Clarification of the Resolution of Mount Zion Temple and Immigrant Justice from the 13 February 2018 Board Meeting

RESOLVED: Mount Zion Temple will continue to serve as a supporting congregation to those congregations currently housing individuals at risk of deportation. The Board will furthermore prepare to become a housing congregation, a designation to be triggered should one of the following contingencies be met:

1. The executive order titled Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) is permanently revoked, with Congress providing no legislation to protect this group of people resulting in Immigration and Custom Enforcement (ICE) detaining this population; or,

2. Changes to Temporary Protected Status (TPS) result in an increased number of individuals being deported.

The Senior Rabbi, Executive Director, and Temple President will monitor the above-contingencies and determine if the contingencies have occurred such as to commence housing an individual at risk of detention or deportation.

Preparedness

The Board recognizes that Mount Zion must become prepared to house on short notice those individuals affected by the above-mentioned government actions. Thus, the Board resolves to appoint a Task Force to immediately coordinate the following actions:

1. Prepare a living space at Mount Zion for one individual.
2. Organize a short list of volunteers to sustain a two-week period of housing.
3. Organize a short list of food providers to sustain a two-week period of housing.
4. Prepare an execute training for all relevant staff and volunteers.
5. Organize a longer list of volunteers and food providers.

Criteria for Who We House

Ultimately, this resolution is about the need for housing (which is currently low), and we will monitor the need in conjunction with ISAIAH and the Advocates for Human Rights to determine the need.

- The people already doing this work are Rabbi Spilker (senior rabbi), Deborah Moses (Tzedek Committee chair), and Vic Rosenthal (Tzedek Committee member)
- We will work with The Advocates for Human Rights to review of the Advocates' file. People responsible for this include the following:
- Rabbi Spilker (senior rabbi), Susan Robiner (board president), and Larry Solomon (executive director)

We will revisit this matter every year to determine if our higher level of preparedness is warranted. The process for this annual review will begin in the executive committee, who in turn will make a recommendation to the board, where the final decision will be made.

At the April 10, 2018 Board Meeting came this resolution:

Based on current need and the best allocation of resources to help people facing deportation, Mount Zion will not become a housing "sanctuary congregation" at this time. The decision keeps open the possibility that housing may be the right decision in the future. If warranted, the Tzedek Committee chair, in consultation with the Advocates for Human Rights and ISAIAH, can work with the President, Senior Rabbi, and Executive Director to bring a proposal back to the Board for a vote.