

Mission and Vision Leadership Motion 2

Mission and Vision Leadership recommends the Presbytery of San Francisco affirm the following:

San Francisco Presbytery Sanctuary an act of faith

Leviticus 19:33-34 *“When a foreigner resides among you in your land, do not mistreat them. 34 The foreigner residing among you must be treated as your native-born. Love them as yourself, for you were foreigners in Egypt. I am the Lord your God.”* The Presbytery of San Francisco commits, as an act of faith, to be a Sanctuary for the most vulnerable families and individuals living in our congregations and communities.

(The 222nd General Assembly (2016)) Throughout the biblical narrative, God calls us to welcome the stranger. In Exodus 22:21, God declared that the people do not oppress immigrants because they themselves were once strangers in a strange land. After the Judeans returned from exile, they expelled foreign wives and children (Ezra 10:10–11), contrary to God’s call through the prophet Isaiah to welcome all people to God’s house (Isa. 56:7). After Jesus was born, his family fled to Egypt because King Herod was persecuting young Israelite children (Mt. 2:13–14). During Jesus’ ministry, he welcomed and healed people who were estranged from Jewish society, such as the Samaritan woman, a Roman centurion, lepers, and paralytics. Jesus declares that loving our neighbor follows loving God with our whole selves (Mk. 12:30–31). He then calls us in his parable of the sheep and the goats to welcome the stranger just as we would welcome him (Mt. 25:36). Sanctuary, **providing immigrants shelter from deportation**, is an act of faith founded upon the call of the biblical witness.

The San Francisco Presbytery recognizes that **offering sanctuary is one way in which Presbyterians and Christians in general are living out the Gospel** call to love our neighbor and welcome the stranger, including but not limited to:

- Supporting and protecting our immigrant congregations physical, emotional and spiritually.
- Creating special funding for legal assistance if needed.
- Providing legal assistance and written resources as needed.
- Advocating to end family detention.
- Creating visitation programs for detained immigrants.
- Advocating and organizing to stop the criminalization of immigrants and
- Ending the collaboration of local police with Immigration and Customs Enforcement.
- Supporting and engaging with **immigrant-led congregations and organizations**.
- and advocating and organizing for humanitarian, just immigration policies on the **local, state, and federal levels**.

What can we do now?

1. Find ways to support immigrant congregations in our presbytery by accompanying them in person (visiting their worship services, leadership meetings, activities, etc.)
2. Encourage our pastors and other leaders to attend the public events that are being organized to support immigrant communities (demonstrations, press conferences, other).
3. Elaborate and present/submit a proposal to declare our San Francisco Presbytery as **sanctuary** (MVL-Presbytery, May meeting)
4. Organize meetings to invite churches, families, individuals who want to put sanctuary into practice.