



Sacred Circles 2020

So much is at stake right now.

And so much is possible right now.

We are in a movement moment - a [whirlwind](#) - like many of us have never seen in decades - or a lifetime. With the confluence of a global pandemic and the Black Lives Matter uprising, compounded by the Trump reelection campaign, a rising white nationalist movement, and a Supreme Court DACA decision on the horizon, **now is the time to go all in.**

It's past time.

This is a time to be disciplined, rigorous, serious in our commitments to act for social justice and in our commitments to one another. It's time to heed the calls of our prophets - past and present leaders found in our sacred stories and in the streets calling for truth and transformation.

We can't just have this be a one-and-done. And if the whirlwind subsides, or when the media attention turns, we must remain steadfast in faithful action.

We've seen how the far right has done this-- gotten serious, going all in to the tune of billions of dollars, over decades. Let us take ourselves, our power, our vision and our commitments just as seriously. Let's go *all in*.

As a faith-rooted immigrant justice organization, we know that when our faiths call us to justice, it means justice for everyone. We honor that the freedom and safety of immigrants is inherently intertwined with the liberation of Black people. This is why more than ever, we must challenge ourselves as people of faith and fierce love to divest from systems of violence and invest in the flourishing of life.

Will you join us?

As IMIrJ has grown, we've experimented with different structures to support our organizing--from county-specific Sanctuary cohorts and quarterly gatherings to seasonal advocacy campaigns and more structured commitments like our recent Countering White Nationalism Cohort. Now through the election, the Sacred Circles will be a sustained bridge between the sacred encounters we're having with directly impacted communities and strategic sacred action that embodies a world we want to live in. Sacred Circles will provide accountability, direction and support as we collectively learn and live our way more fully into courageous action for racial and immigrant justice.

Sacred Circles

A "Sacred Circle" is a grouping of 7-15 people who covenant to:

- Be in relationship with and accountable to one another
- Meet (virtually) on a regular basis from now through the election (each circle decides on their own rhythm for relationship; our suggestion is that Circles meet at least 1/month)
- Stay in touch with one another between Circle meetings
- Shared learning and action to advance immigrant and racial justice, in coordination with IMIrJ, immigrant and Black-led partner organizations, and other Sacred Circles in their region and throughout the state.

A few notes on Sacred Circle makeup: Sacred Circles are a place for both seasoned leaders and for our friends and fellow congregation members who are newly ready to get off the sidelines. Circle members likely come from the same congregation and/or geographical community. It might be with people you are already in relationship with through an existing social justice committee or sanctuary team. You might form a Circle with a group of friends, neighbors or classmates who share a similar longing for justice. Circle membership may shift. While we encourage commitment and continuity, we also encourage growth. However, once a Circle grows beyond 15 people, we highly recommend "mitosis" - splitting into two smaller Circles - in order to maximize the level of trust, interaction, and connection between Circle members. Larger faith communities may have more than one Circle.

Circle Co-Hosts

Each Sacred Circle is convened and supported by two "Circle Co-Hosts" who commit to:

- Host regular gatherings (at least 1/month) of the Circle
- Keep Circle members informed
- Convene (virtually) approximately 1/month with other Hosts in their region

- Attend an initial Host training/orientation session, which will be offered periodically in order to engage new Hosts and Circles
- Stay in touch with IMIrJ staff (via Slack) about upcoming learning and action opportunities and campaigns

A few notes on “hosting”: Co-Hosts will generally be responsible for sending out reminders to Circle members about meeting times, checking in with members in between sessions, facilitating Circle meetings (IMIrJ will provide sample agendas and resource materials), ensuring communication systems are up and running, and coordinating with IMIrJ.

Circle of Circles

To strengthen cross-Circle and cross-congregational connections and coordination, IMIrJ will host semi-regular “Circle of Circles” convenings. These convenings will bring together all Circle Hosts within a particular county or geographical region, or from a particular denomination, for shared learning, strategy development, and action planning.

I’m *in*. (Or at least I’m ready to learn more.)

What’s Next?

Now: Start talking to others in your congregation, community or social network to see who else might join your Sacred Circle. Who can commit to being your Circle Co-Hosts?

Sacred Circles Virtual Launch: On Monday, June 22nd we hosted a Sacred Circles 2020 Virtual Launch, to share more info about Sacred Circles, how they fit into IMIrJ’s overall organizing arc and upcoming campaigns, and answer your questions. You can view a recording of the launch [here](#).

Co-Host Trainings: We’ll be offering Co-Host Orientation/Training Sessions on a rolling basis throughout the summer. Here’s a list of upcoming Orientation Sessions:

- Tuesday, July 28th from 6:00-8:00pm ([sign up here](#))
- Thursday, August 13th from 6:00-8:00pm ([sign up here](#))
- Tuesday, August 18th from 11:00-1:00pm ([sign up here](#))

Ongoing: Co-Hosts - invite Circle Participants to register their participation in your Sacred Circle with IMIrJ [here](#).