

# Sanctuary for All

The United Methodist Church has a historical legacy of being a spiritual and social sanctuary to the early Dutch refugees from Indonesia who faced discrimination and segregation, to Central American refugees seeking asylum today. Throughout the life of the church we have embodied this calling.



Through organizing, advocacy, service, and prayer, the ministries of St. Mark's build faith and power with vulnerable communities, by being a:

- **Sanctuary for LGBTQ** by becoming a Reconciling Congregation in 2006. By this proclamation, the congregation committed to education and advocacy around LGBTQ issues, and welcome all LGBTQ and gender-expansive folks into an inclusive faith community.
- **Sanctuary for the Homeless** through political advocacy with the city and county government and offering the following programs: Family Promise, Winter Sanctuary, Community Breakfast and Food Closet programs. There is currently also a group of people embarking on building a tiny home on our campus and support the building of homes in partnership with Habitat for Humanity.
- **Sanctuary for those seeking racial justice, healing, and transformation** by challenging the Sacramento community to think critically and ethically on these important issues of the time through the Moon Lectures and involvement in Sacramento ACT (Area Congregations Together), St. Mark's is supporting the Live Free advocacy for issues concerning minority communities.
- **Sanctuary for immigrants and refugees** seeking safety in the Sacramento Area. In partnership with PICO and Sacramento ACT, St. Mark's provides accompaniment, leadership development, faith nurture, and advocacy through exploration of becoming a Sanctuary Congregation, Legal Aid Workshops, and providing Rapid Response Observers.