

**Plymouth Congregational Church – Minneapolis
Immigration Welcoming Working Group
June, 2021**

Purpose Statement

Live out our faith by caring for immigrants through education, advocacy, and service.

Goals*

Within:

- Build our individual understanding and capacity to honor and care for the sacred in immigrants.

Among:

- Broaden and deepen Plymouth's commitment to take action in support of immigrants and their communities.

Beyond:

- Embrace the power of collective action and create opportunities that transform the broader community culture to be more welcoming of immigrants.

**These categories are not mutually exclusive.*

Principles to Guide our Work

- Communicate consistently and in engaging ways to increase congregational commitment.
- Focus on multi-generational activities to encourage more participation.
- Link our hands, heads, and hearts to combine education, advocacy, and service.
- Work in partnership with organizations and entities within and beyond Plymouth to extend our impact.

Action Plan

Goal 1: Build our individual understanding of and capacity to honor and care for the sacred in immigrants. (Within)

1. Border Trip. Amplify experiences of 2020 trip; plan for winter/spring, 2022, trip, to include immersion experience for new group and volunteer opportunities for 2020 group as well as new group. Jane, Maureen, Nancy (on pause as of 8/30/21 due to covid and recent SCOTUS decision about Remain in Mexico policies).
2. Continue to sponsor and provide transportation to weekly immigration court. Sponsor a monthly vigil (date tbd). Jerry

Goal 2: Broaden and deepen Plymouth's commitment to take action in support of immigrants and their communities. (Among)

1. Offer Sunday forums, Spiritual Exploration sessions, and other educational opportunities regarding immigrant topics. Joan, Nancy, others?
2. Offer monthly "How You Can Support Immigrants" list of activities. John and Janine
3. Recruit IWWG members and volunteers. Liaise with other Plymouth groups. Mary Lou and Nancy
4. Develop a comprehensive communication plan targeting diverse, multi-generational groups within and beyond Plymouth. Ideas include reaching out to new members and existing fellowship groups as well as considering an 'action of the week' in the Friday newsletter. Need volunteers
5. Create a "This I Believe" type of communication relating to IWWG?
6. Consider organizing an immigration Sunday during the year where the sermon and programming promote immigrant needs and opportunities. Need volunteers

Goal 3: Embrace the power of collective action and create opportunities that transform the broader community culture to be more welcoming of immigrants. (Beyond)

1. Sponsor a refugee or asylum-seeking family working with MN Council of Churches or Basilica. Jerry, Karen, Judy, Erika, Joan, Barbara, Bill
2. Complete environmental scan to determine who/what organizations are working in this area and how Plymouth might engage or partner. Examples include Advocates for Human Rights, ICOM, etc. John, Deb, Tom
3. Build focused relationships with 1-2 organizations – connect with hands, heads, and hearts. Potential examples include the Christo Rey, Brooklyn Park Islamic Center, etc. John, Deb, Tom
4. Encourage ourselves and the broader Plymouth Community to take action in support of just, dignified treatment of immigrants by advocating for changes to local, state, and federal laws and programs. Support efforts of the Minnesota Sanctuary State Coalition to free local and state law enforcement personnel from the obligation to cooperate with ICE and CBP in enforcing civil immigration laws. Tom, Barbara
5. Coordinate the purchase of Café Justo coffee for Plymouth members and friends. Jerry; Barbara and Bill Read

Updated, 9/3/21