 20, 2025, President Trump issued an Executive Order titled “[Protecting the American People Against Invasion](#)” which revokes a [Department of Homeland Security policy](#) from October of 2021 that bars Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and Customs and Border Patrol (CBP) from engaging in enforcement activity in so-called “protected areas.” This 2021 policy designates churches among protected areas, meaning that churches were listed among schools, hospitals, shelters, and other essential, public access facilities that sought to protect undocumented persons in potentially vulnerable situations from avoiding medical care and gathering for worship out of fear of encountering law enforcement while doing so.

Village Presbyterian Church seeks to create a comprehensive policy considering this Executive Order and the new reality that churches are no longer viewed as protected areas. While ICE or CPB action at Village is not anticipated, the Executive Team of Village Presbyterian Church establishes the following in the event of activity from Immigration and Customs Enforcement or Customs and Border Patrol, following guidance for employers from the [National Immigration Law Center](#). Village staff continues to engage legal counsel to further understand the implications of this executive order and other changes, and may bring future recommendations to session for discussion and action.

*The Executive Team currently includes Rev. Dr. Rodger Nishioka, Rev. Chad Herring, Rev. Anna Owens, Rev. Alice Whitson, and Senior Director of Business Operations Kathy Lueckert. Dennis Cobb is the director of the Food Pantry, Jenny Hull is director of the Child and Family Development Center and Peggy Tingle is the business director of the Child and Family Development Center.*