



**To:** Committee on Week of Compassion  
**From:** Tana Liu-Beers, Disciples Immigration Legal Counsel, Disciples Home Missions  
**Date:** April 8, 2019  
**Re:** Ministry Update: October 2018 – March 2019

Dear Week of Compassion Committee,

*I hope this update finds you all well. Here are some highlights from my ministry over the past few months. It will come as no surprise to you that immigrants are facing new obstacles even weekly. I continue to say that the most hateful things I have to read are not ignorant tweets or rants but rather reasoned policy memos issued by government agencies. Under the guise of legality and legitimacy, these regulations and memoranda cause heartache and suffering to real people. My job is to synthesize these changes and still guide my clients through a system designed to keep them out. It is my privilege to do so. Thank you, as always, for your ongoing support.*

Peace,

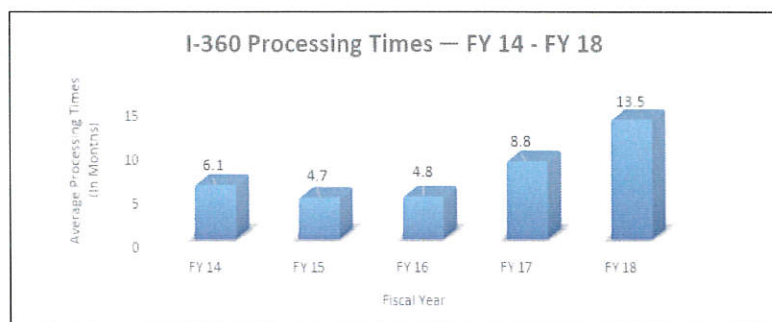
*Tana*



Border Wall, Tijuana, Mexico 02/28/19

## Legal Services

Direct legal casework and consultations continue to be the center of my ministry. I enjoy walking with individuals through the morass of increasingly complex immigration procedure, often over the course of several years. This position lets me be available to clients more than immigration lawyers in other types of practice. It lets me serve them as whole individuals. I can address their auxiliary problems like making the driver license agency or Social Security Administration to recognize their immigration status. I am able to participate in their vocational discernment and ministry planning, which often depends on their immigration status.



Source: Data from USCIS webpage, "Historical National Average Processing Times for All USCIS Offices" (Nov. 29, 2018)

The latest challenge is crisis-level processing delays at U.S. Citizenship & Immigration Services (USCIS). Long waits have always been a problem within immigration, but the intentional delays we are seeing now are particularly alarming. I currently have several green card cases pending over one year and clients desperate to escape from the purgatory of waiting and putting their lives on hold.

Meanwhile, keeping clients out of trouble is increasingly challenging. New timing rules are designed to trap students into permanent penalties and make it harder to file for residence. Each case is a logic test of trying not to run afoul of contradictory rules.

## Advocacy on Rule-Making



Usually I leave the immigration advocacy work to the capable Sharon Stanley-Rea and focus on legal work, recognizing that I am one immigration lawyer among many pastors and other equipped advocates. However, at times there are policy issues affecting my work directly or arcane issues that could use clarification from the legal perspective. This fall USCIS proposed a new “Public Charge” rule that I had to speak out about. This new rule will impose a wealth test on most immigration applicants and further cut off all but the most wealthy

families from reunification and immigration status. It is 447 pages of bureaucracy to sinister effect. Therefore, I worked in tandem with Sharon promoting advocacy among Disciples on this rule as well as other proposed rules on fee waivers and child detention.

## Border Trip

At the beginning of March I traveled to Tijuana to provide legal consultations to asylum-seekers. While this *pro bono* trip was not officially part of my Disciples work, I’m grateful to DHM for giving me the time to answer the call. Over the course of eight days, I worked with other volunteer immigration lawyers from around the country to provide legal counsel to asylum-seekers from around the world. Thousands of people are stuck in Tijuana due to illegal policies preventing them from applying for asylum at the U.S. border. People fleeing torture and persecution in their own countries have traveled thousands of miles only to be blocked from seeking protection.

In the mornings I met with individuals in emergency consultations as they lined up to approach the gate. In the afternoons I met with asylum-seekers to prepare them for their “credible fear interviews,” the first hurdle in the U.S. asylum process. I shared some of this experience on Disciples Immigration Legal Counsel social media.

The trip and months of study in preparation for it have given me expertise to better advise the asylum-seekers who seek consultations from me. This experience will inform my work going forward.



Immigration Legal Counsel

	<b>Budget 2018</b>	<b>Actual</b>
<b>Income</b>		
General Ministries	5,000.00	12,500.00
Disciples Home Missions	26,500.00	12,084.18
Support from Regions	0.00	19,246.94
Week of Compassion	20,000.00	20,000.00
Total Income	<u>51,500.00</u>	<u>63,831.12</u>
<b>Expenses</b>		
Salary	63,663.00	57,890.00
Travel	3,000.00	2,964.96
Supplies and Insurance	2,500.00	2,976.16
Total Expenses	<u>69,163.00</u>	<u>63,831.12</u>



Refugee and Immigration Ministries Report to Week of Compassion Board  
September 2018- March 2019  
Submitted by Wilma Shuffitt, Ministry Associate for RIM

During a much needed sabbatical, The Rev. Dr. Sharon Stanley-Rea joined a delegation of nearly 75 faith leaders and immigrant justice advocates, mostly from the United States, and several joining from South America, that traveled on a "Reverse Caravan" Pilgrimage to Honduras to meet with grassroots and religious partners in order to more deeply understand the root causes of migration that have spurred thousands to flee Honduras.

The international, interfaith delegation met with organizations working and advocating for the rights of migrants and explored factors that are forcing migrants to flee, including violence; environmental degradation; and the ongoing effects of the 2009 coup, which opened the door for drug cartels, organized crime, corrupt security forces, and near total impunity for human rights violations. The delegation met with victims of the government-sponsored repression following the unconstitutional, fraudulent election of November 2017 (supported by the U.S.) and met with communities fighting against displacement caused by extractive industries and those impacted by human rights violations.

Sharon then traveled to El Salvador the following week to participate in "The Central American Refugee Crisis: A Faithful Response," through the Global School of the Cristosol organization. Cristosol advances human rights in Central America by deepening understanding of human rights, analyzing root causes of forced migration, and developing strategies to respond to the refugee crisis and support the rights of migrant populations.

Stanley-Rea has been involved with numerous Disciples Presence Witness activities at the White House and Capitol keeping Disciples updated on all refugee and Immigration issues. As well as rallies and marches such as the one on February 12, before the White House and Capitol to stand in faith witness to the need to protect TPS recipients. She continues to advocate to Disciples to help urge Congress to protect Refugees & save the Resettlement Program.

The National Farmworker Ministry board met in February in San Jose, Calif., where they went out in solidarity with the workers with Premiere Raspberries, which are marketed under the brand Well-Pict. With calls to Premiere to "Follow the Law" and "Respect Your Workers." NFWM marched for an hour in front of Well-Pict's office.

In January, with General Minister and President Rev. Terri Hord Owens, participated in a border trip to Tijuana and San Diego which was sponsored by Centro Romero, Bi-National Border Ministry partner with Global Ministries.

Advent and Lenten Devotional Resources for Immigration and Refugees was produced in partnership with the Interfaith Immigration Coalition.

**Disciples Home Missions  
Refugee and Immigration  
2018**

	<b>Proposed 2018 Budget</b>	<b>Actual December 31, 2018</b>
<b>Income</b>		
Week of Compassion	67,000	66,000
Week of Compassion - Emergency Assistance	0	1,425
DHM	36,202	31,658
Contributions	4,956	13,641
DHM Hunger Fund (SWGSM)	2,000	4,000
Alternative Giving Catalog	100	
Kids to Kids Giving	100	
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>110,358</b>	<b>116,724</b>
<b>Expenses:</b>		
RIM Director Salary and Benefits	82,481	87,594
Administrative Assistant Salary and Benefits	17,385	17,385
Office in Washington DC	2,500	0
Travel	4,000	6,325
Telephone	792	795
Office and Postage	400	124
Materials and PR	600	0
Grants (Kids to Kids & Alternative Giving)	200	0
Casework Grants	0	500
SWGSM (Food)	2,000	4,000
<b>Total Expenses:</b>	<b>110,358</b>	<b>116,724</b>
(Expenses over Income)	0	0

Disciples Home Missions  
 Disciples Volunteering  
 December 31, 2018

	2018	
	Budget	Actual
<b>Income</b>		
Week of Compassion	25,000.00	25,000.00
Contributions	0.00	2,026.31
Disciples Home Missions	5,600.00	5,600.00
<b>Totals Income</b>	<u>30,600.00</u>	<u>32,626.31</u>
Salary and Benefits	15,000.00	15,000.00
Interns	16,700.00	13,511.51
Intern Coordinator Salary	8,500.00	5,000.00
Intern Coordinator Travel	1,500.00	0.00
Interpretation/ Recruitment	750.00	414.85
Leadership Development LTV Training	1,500.00	1,150.28
General Church Mission Events	500.00	0.00
Networks and Partners (NVOAD)	2,000.00	1,017.19
Totals	<u>46,450.00</u>	<u>36,093.83</u>
Balance	-15,850.00	-3,467.52
Beginning Balance	<u>35,000.00</u>	<u>45,098.90</u>
Ending Balance	<u><u>19,150.00</u></u>	<u><u>41,631.38</u></u>