

WALKING TOGETHER

Washington National Cathedral Sanctuary Ministry
Strategic Plan 2021 – 2024

*If you want to walk fast, walk alone.
If you want to walk far, walk with others.*

African Proverb

VISION

We envision a world in which every immigrant is welcome in our church, society and nation so that we carry out Jesus's words: *I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me* (Mt. 25:35).

MISSION

We will walk together as members of the Beloved Community in prayer, relationship building, advocacy, education and service.

PRAYER: Our Ministry will ground its work in regular prayer for and with refugees, migrants, asylum seekers and those at risk of profiling, detention and deportation. In English, Spanish, French and other immigrant languages, we will:

- Worship in parishes of the Episcopal Diocese of Washington, especially those with large immigrant populations.
- Celebrate the Holy Eucharist annually to commemorate Oscar Romero and other Church leaders for social justice.
- Hold prayerful gatherings, beginning and closing our meetings in prayer and lifting up particular needs of those in attendance. Our daily Ministry prayer group will gather Monday through Friday to pray for immigrants, this Ministry and the Church.

RELATIONSHIP BUILDING: Walking together, we will develop new relationships and strengthen existing ones with parishes and other communities that include substantial immigrant populations. We will:

- Reach out to our immigrant brothers and sisters with sensitivity, considering their cultural norms of social connection so that we might operate with understanding as a resource for them.
- Partner with Episcopal Diocese of Washington (EDOW) Deacons to create a conduit for conversation, sharing and empowering, which will lead to greater mutual understanding and action.
- Provide opportunities for small, kind acts that keep people engaged in helping their neighbor and engaged in our ministry, actions which foster outreach in a loving and personal way.
- Create opportunities for churches with immigrant populations to come together in celebration and fellowship.
- Grow the Ministry's membership and empower the leadership of its members to become a more vital and potent force in all aspects of ministry.

ADVOCACY: Our Ministry will advocate for immigrants and refugees with governments in D.C., Maryland and Virginia and with members of the U.S. Congress and executive agencies. In coordination with Episcopal Migration Ministries and the Episcopal Church Office of Government relations as well as with the Congregation Action Network, United we Dream and TPS Alliance, among others, we will:

- Promote: 1) a path to citizenship for currently undocumented immigrants residing in the United States; 2) humane policies on the U.S./Mexico border consistent with U.S. and international laws governing the asylum process; and 3) broader welcoming of refugees from nations around the world.
- Call for a re-imagined immigrant detention system that relies on humane means of maintaining contact with immigrants and minimizes the need for physical detention.
- Promote cash relief for workers whose immigration or other status has excluded them from federal cash relief payments including unemployment insurance. We will advocate with the DC Council for inclusion in the budget of such relief in coordination with the DC Excluded Worker Coalition.
- Support migrant-led groups to advocate local and regional authorities to break ties between local law enforcement and ICE.
- Coordinate with the Prince George's County (Maryland) State Attorney's Multicultural Commission to support broad representation including unrepresented communities in the Commission as it responds to its priorities of equality under the law.

EDUCATION: Our Ministry will serve as a resource in English, Spanish, French and other languages used by immigrants in the Washington, D.C. area by:

- Providing fact sheets on timely and specific issues of importance to immigrants and refugees and those who support them.
- Coordinate the compilation of listings of organizations and networks (nonprofit, faith-based and governmental) providing resources for immigrants or for churches in the diocese.
- Compile a listing of immigrants who are willing to tell their story and of Ministry members who will give briefings upon request on specific topics.
- Encouraging clergy, community engagement committees and Sunday school classes to include worship services and learning opportunities about immigrants as part of their annual programming.

SERVICE: We will walk together with immigrants in tangible acts of service and care for migrants, asylum seekers, and those in ICE detention. Our Ministry will:

- Welcome asylum seekers to our congregations and communities and help them adjust to living in their new surroundings in partnership with local parishes and with the Neighbor-to-Neighbor initiative of Episcopal Migration Ministries.
- Support with contributions and hands-on assistance the food distribution efforts of congregations serving immigrant communities. We will continue to support the Episcopal Diocese of Washington's Covid-19 Emergency Relief Fund for as long as needed.
- Support and assist the EDOW Missioners for Equity and Justice and Latino/Hispanic Ministries in their work on behalf of immigrant congregations in our diocese.

If you have come to help me you are wasting your time. If you have come because your liberation is bound up with mine, then let us work together.

Dr. Lilla Watson, Australian aboriginal activist