

Community DACA Fund at Sojourn Board Governing Principles

In accordance with the “Statement on Sanctuary and Accompaniment” (see Appendix A), Sojourn Mennonite Church has approved a dedicated fund (Community DACA Fund at Sojourn) that will be used to meet the approved needs of DACA recipients. This fund was approved with the formation of a Discernment Board that would approve applications and disburse funds.

Article 1: Discernment Board Structure

Section 1.1: Board Membership

The Community DACA Fund at Sojourn (CDFS) Board will be comprised of at least 4 individuals and will include at least 2 representatives from the DACA community and at least 2 members of Sojourn Mennonite Church. Other members may include representatives from Front Range Community College (FRCC), Colorado State University, Poudre School District, other Interfaith Sanctuary and Accompaniment Churches (ISAAC), other faith communities, or community members. The Board will maintain a record of its membership, and, in the event of a Board member resigning from the Board for any reason, will replace that member in a voting process.

Section 1.2: Board Offices

The Board shall appoint 1 Chair to preside at all meetings of the Board. The Chair shall set meeting agendas and collect applications for organized review. The Board will also appoint a secretary on a permanent or rotating basis.

Article 2: Discernment Board Processes

Section 2.1: Board Meetings

The Board shall determine a meeting schedule (either virtual or in-person) for reviewing applications (see Appendix B) for funds. The Board shall maintain an open record of votes and meeting decisions that can be provided to community members, other faith communities, or Sojourn Mennonite upon request. In Board minutes, the names of applicants may be elided to protect vulnerable individuals.

Section 2.2: Board Decisions

At meetings or via electronic communication, the Board shall make a determination based on the application received to approve or deny funds. The Board will maintain a record of its membership and a record of all applications and decisions. All members of the Board will the same voting rights with no extra weight given to the vote of the Chair or any other member. Board decision shall require a two-thirds majority, which must include both representation from

the DACA community and representation from Sojourn Mennonite to ensure mutuality of decision-making. **Board members who know the applicant, based on their best judgement, will abstain from voting on applications.**

Section 2.3: Disbursal of Funds

Funds will be disbursed only to DACA recipients or DACA The Board's disbursal of funds will not exceed the amount available in the Community DACA Fund at Sojourn. Sojourn Mennonite will provide an account signatory who will disburse funds only in accordance with Board Decisions as outlined in Article 4 above. In the event of legislative changes to DACA (i.e. Congress passing something like a DREAM Act), the Board affirms that DACA-eligible persons are still a vulnerable group who can benefit from funds to assist with future application process requirements or school- and living-related expenses. If there are legislative changes, monies in the account will continue to be distributed to DACA-eligible people until the account is at a 0 balance. As the account holder, Sojourn will keep the Community DACA Fund at Sojourn monies separate from all other church accounts, will not use the money for any other purpose, and will not distribute it independently of Board approval.

Section 2.4: Financial Records and Accounting

In addition to the record of Board votes and decisions as outlined in Article 4 above, the Board will keep an exact accounting of the amount of each request, the amount of each disbursal approved, and the purposes for which the monies were requested. Sojourn Mennonite will keep an accounting of all donors and donation amounts and will distribute tax letters to all donors at the end of the fiscal year. Sojourn Mennonite will conduct a quarterly audit of the fund during the first year of its existence with the details of that audit available to any community member or donor upon request. In releasing audit details, Sojourn Mennonite reserves the right to elide the names of applicants to protect a vulnerable population.

Section 2.5: Board Member Removal

The Board shall have discretion to remove a Board member who miss more than 3 consecutive meetings without communication or cause, who consistently fails to communicate by phone or email to conduct Board business, or who is convicted of a felony. Removal must be conducted by a two-thirds majority vote, with the intent to remove provided in writing (electronic or paper) to all Board members at least 7 days ahead of the scheduled meeting.

Section 2.6: Board Dissolution

If either Sojourn Mennonite or the Board determines that the fund is no longer sustainable, effective, or necessary, the Board may be dissolved by a three-quarters majority Board vote . Prior to dissolution, the Board must disburse all monies in the Community DACA Fund at

Sojourn down to a 0 balance. If no applications for the funds exist, the Board may choose to distribute funds to a DACA scholarship or DACA-supporting organization.

Section 2.7: Amendments to Governing Principles

These Governing Principles may be amended at any time with a two-thirds majority Board vote at a scheduled meeting, provided all members of the Board are given the proposed amendments in writing (electronic or paper) at least 7 days ahead of the scheduled meeting. If Sojourn Mennonite wishes to propose any changes to Governing Principles, the Sojourn Mennonite Board representatives will bring forward Sojourn's proposed amendments which will still be subject to a two-thirds majority Board vote.

Appendix A

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 States 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.

Appendix B

Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) Support Fund Application

Name: _____

Email: _____

Proof of DACA Status:

Please Indicate Why You Are Applying for Funds:

Please Indicate the Amount You Are Requesting (USD): _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____