

A Statement on Sanctuary and Accompaniment and Our Commitment to our Immigrant Neighbors

In order to stand in solidarity with our immigrant neighbors Sojourn Mennonite Church adopted the following statement on sanctuary and accompaniment on August 27th, 2017.

Statement:

Given that Sojourn Mennonite Church is a community of faith, committed to following Christ's teaching by loving God – acting justly, loving mercy, and walking humbly with God (Micah 6), by loving people without precondition – in particular the weak, the hungry, and the stranger in our midst (Matthew 25), and by speaking the voice of peace – across the street and across the globe, we, the members of Sojourn Mennonite Church, affirm the following Statement:

From the 16th through the 20th centuries Anabaptists and Mennonites, fled religious persecution, wars, and economic oppression, and were welcomed and found safety and freedom in the United States, Canada, Catherine the Great's Russia, Paraguay, Mexico, and other places. The experience of refugee status and transnational migrations is found in our stories, songs, food ways, and Christian beliefs.

As a member congregation of Mennonite Church USA, Sojourn Mennonite Church is committed to following Christ by growing as a community of grace, joy and peace, so that God's healing and hope can flow through us to the world.

As a member congregation in Mountain State Mennonite Conference, Sojourn Mennonite is committed to pursuing God's dreams for reconciliation by the power of the Holy Spirit in the Way of Jesus Christ.

Since its founding, Sojourn Mennonite has been called by Christ to be inclusive, caring and peace minded, welcoming all who come our way regardless of age, gender, marital status, economic or social circumstances, race or ethnic background, sexual orientation, physical ability, faith tradition, or life situation.

Therefore, we build on these commitments as we walk today with refugees, migrants and those undocumented, Christian, Muslim, Jewish and those of other faiths, believers and non-believers, and affirm our commitment to be an immigrant welcoming community of faith and to be an Accompanying and a Sanctuary Church.