



Policy Factsheet

Sanctuary Church Insurance

Overview

A resolution passed at the 79th General Convention stated that the Church recommends that its institutions and congregations become places of welcome, refuge, healing, and other forms of material and pastoral support for those targeted for deportation due to immigration status or some perceived status or difference.

To support the Church's work, we have added Sanctuary Church endorsement coverage for churches that choose to become a sanctuary.

"This coverage allows us to fulfill a promise to be with some of our parishioners who are most at risk: those who are undocumented immigrants and in fear for their lives should they be deported. I am thrilled with this coverage, and at only \$100 per year it shows that Church Insurance has our back."

Mother Paula Jackson

Rector

Church of Our Savior/La Iglesia de Nuestro Salvador. Cincinnati, Ohio

What's Covered

Sanctuary Church endorsement offers coverage of up to \$100,000 at an annual cost of \$100. It covers:

- Necessary legal defense costs that may arise from operating as a sanctuary church;
- Normal and customary Church operations;
- Incidental pastoral counseling in support of providing sanctuary.

FAQs

Q: What should I do to prepare to become a sanctuary church?

A: Determine in advance who will be responsible for maintaining and cleaning the space being used.

Train staff and volunteers and make educational material available about the use of the church as a sanctuary.

Make sure that any guest knows that, although it is unusual, Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents could enter a sanctuary church.

Make certain that your property is a safe place to house guests and that those staying at the church understand any restrictions or hazards.

Consider the following questions:

- How many people can your facility hold safely?
- How will you provide security?
- Which rooms and buildings will guests be able to access?
- If there is a medical emergency, what procedures will you follow?
- Who will act as the communication liaison with local authorities?
- Do you have a restroom with a shower? Will you need to convert an area of the church for this purpose?
- Do locks work, and who will have access to the keys?

If there are children being housed as part of your sanctuary ministry, is the private area sufficiently child-proofed?

Are all staircases, sidewalks, and handrails in good repair?

Is the plumbing in good shape and able to handle increased use?

Are the hot water and heating/cooling systems operational and set at a safe threshold?

Q: *What isn't covered?*

A: Acts that are against the law are not covered by The Church Insurance Company's¹ General Liability policy.

Q: *What additional resources are available?*

A: The website sanctuarynotdeportation.org provides information about sanctuary coalitions and individual cases, as well as information about building a coalition, other toolkits, and written resources.