

One of the reasons so few people enter sanctuary is that there needs to be a consensus between the legal team, the advocates, and the person themselves that theirs is a winnable case. Sanctuary is not offered to every person at risk of deportation – only to those who are believed to have a strong case. There is no guarantee that any case will have a positive outcome, but to date, many sanctuary cases have been successful, in part because of the process by which cases are chosen. If at some point it becomes apparent that there will not be a satisfactory determination on their case, or if the person in sanctuary decides that being in sanctuary is no longer a viable or worthwhile option, there will need to be a careful and intentional conversation to decide when and how to end the stay.

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An offer of physical sanctuary is a way to fight individual cases, advocate to stop deportations, and keep families together. It is a powerful witness to justice and a concrete way in which to live out our faith. But it is a decision that requires thorough preparation and a clear discernment process by the host congregation, in close collaboration with local migrant rights organizations. It also requires great dedication on the part of any person entering as a sanctuary guest, since for them the experience is tantamount to house arrest: they cannot leave the campus of the church for any reason until their immigration case has been decided without risking arrest.

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<https://americanimmigrationcouncil.org/>

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sanctuary_movement

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sanctuary_city#New_York

Albany NY Mayor Kathy Sheehan stated that the city complies with federal law and cooperates with ICE, but she asserted that comments by national government officials show a failure "to understand what is happening in our cities and why a city like Albany would choose to label itself as a sanctuary city."

who put together the Sanctuary Faith Communities.doc?

Who are the Columbia County Sanctuary Movement?

The sanctuary movement is not the underground railroad.

We do not automatically have to accept someone as a sanctuary candidate.

Should a request come for sanctuary, who will contact us? Who at OCMM will be the contact person? How does the person who is contacting us decide who will be eligible for sanctuary? What is their expertise?

What are our criteria for accepting someone for sanctuary? What questions should be asked? What is the time frame for making a decision?

Who is their immigration lawyer?

What is their case?

Do they have a history of violence?