

# Roles of Sanctuary and Supporting Churches

## The Role of a Sanctuary Church is to:

- Create a sacred space of refuge for immigrant individuals and/or families that are in immediate danger of deportation.
- Have individuals and/or families reside in your place of worship for an undetermined amount of time while the community of Sanctuary works on the Stay of Removal orders for each person residing in the space or until those individuals can safely arrive to another place of Sanctuary.
- Be a community of love, hospitality and fellowship for those living in your care.
- Provide food, clothing, toiletries, and company to those in your care. (This is also a huge role of supporting churches.)
- The only parameter set to declare your place of worship as Sanctuary is to make it very public. All other guidelines are at the discretion of individual churches and their congregants. Things to consider: a private space for a person or people to live in 24/7, washing facilities, kitchen or food preparation facilities, accessibility for family visitations, etc.
- Be willing to accept the support of the ISIAH community of Sanctuary as well as surrounding community.

## The Role of Supporting a Sanctuary Church means to:

- Be a community of love, hospitality and fellowship for Sanctuary Churches.
- Provide tangible and physical resources to Sanctuary Churches, such as:
  - Monetary aid
  - Food
  - Clothing
  - Toiletries
  - Health and medical support
  - Legal support
  - Entertainment, toys, reading materials, etc.
- Provide physical accompaniment to people in Sanctuary care. While it is important to give immigrant families independence and private space, this can also be an isolating experience. A family/individual should never be the only person/people in the building.
- Host daily prayer vigils
- Give public declaration of physical, spiritual, moral, and financial support.
- Provide rapid response and support in situations of public need, i.e. press conferences, raids, protests, etc.
- Call legislative representatives and government officials for action items
- Establish relationship with local city government and police departments

## Helpful Links:

- <http://imirj.org/faith-community-resources>
- <http://imirj.org/resources-for-sanctuary-supporters>
- <https://www.dhs.gov/news/2016/07/15/fact-sheet-frequently-asked-questions-existing-guidance-enforcement-actions-or>
- <http://www.groundswell-mvmt.org/sanctuary-101-how-churches-synagogues-are-stopping-deportations/>
- <http://www.adl.org/civil-rights/immigration/c/immigration-myths-and-facts.html>