



**Living our Faith:
The What, Why, Who, Where, How & When of being a Sanctuary Congregation**

What is a Sanctuary Congregation? A Sanctuary Congregation allows **an approved individual who's at high risk of deportation to reside in their church building 24/7** while that individual's legal team and Dane Sanctuary Coalition work in the legal system to challenge deportation. Sanctuary is openly publicized in the media and to Immigration and Customs Enforcement. Sanctuary is **a public witness** that raises awareness of undocumented immigrants' dilemma, their contributions to society, & the challenges inherent in the current immigration system. A Supporting Congregation provides volunteers to help sanctuary congregations.

Why are we considering becoming a Sanctuary Congregation? Offering sanctuary is an **answer to God's calling for us to love our neighbor**. Our **local undocumented immigrant and refugee community made a specific request of the interfaith community**. Although polices are not new, anxieties are raised due to increase racial rhetoric. Other mission work, including the Road Home, would continue as always.

Who is involved? **Dane Sanctuary Coalition**, part of the National New Sanctuary Movement, would share the responsibilities of hosting.

To be considered for sanctuary, an **individual would be referred** by Voces de la Frontera and a legal team, and would fulfill these criteria:

- is at high risk of deportation but has a strong case to defer or stop deportation
- has no significant criminal record
- has a compelling story that puts a human face on the immigration dilemma
- has a willingness to be identified publicly
- has the ability to withstand the rigors and restrictions of sanctuary

Where? A room that is not used by Sunday School or by The Road Home, and that is close to the shower.

How? **A Sanctuary Exploratory Team in our church has researched issues about becoming a Sanctuary Congregation, including faith, legal, logistics and insurance. Dane Sanctuary Coalition would coordinate hundreds of local volunteers** to help.

When? There will be an informal congregational vote in Jan, 2018 on whether or not Covenant will become a supporting or sanctuary congregation. Depending on the outcome of that vote, the Sanctuary Exploration Team will ask the Session for approval on Jan 23.

Nobody can say exactly when or if our building would be used as a sanctuary church. Out of hundreds of New Sanctuary Movement congregations, only a handful actually have someone living in their building.

Questions? Please feel free to talk with Jeff Fox-Kline or any member of the Sanctuary Exploration Team: Deborah Cohn, Maribeth Gettinger, Polly Guequirre, Nancy Gunder, Audrey & Ken Hindman, Cindy Lovell, Don & Joanne Schalch, Eric Wendorff, Steve Whayland. There is written information available in Covenant Library.

“The alien (person who belongs to a foreign country) who resides among you shall be to you as the citizen among you; you shall love the alien as yourself...” -Lev 19:33