



Annandale UMC and Just Neighbors Initiative

March 2016

To further AUMC's mission of "Love God, Love Neighbor, and Serve the World", Annandale United Methodist Church is developing plans to partner with Just Neighbors, a nonprofit organization and mission of the United Methodist Church dedicated to serving and supporting the immigrant community of northern Virginia.

Just Neighbors' work helps to unite families that have been separated, to allow victims of domestic violence and other violent crimes to live in the U.S. safely and securely, and to obtain employment authorization for eligible immigrants so they can support themselves and their loved ones. Just Neighbors provides accurate, reliable information and services to immigrants, who are often exploited by unscrupulous legal practitioners. Since its founding, the organization has delivered much-needed legal services to more than 7,000 low-income immigrants from more than 115 countries. In 2013, Just Neighbors handled 1,162 cases, most of them residents of northern Virginia who immigrated from more than 65 countries.

In January, the AUMC Church Council approved a working group to begin formulating a covenant agreement with Just Neighbors for the renovation and use of the sanctuary space for its offices at the Heritage Campus of AUMC, 7901 Heritage Drive. An informational meeting was held for the congregation following the worship service on March 20. Current AUMC mission activities would continue at the Heritage Campus, including the Thursday food distribution program, the Wednesday tutoring program, and the children's clothes closet and the Fellowship Hall would continue to be available as a gathering space for AUMC groups and programs. Partnering with Just Neighbors is a great opportunity to advance our missional goal of providing mission outreach to our Hispanic and immigrant neighbors at the Heritage Campus.

Members and friends of AUMC are asked to keep this missional opportunity in your prayers. If you have questions or comments, you are invited to send them to a dedicated email address that will be checked regularly by AUMC staff and reviewed for response and followup by the leadership team. Please send questions and comments to HeritageDrive@annandale-umc.org.