



IS YOUR CHURCH CONSIDERING OFFERING SANCTUARY PROTECTIONS FOR IMMIGRANTS?

BACKGROUND RESOURCES FROM DISCIPLES REFUGEE & IMMIGRATION MINISTRIES

These articles offer background information for congregations learning about and considering offering the form of “sanctuary” protection which provides full time housing for an individual or family inside church facilities. Resources are not meant as legal advice, but to provide information for discussion:

- Download the “Sanctuary Toolkit for a Trump Era”: <http://www.sanctuarynotdeportation.org/resources.html>
- www.christianitytoday.com/women/2017/march/how-churches-can-give-sanctuary-to-immigrants-and-still-sup.html
- <http://www.cnn.com/2017/02/17/us/immigrants-sanctuary-churches-legality-trnd/>
- <https://sojo.net/sites/default/files/matthew25.toolkit.immigration.pdf> (see page 5’s discernment process)
- <http://www.groundswell-mvmt.org/sanctuary-101-how-churches-and-synagogues-are-stopping-deportations/>
- <http://www.demos.org/publication/sanctuary-safety-and-community-tools-welcoming-and-protecting-immigrants-through-local-d> (see paragraph ‘f’ on “sensitive locations”)
- <https://www.disciplesimmigration.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/02/Harboring-Memo.pdf> (CLINIC Legal’s excellent backgrounder on the ‘Harboring Memo’ and implications for congregations.)
- <http://www.churchlawandtax.com/blog/2017/march/qa-what-churches-should-know-immigration-law.html> (This article was written by the Church Law and Tax team connected with Christianity Today.)
- <http://lynnhopkinsgroup.com/Toolkit1.pdf> (Although this resource is older—from 2007—its strengths are the legal case precedents that have supported sanctuary, as well as assistance in types of cases churches may wish to look to when considering selection of an appropriate case for sanctuary.)

Also, the Presbyterian Church (USA) has been engaged for decades in sanctuary efforts. This piece includes a helpful section related to legal considerations: <http://oga.pcusa.org/section/mid-council-ministries/immigration/sanctuary/>

Additionally, “sanctuary” supports offered by churches in this era extend well beyond the form of offering housing within church facilities. Supports include what are being termed “sanctuary in the streets” models, where churches demonstrate solidarity with immigrants by offering help such as:

- Know Your Rights Training for immigrants and allies
- Rapid Response during immigration raids and pastoral care to families following raids
- Accompaniment with immigrants to ICE appointments
- Prayer Vigils, Press Conferences, and other expressions of public voice to support family cases

Resources which offer further information on Rapid Response, Accompaniment, and Vigils/Press Conferences and advocacy especially include:

- www.sanctuarynotdeportation.org
- <https://sojo.net/sites/default/files/matthew25.toolkit.immigration.pdf>
- <http://www.interfaithimmigration.org/issues/affirm-sanctuary/>

For further background, advocacy, and resource information, contact: Disciples Refugee & Immigration Ministries, Rev. Sharon Stanley-Rea, sstanley@dhm.disciples.org or 202-957-7826, or go to: <https://www.discipleshomeissions.org/missions-advocacy/refugee-immigration-ministries/>

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