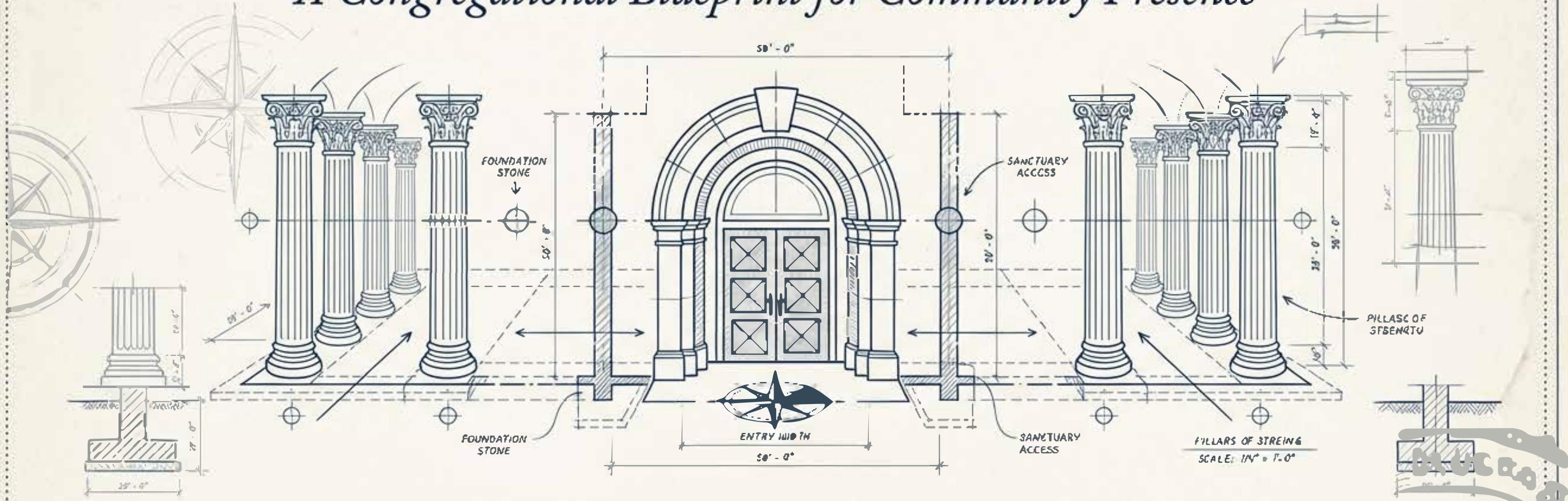


# Faithful, Prepared, Accountable

## *A Congregational Blueprint for Community Presence*

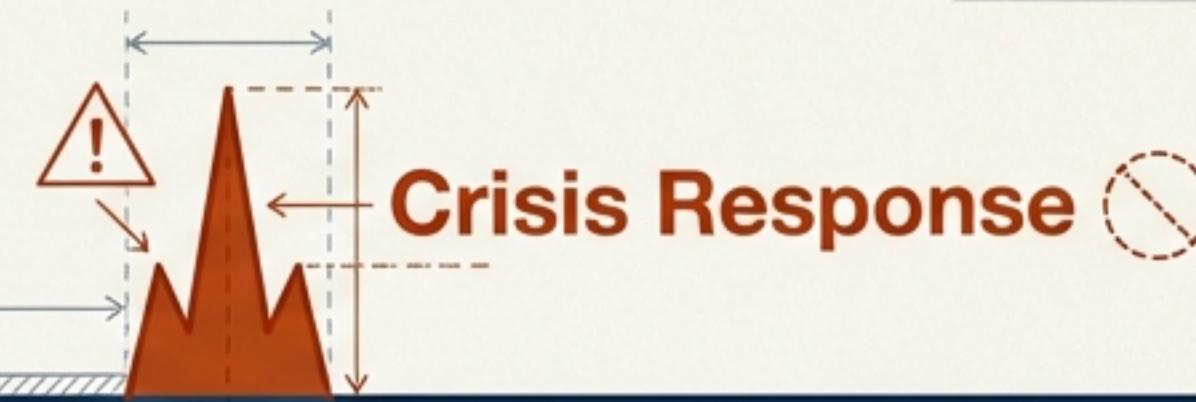


A guide to transforming good intentions into effective, non-anxious stewardship during times of uncertainty. This deck translates preparedness checklists into a strategic framework for congregational leaders, moving from reactive anxiety toward grounded, faithful action.

2026

Clergy Emergency League

This is long-term formation,  
not a short-term crisis response.



Relationship Building & Spiritual Formation

### Anti-Racism

We commit to humility  
and accompaniment as  
spiritual disciplines.

### Sustainability

We prioritize long-term  
relationship building over  
immediate optics.

### Specificity

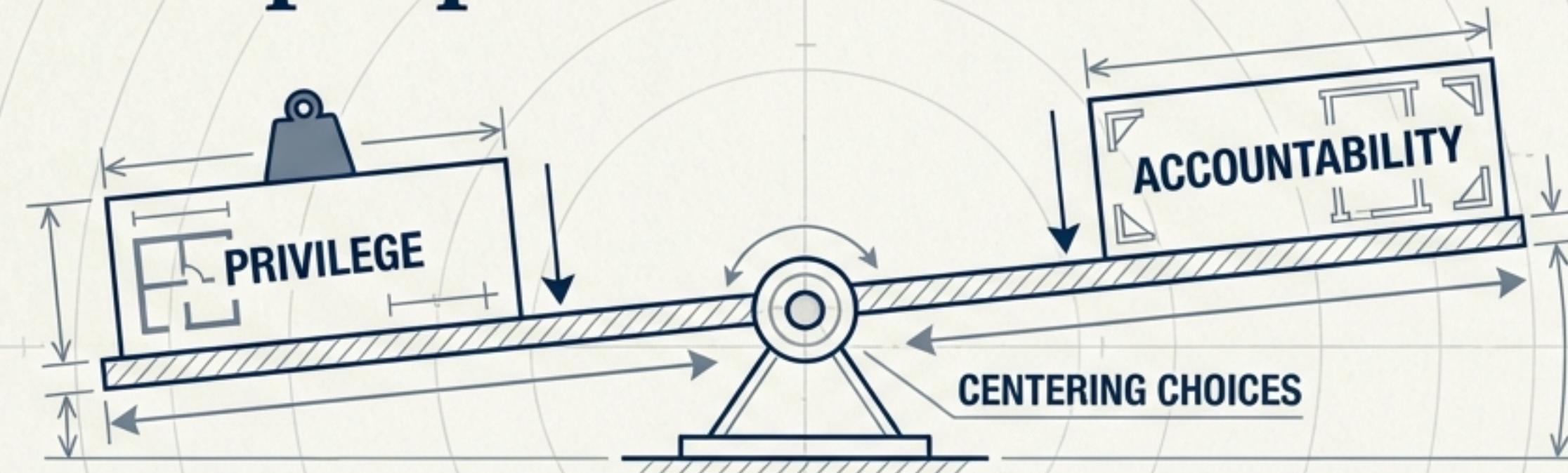
We acknowledge that  
not all congregations  
can do all actions.

# Grounding begins with discerning faith commitments, not seeking optics.

- Pray and reflect with leadership on the why.
- Frame accompaniment as discipleship, not charity.
- Teach the congregation that preparation is a form of spiritual protection.



# Check your power and center the choices of impacted people.



## Privilege

Name privilege honestly and use it strategically, never performatively.

## Agency

Center the choices of impacted people, even when you disagree with them.

## Visibility

Let immigrant communities decide when visibility is safe. Do not pressure anyone into visibility or arrest.



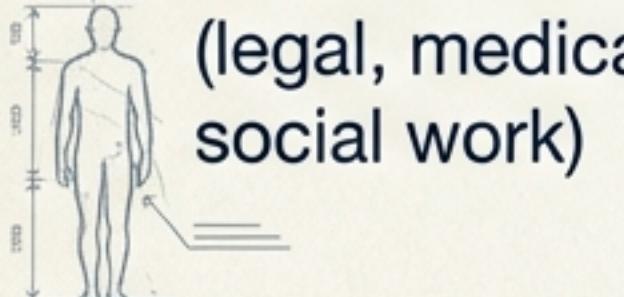
**Avoid the Savior Trap:** Avoid narratives that center the church as the hero. Gratitude is not owed to you. Be willing to step back as often as you step forward.



# Map your tangible assets against your hard limits.

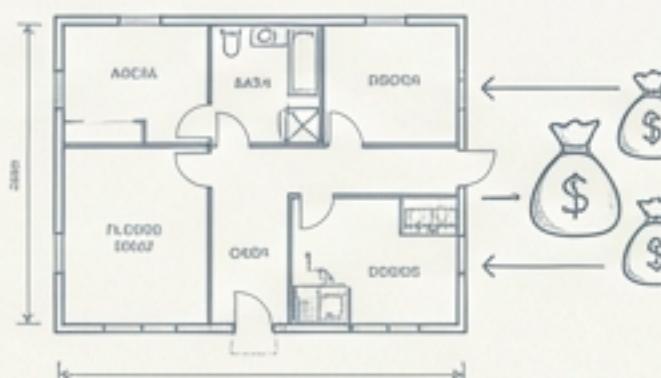
## PEOPLE

- ✿ Members with daytime availability
- ✿ Members with vehicles
- ✿ Language skills (specifically Spanish)
- ✿ Professional experience (legal, medical, social work)



## RESOURCES

- ✿ Discretionary/Emergency funds (fast-release)
- ✿ Physical space (childcare, storage)
- ✿ Technology (secure comms, printers)



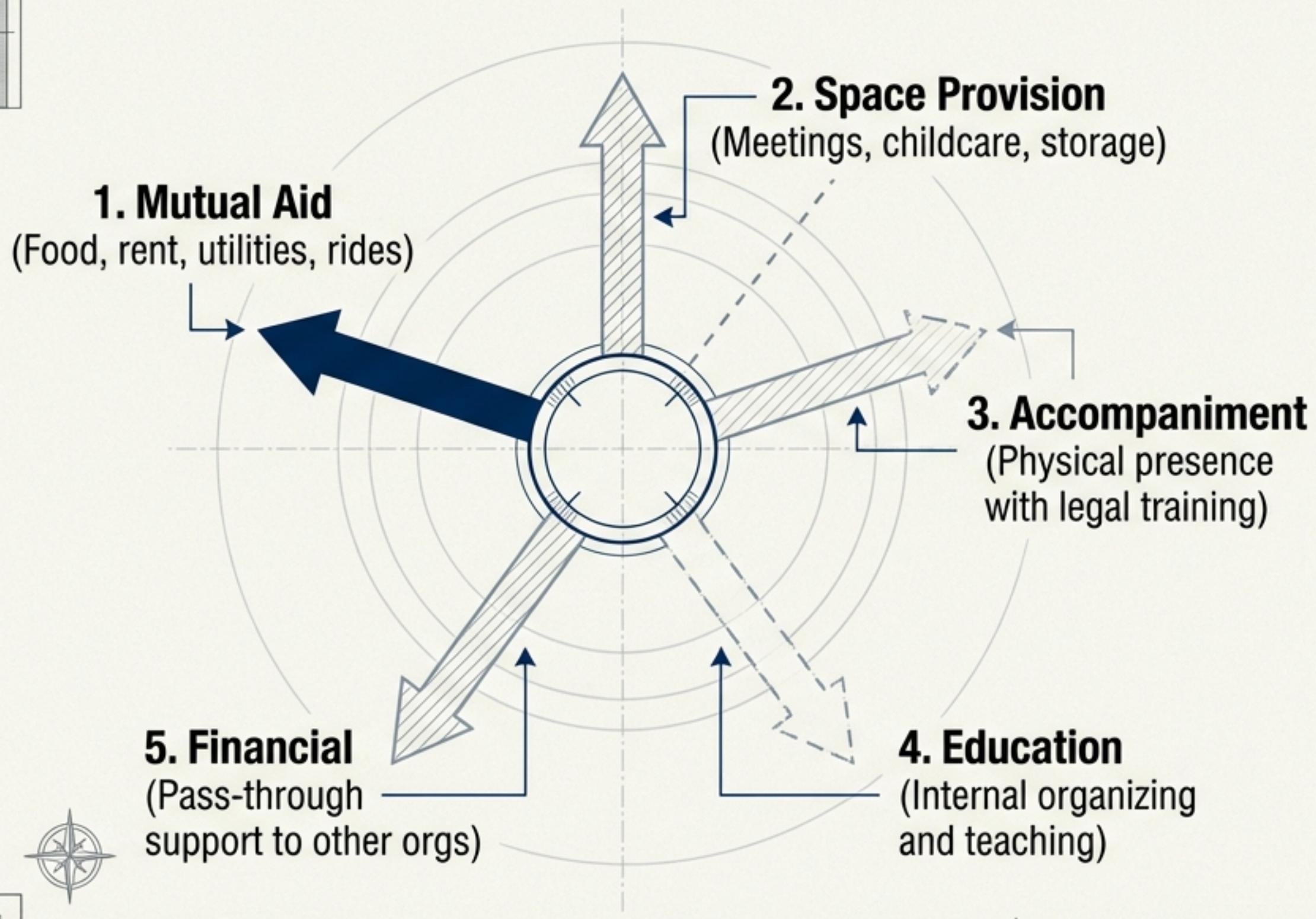
## LIMITS

- ⚠ What you CANNOT do safely
- ⚠ Individuals who should not be visible (e.g., undocumented members)
- ✖ Buildings that cannot be secured





# Discern ONE primary lane and say no to the rest.

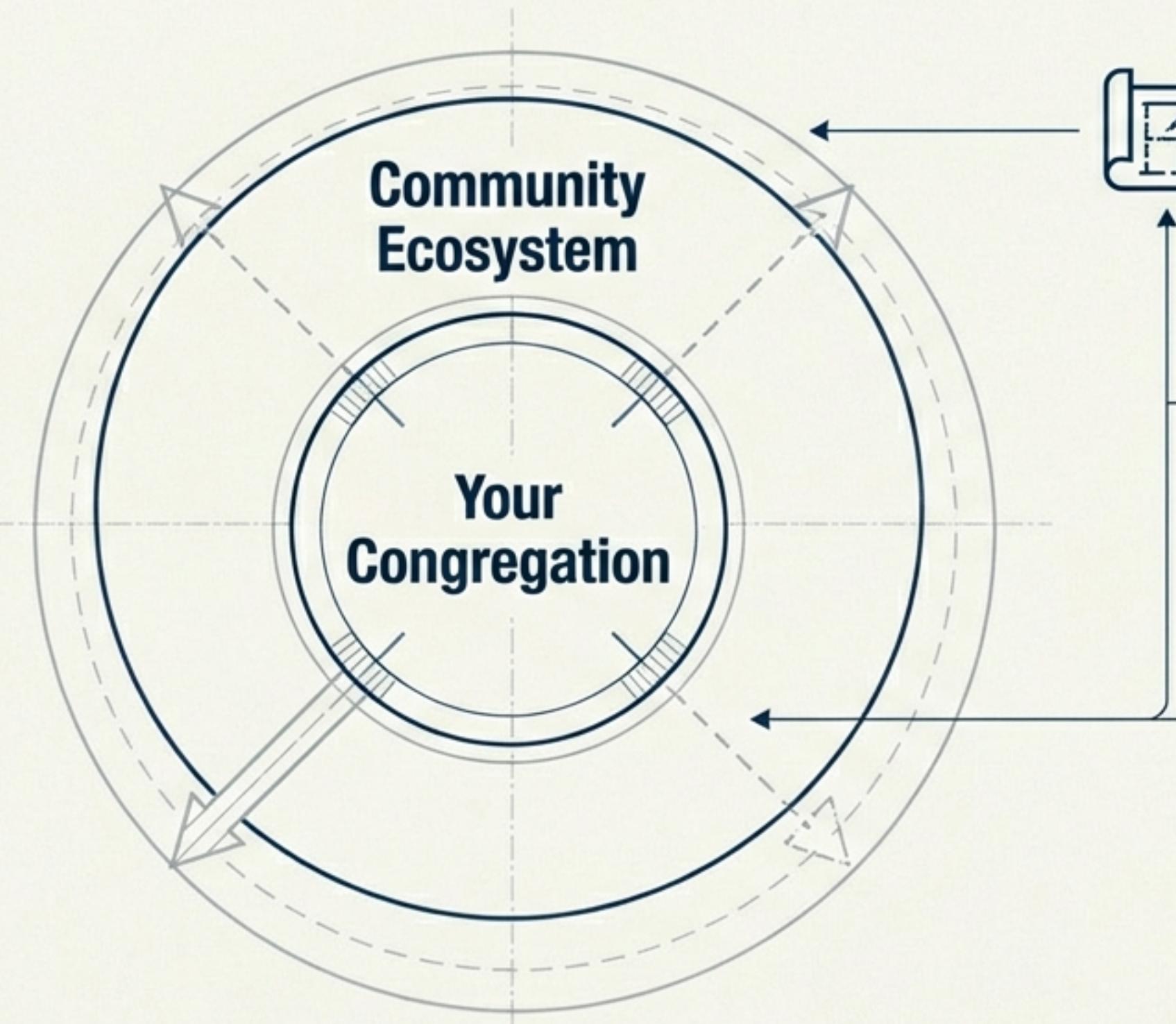


**Directive:** Once the lane is chosen, clearly communicate it to members. Say 'no' to requests that fall outside this lane to prevent burnout.





# Earn trust through listening meetings, not strategy sessions.



**The Protocol:** Identify immigrant-led or POC-led organizations (schools, food shelves, community groups).

## The Questions to Ask:

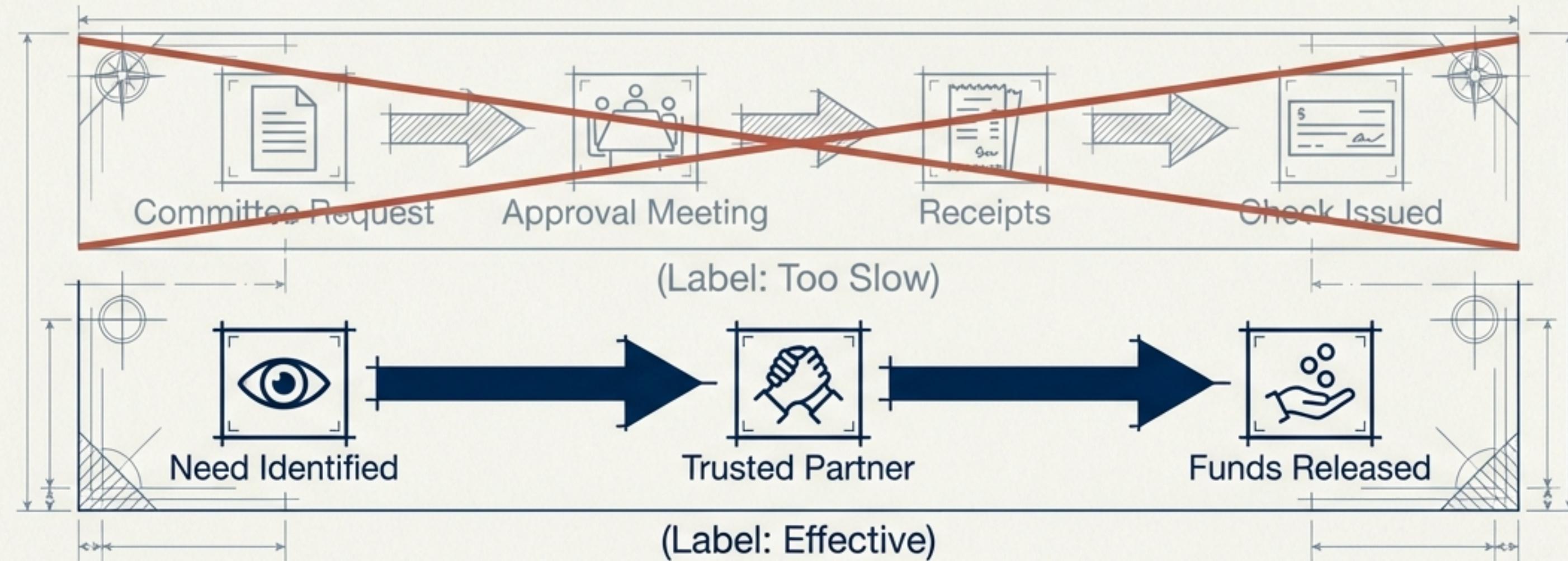
1. What support is helpful?
2. What actions are harmful or unwanted?

## Engagement Rule:

Maintain these relationships even when no crisis is visible.  
Do not treat partners as emergency contacts only.



# Financial readiness requires speed and trust over documentation.



- 📐 - Prepare leadership to release funds quickly (bypass long committee approvals).
- 📐 - Reduce unnecessary documentation requirements for recipients.
- 📐 - Trust relationships over excessive vetting.
- 📐 - Prioritize giving money through trusted organizers rather than administering it all yourself.



# Move coordination off open channels before urgency hits.



**PROHIBITED:**  
Open Channels



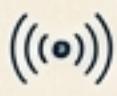
**SECURE  
PLATFORMS**



**Platform:** Move sensitive coordination to secure platforms like Signal.



**Data:** Avoid storing sensitive personal data in shared documents (e.g., Google Drive).



**Habit:** Use hyper-local communication when possible.

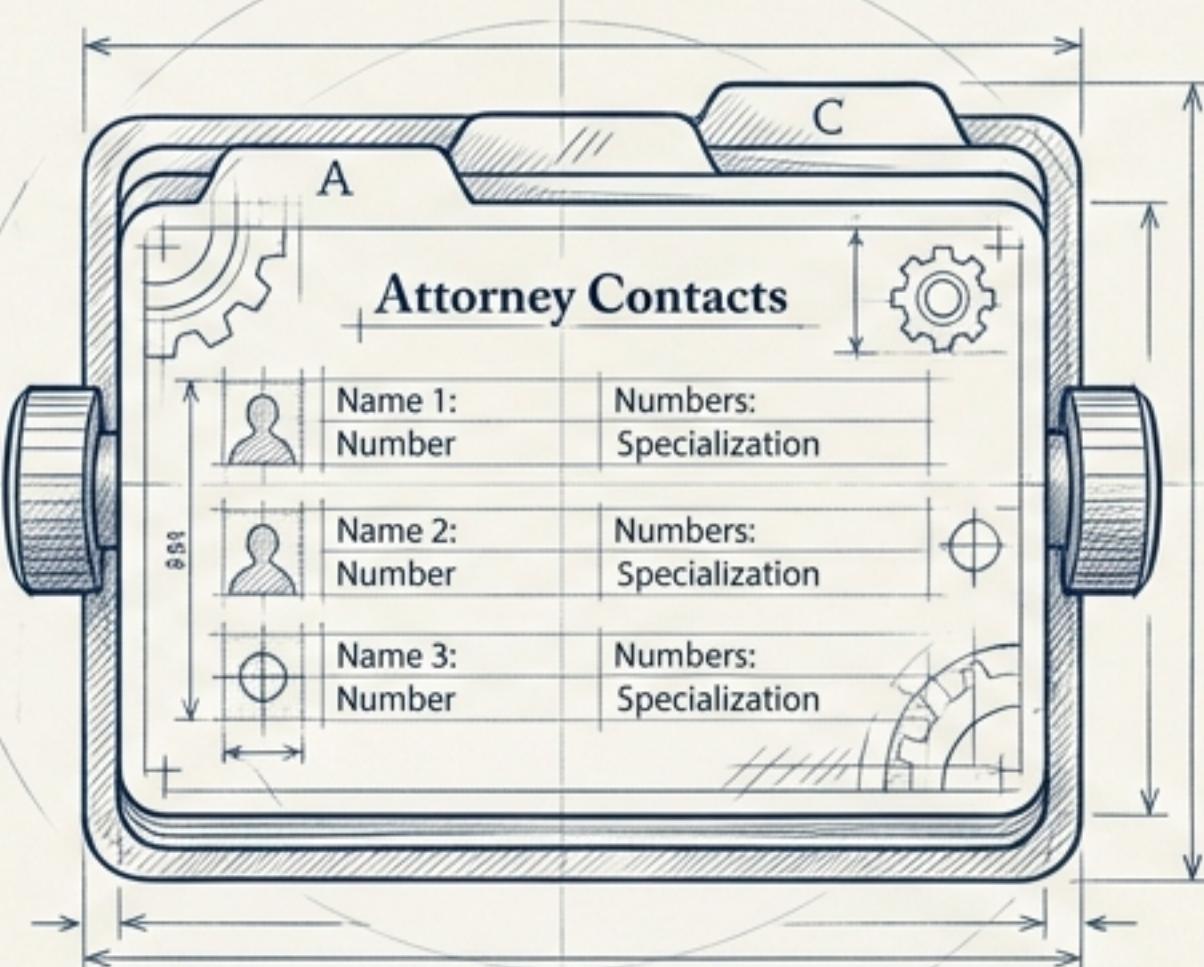


**Train members on these tools NOW. Trying to download and learn Signal during an active crisis is too late.**

# Build the attorney pipeline and understand local legal realities.

## Preparation:

-  - Build relationships with local immigration attorneys now.
-  - Identify 1-2 contacts for rapid consultation.
-  - Keep legal guidance updated and shared securely.



## Reality Check:

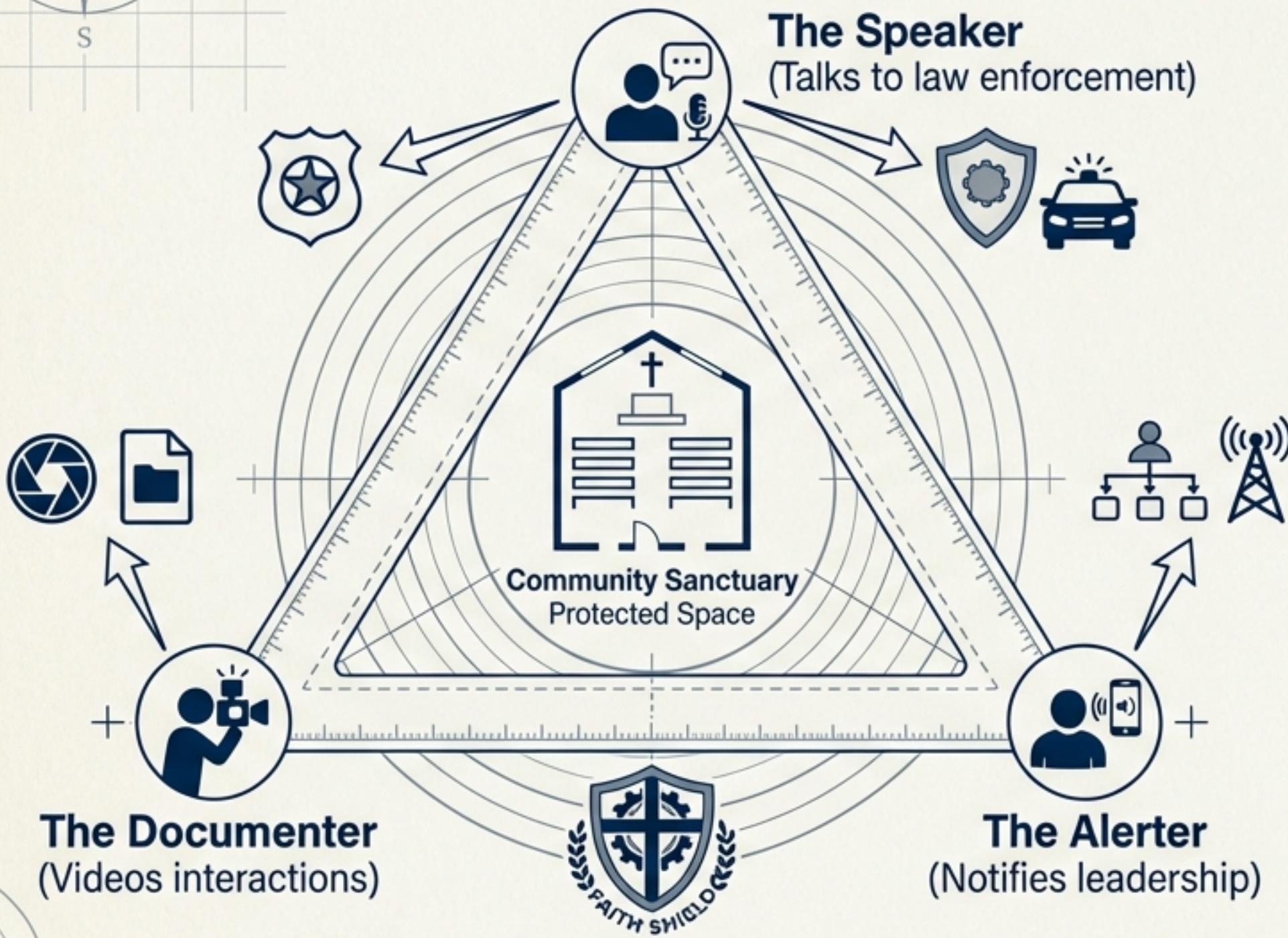
-  - Learn the local patterns. How does ICE behave here?
-  - What is the local law enforcement cooperation level?



**Hard Truth: Do not assume private property will be respected by enforcement agents.**



# A trained, non-anxious response team protects the community.



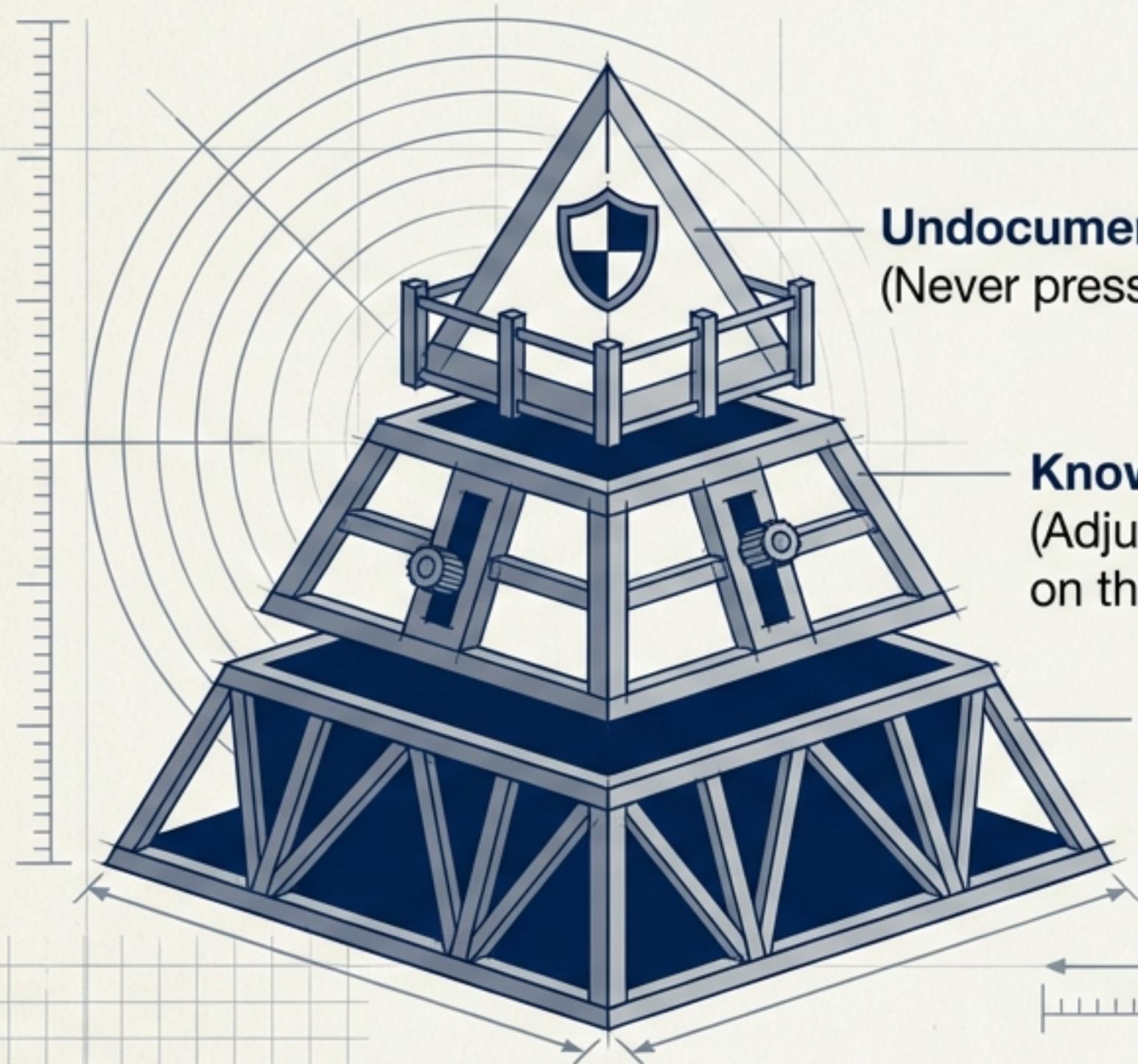
## Team Structure:

- Identify a small team.  
Not everyone engages.

## Training Requirements:

- How to recognize valid vs. invalid warrants.
- How to video interactions safely.
- Knowing when NOT to engage.
- Maintaining a “non-anxious presence” to de-escalate.

# Normalize changing capacity and daily risk assessment.



**Undocumented Members**  
(Never pressured into visibility)

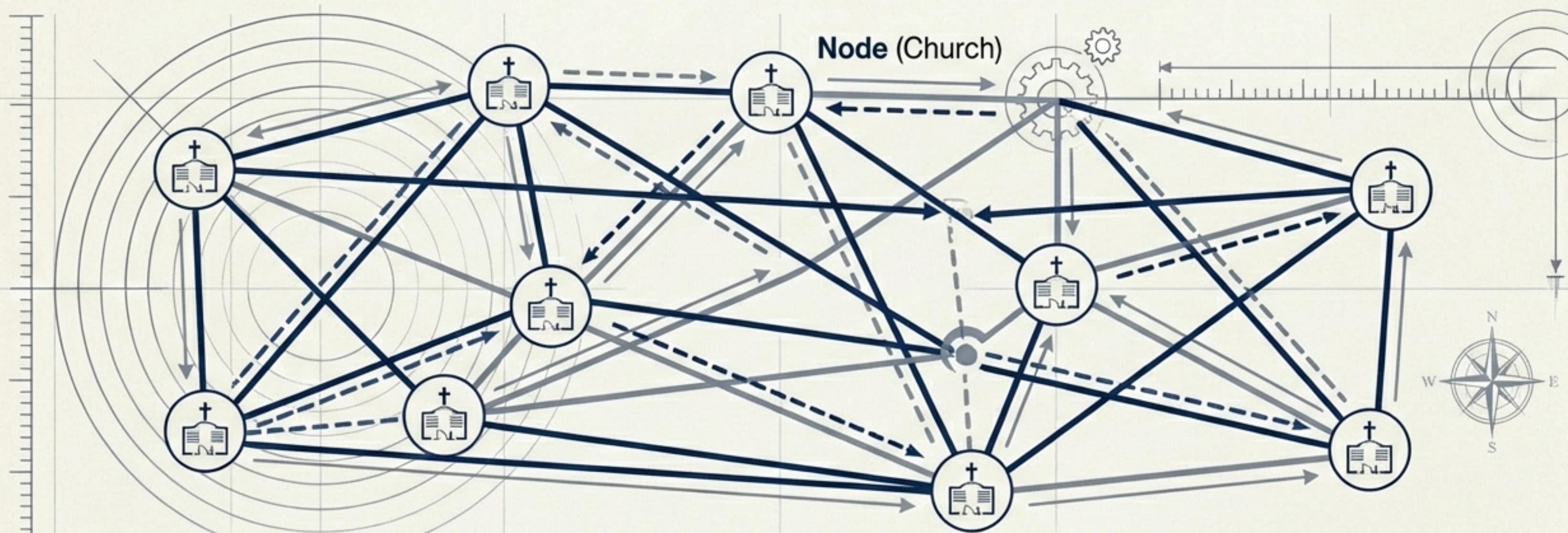
**Known Leaders**  
(Adjust profile based  
on threats)

**Citizens**  
(Leverage privilege  
to buffer risk)

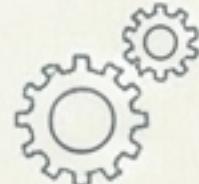


**Rule:**  
“No” is a complete  
sentence. If a member’s  
capacity drops, accept  
it without judgment.

# Coordinate regionally to avoid isolation and duplication.



**Network:** Coordinate through presbyteries, synods, dioceses, or interfaith groups.



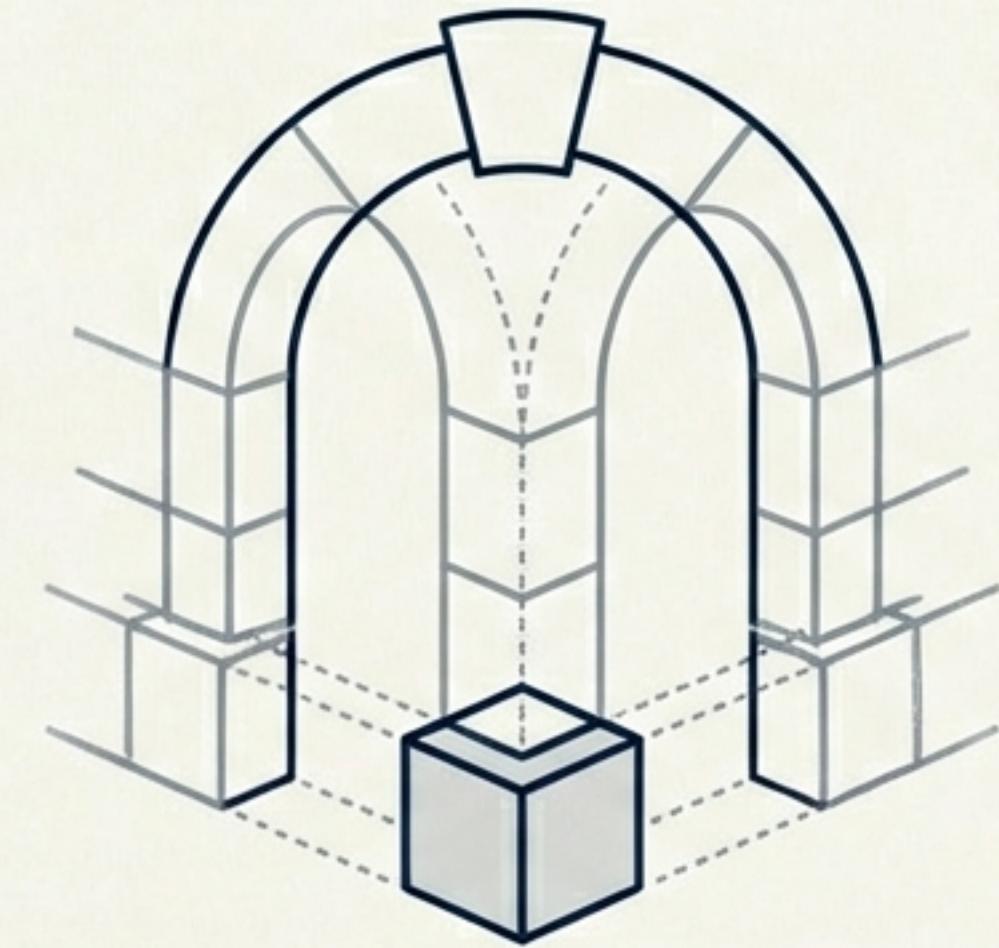
**Efficiency:** Share resources without centralizing sensitive information.



**Goal:** Avoid duplicating existing community efforts. If a neighbor church handles food, you handle childcare.

# The “Do No Harm” Protocol

- ✗ Do not assume trust; it must be earned.
- ✗ Do not create “savior narratives” or seek publicity.
- ✗ Do not pressure anyone into visibility.
- ✗ Do not store sensitive data on open shared drives.
- ✗ Do not duplicate what immigrant-led groups are already doing.



# You are not called to do everything.

You are called to be faithful, prepared, and accountable.  
The work is collective—and it is holy.