

1. ACCESSION NUMBER: GTU 89-11-01

2. SHELF LOCATION:

**GRADUATE THEOLOGICAL UNION ARCHIVES
MANUSCRIPTS COLLECTION
MANUSCRIPTS INVENTORY**

3. COLLECTION NAME:

EAST BAY SANCTUARY COVENANT

4. COLLECTION DATES: 1974-2000

5. NUMBER OF CONTAINERS AND SIZE (in linear feet): 4 boxes (4 linear feet)

6. SOURCE AND DATE: Donated by Irene Litherland on April 10, 1990. Additional materials donated at a later date.

7. RESTRICTIONS (if any): None

8. ABSTRACT:

The collection contains the records of East Bay Sanctuary Covenant (EBSC) from 1982 to 2000. Founded in 1982, the organization was created by local congregations to help refugees to the United States from El Salvador and Guatemala. By 2000, EBSC expanded its mission to provide support for refugees from anywhere in the world and is still active.

9. HISTORICAL DESCRIPTION:

The East Bay Sanctuary Covenant (eastbaysanctuary.org), initially composed of five founding congregations, was formed in 1982 on the anniversary of the assassination of Oscar Romero. Based in Berkeley, CA, EBSC was founded to provide protection, support, and advocacy for Salvadoran and Guatemalan refugees. By 1985 membership had grown to 25. Initially, refugees were housed among the covenanting faith communities.

The congregations collectively established an office with a full-time Director, a Refugee Rights Coordinator, Health Services Coordinator, a Direct Services Coordinator, and an Office Manager. EBSC circulated a newsletter, *Exodus*, as part of an Education and Outreach initiative. The organization focused on Accompaniment, maintaining relationships with sanctuary groups on the U.S.-Mexico border; Refugee Rights, providing legal services for asylum seekers from Central America; and Social Service, recruiting healthcare professionals to provide services for the refugee population, and organizing housing and employment opportunities for the population.

The Sanctuary Movement began during the Vietnam War when churches – some in Berkeley, CA – offered "the availability of shelter and sustenance to military personnel who are conscientiously unable to continue their participation in the armed forces or in combat duties."

A similar, but much larger, movement began in the early 1980's in response to refugees from Central America. Faced with civil war, military aggression and terror, citizens began to travel north to Mexico and then to the United States. U.S. policy did not recognize Central Americans, or El Salvadorans, as qualifying for refugee status. Those who were caught were deported and returned to their countries. Becoming aware of the situation, churches responded to the needs of the refugees by offering sanctuary. The movement lasted in vigor through the end in the 1980s. EBSC expanded its services to include people from all over the world. As of May 2015, the EBSC handles over 500 Affirmative Asylum cases.

Related Collections in the Graduate Theological Union Archives:

Gustav Schultz Sanctuary Collection, GTU 90-5-01

National Sanctuary Defense Fund Collection, GTU 98-9-04

The Sanctuary Movement Oral History Project, GTU 2009-3-02

SHARE Foundation / Fundación SHARE (Salvadoran Humanitarian Aid, Research and Education Foundation) Collection, GTU 2020-07-01

10. SCOPE AND CONTENT:

The collection documents the founding and early activities of the East Bay Sanctuary Movement based in Berkeley, CA. The collection contains office procedures, immigration resources, urgent action notices, news clippings, committee packets and minutes.

11. ARRANGEMENT:

The collection is organized as follows: Series 1, Organizational files and services; Series 2, *Exodus* newsletter; Series 3, Reports by Christian Urgent Action Network for El Salvador (CUANES); Series 4, EBSC Steering Committee packets and Executive Committee minutes.

12. SUBJECTS:

- Sanctuary movement
- El Salvador
- Guatemala
- Central America
- Asylum, Right of
- Church work with refugees
- Church and social problems
- Political Refugees
- Christianity and justice
- El Salvador – 1979-1992
- Violence

Civil war
State-sponsored Terrorism

13. NAMES AS SUBJECTS (ADD AUTHOR):

East Bay Sanctuary Covenant
Christian Urgent Action Network for El Salvador

14. Processor: Marvin Wiser

Inventory Date: 5/28/2015

Cataloging Date:

EAD upload: 5/29/2015, updated 7/24/2026

15. CONTENTS OF CONTAINERS:

Series 1. Organizational files and services [Resources]

Box	Folder	Title	Date
1	1	North American Congress on Latin America (NACLA)	1974
1	2	Central American Resources	1983-1984
1	3	Comité de Familiares Pro-libertad de Presos y Desaparecidos Políticos de El Salvador (CODEFAM)	1983-1984
1	4	Sanctuary Covenants (churches, temples)	1983-1986
1	5	Orientation Materials (health, torture, migration)	1985
1	6	Cross-Cultural Communication in Sanctuary, Katherin Gorham and Bonnie Souza	1985
1	7	Church Recruitment	1986
1	8	Office Procedures	1986, 1989
1	9	Annotated Media and Reference Library	1986-1987
1	10	Theological Reflections	1987
1	11	EBSC-First Annual Dinner, First Congregational Church	1987-11-01
1	12	Medical Aid and Airlift for El Salvador	1987-1988
1	13	Congregational Survey (Sanctuary Covenant Survey)	1988
1	14	Member Congregations	1989-1990
1	15	Congregational Support meetings	1989-1990
1	16	Healthcare Component	1985-1988
1	17	Employment and Housing	1982-1991
1	18	Donations, Food, and Transportation	1989-1991
1	19	Medical Recruits	1986
1	20	Mental Health Recruitment	1987
1	21	Mental Health Referral Directory	1987
1	22	Dental assistance	1985
1	23	Dental Recruits	1986
1	24	Intake Forms: DVC and Chabot	1988
1	25	Translation / Interpreters	1989
1	26	Translators Guides	1987
1	27	Education Goals and Priorities	1986
1	28	Other Social and Legal Services	1989-1993
1	29	Alliance of Sanctuary Communities	1991

1	30	Study Packet	1991-1992
1	31	Tenth Anniversary Planning	1992
1	32	Tenth Anniversary Histories Member Congregations	1992
1	33	Tenth Anniversary Ceremony	1992
1	34	News Clippings	1994
1	35	Factors that Influence Immigration (articles/reports)	1995-1998
1	36	Education Packet	1998
1	37	Economic Development Research	1998
1	38	Guatemala "Nunca Mas" (Oficina de Derechos Humanos del Arzobispado de Guatemala)	1998
1	39	CERIGUA Guatemala Updates (Centro de Reportes Informativos sobre Guatemala)	1998
1	40	Guatemala Peace Accords and Constitutional Reforms	1998

Series 2. *Exodus* newsletter

Box	Folder	Title	Date
1	41	<i>Exodus</i> (EBSC newsletter) Mailing List	1993
1	42	<i>Exodus</i> (Vol 1-issues 1,3,4,5; Vol 2-issues 3,4,5,7,8,10,11; Vol 3-issues 1,2,3,5; Vol 7- issues1)	1982-1984, 1988
1	43	<i>Exodus</i> (Vol 10-issues 5,6,8,10)	1991
1	44	<i>Exodus</i> (Vol 11-issues 2,3,4,6,7,8,9,10)	1992
1	45	<i>Exodus</i> (Vol 12- issues-1,2,4,5,6,7,8, 9,10)	1993
1	46	<i>Exodus</i> (13-issues 1-10)	1994
1	47	<i>Exodus</i> (14-issues 1-10)	1995
1	48	<i>Exodus</i> (15-issues 1-10)	1996

Series 3. Reports by Christian Urgent Action Network for El Salvador (CUANES)

Box	Folder	Title	Date
2	1	Christian Urgent Action Network for El Salvador (CUANES) Annual Report	1986
2	2	Urgent Actions	1985
2	3	Urgent Actions	1986
2	4	Urgent Actions	1987
2	5	Urgent Actions	1988
2	6	Urgent Actions	Jan-Jun 1989
2	7	Urgent Actions	Jul-Dec 1989
2	8	Urgent Actions	Jan-Jun 1990
2	9	Urgent Actions	Jul-Dec 1990
2	10	Urgent Actions	Jan-Jun 1991
2	11	Urgent Actions	Jul-Dec 1991
2	12	Urgent Actions	Jan-Jun 1992
2	13	Urgent Actions	Jul-Dec 1992
2	14	Urgent Actions	Jan-Jun 1993
2	15	Urgent Actions	Jul-Dec 1993

2	16	Urgent Actions	Jan-Jun 1994
2	17	Urgent Actions	Jul-Dec 1994
2	18	Urgent Actions	Jan-Jun 1995
2	19	Urgent Actions	Jul-Dec 1995
2	20	Urgent Actions	1996
2	21	Urgent Actions	1997

Series 4. EBSC Steering Committee packets and Executive Committee minutes

Box	Folder	Title	Date
3	1	Steering Committee packet, August	1983
3	2	March	1985
3	3	April	1985
3	4	May	1985
3	5	June	1985
3	6	July	1985
3	7	August	1985
3	8	September	1985
3	9	October	1985
3	10	November	1985
3	11	December	1985
3	12	January, February	1986
3	13	March	1986
3	14	April	1986
3	15	May	1986
3	16	June	1986
3	17	July	1986
3	18	August	1986
3	19	September	1986
3	20	October	1986
3	21	November	1986
3	22	December	1986
3	23	January	1987
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3	25	March	1987
3	26	April	1987
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3	41	July	1988
3	42	August	1988
3	43	September	1988
3	44	October	1988
3	45	November	1988
3	46	December	1988
3	47	January	1989
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3	79	September	1991
3	80	October	1991
3	81	November	1991
3	82	December	1991
4	1	January	1992
4	2	February	1992
4	3	March	1992
4	4	April	1992
4	5	May	1992
4	6	June	1992
4	7	July	1992
4	8	September	1992
4	9	October	1992
4	10	November	1992
4	11	December	1992
4	12	January	1993
4	13	February	1993
4	14	March	1993
4	15	April	1993
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4	17	June	1993
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4	22	November	1993
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4	43	December	1995
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4	67	June	1998
4	68	August	1998
4	69	September	1998
4	70	December	1998
4	71	February	1999
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4	73	April	1999
4	74	June	1999
4	75	July	1999
4	76	September	1999
4	77	November	1999
4	78	December	1999

4	79	February	2000
4	80	March	2000
4	81	Executive Committee Minutes	1985-1993
4	82	Minutes	1985-1993