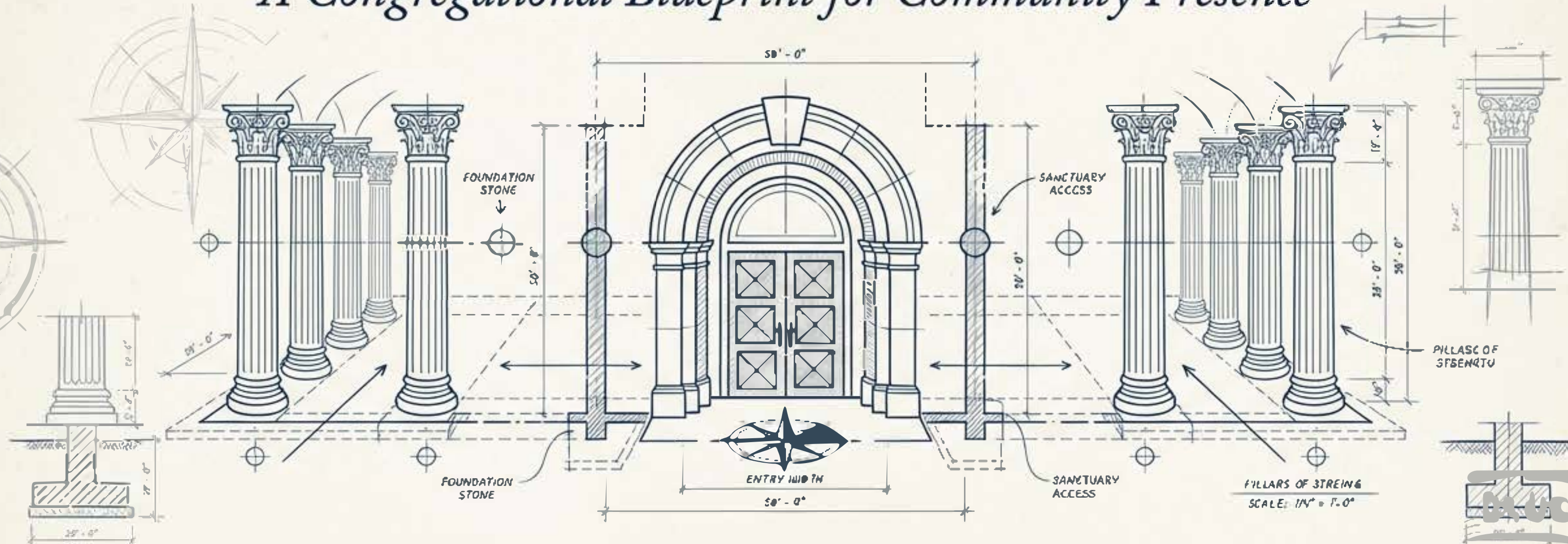


Faithful, Prepared, Accountable

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.

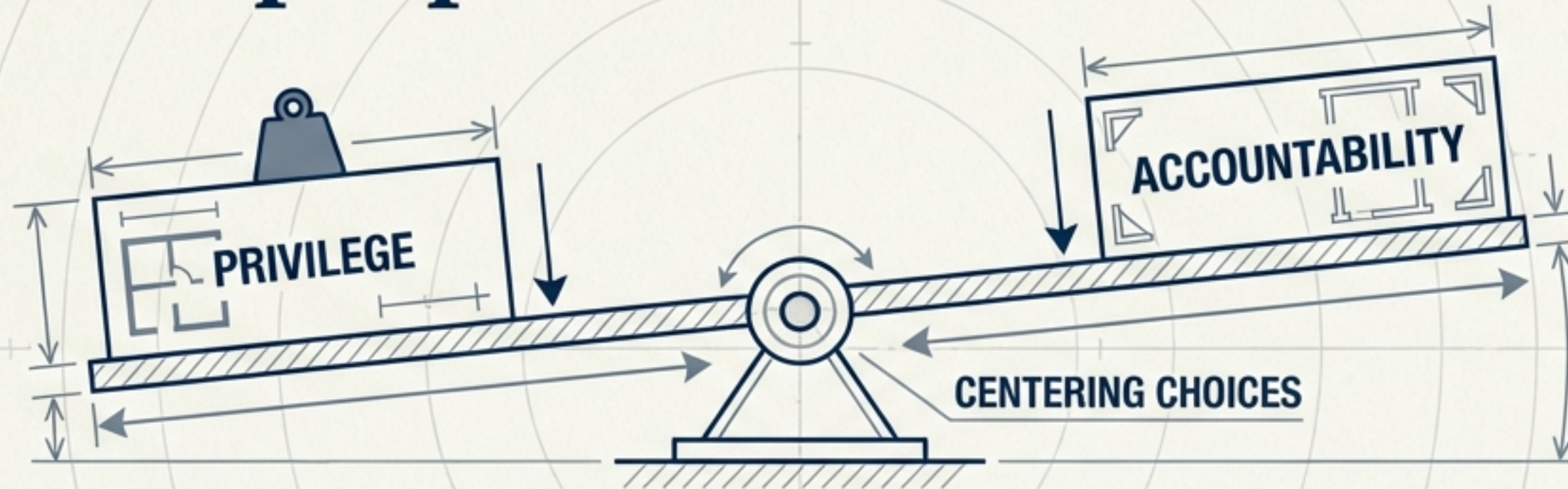
Grounding begins with discerning faith commitments, not seeking optics.

- ✓ 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.



RED LINE: Do not assume trust. Recognize that churches must earn trust from vulnerable communities; it is not automatically granted.

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

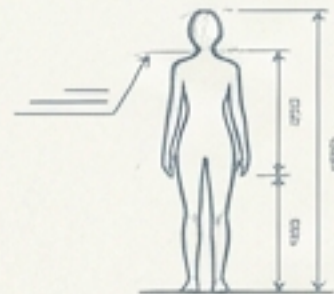
Let immigrant communities decide when visibility is safe. Do not pressure anyone into visibility or arrest.

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)

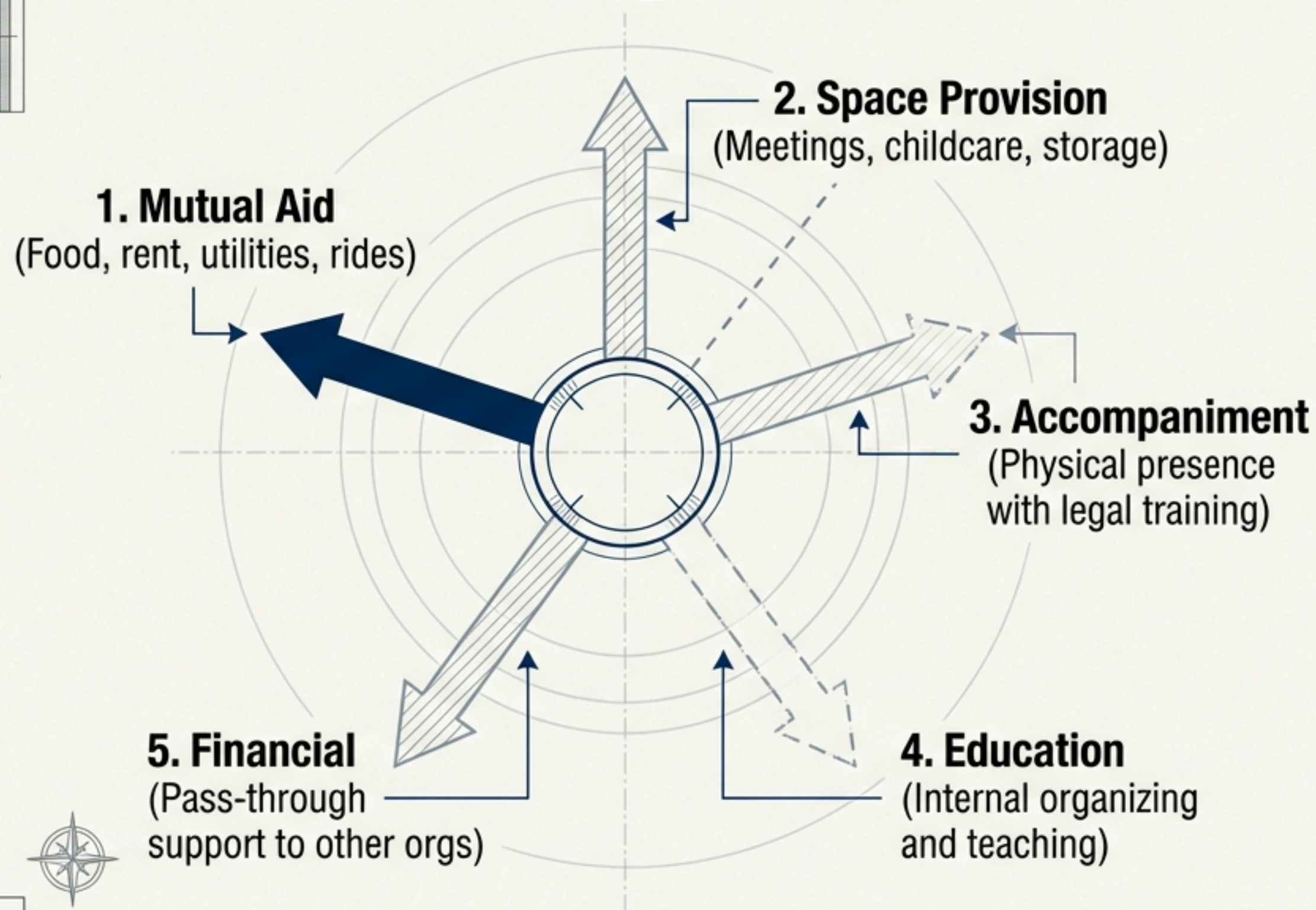


LIMITS

- ⚠️ 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:

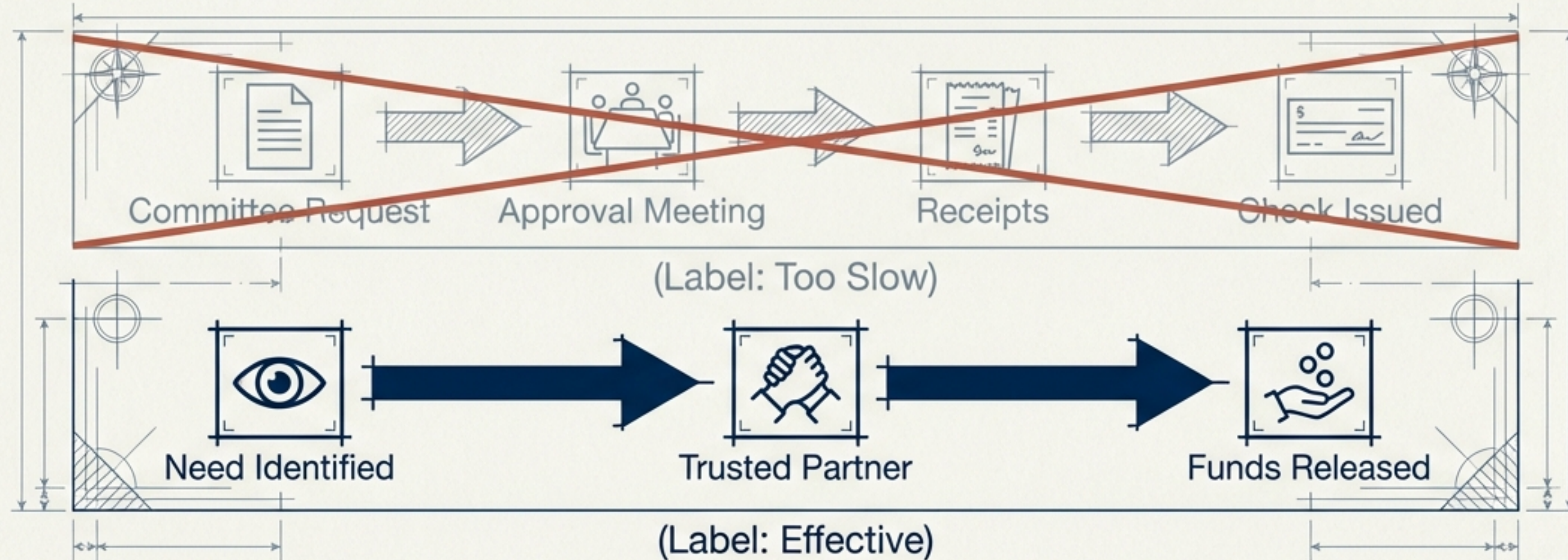
1. What support is helpful?
2. What actions are harmful or unwanted?





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



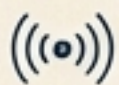
**SECURE
PLATFORMS**



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.

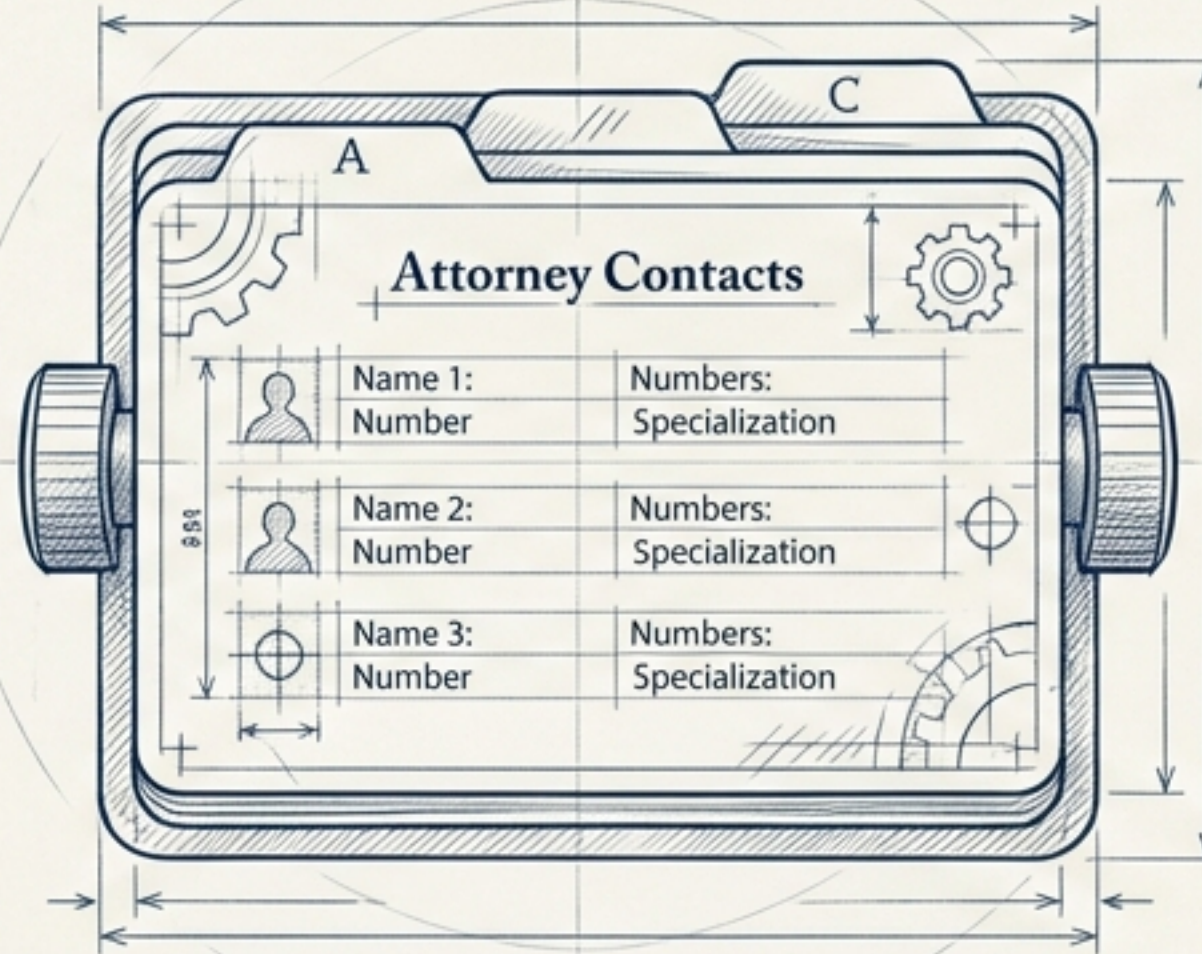


Train members on these tools NOW. Trying to download and learn Signal during an active crisis is too late.



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.



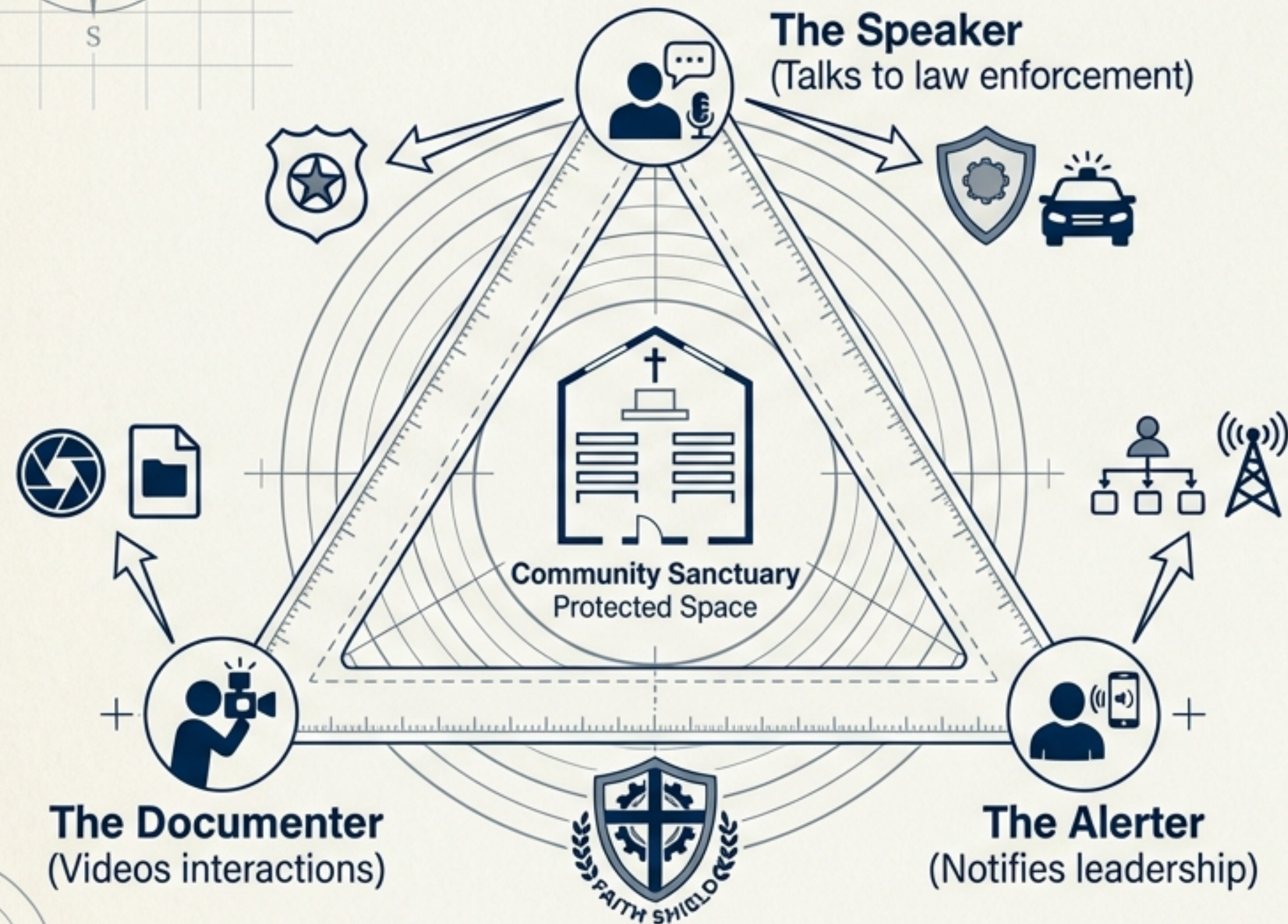
Reality Check:

-  - 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.



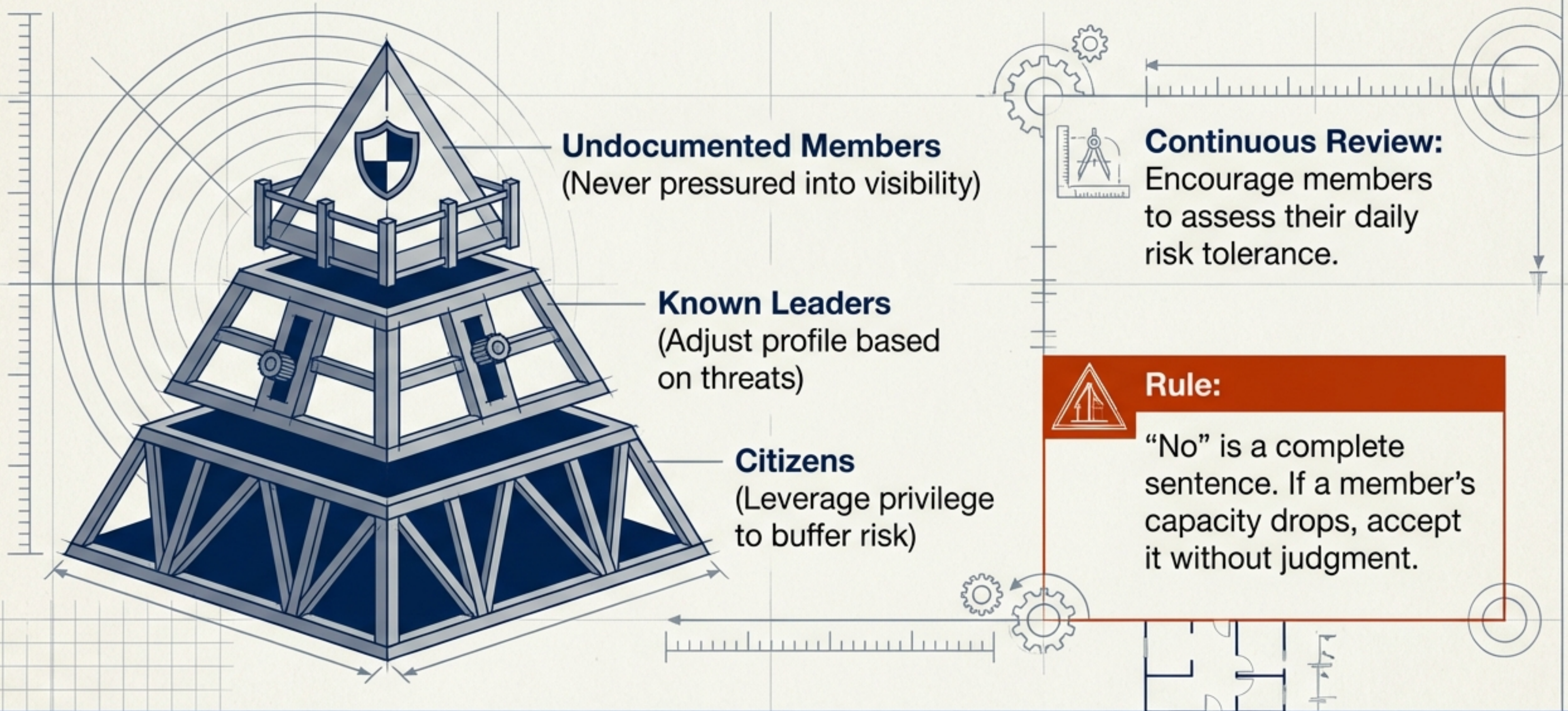
Team Structure:

-  - Identify a small team. Not everyone engages.

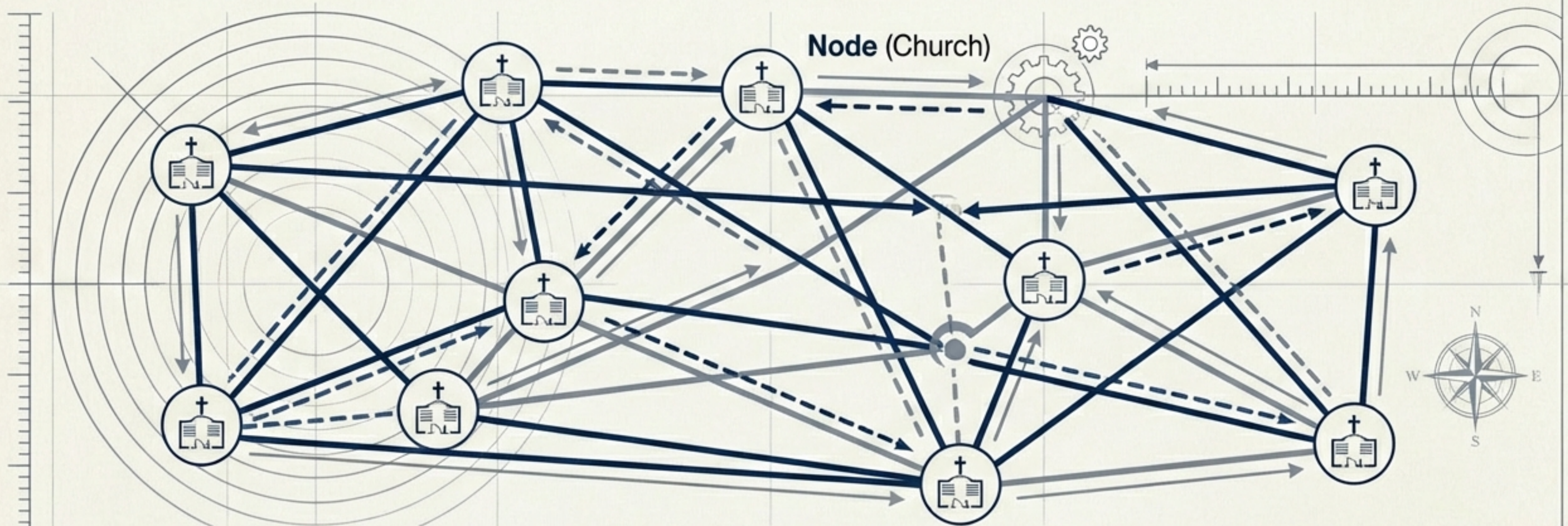
Training Requirements:

-  - 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.



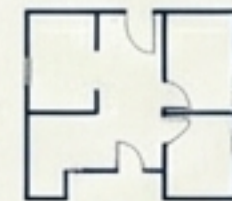
Coordinate regionally to avoid isolation and duplication.



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



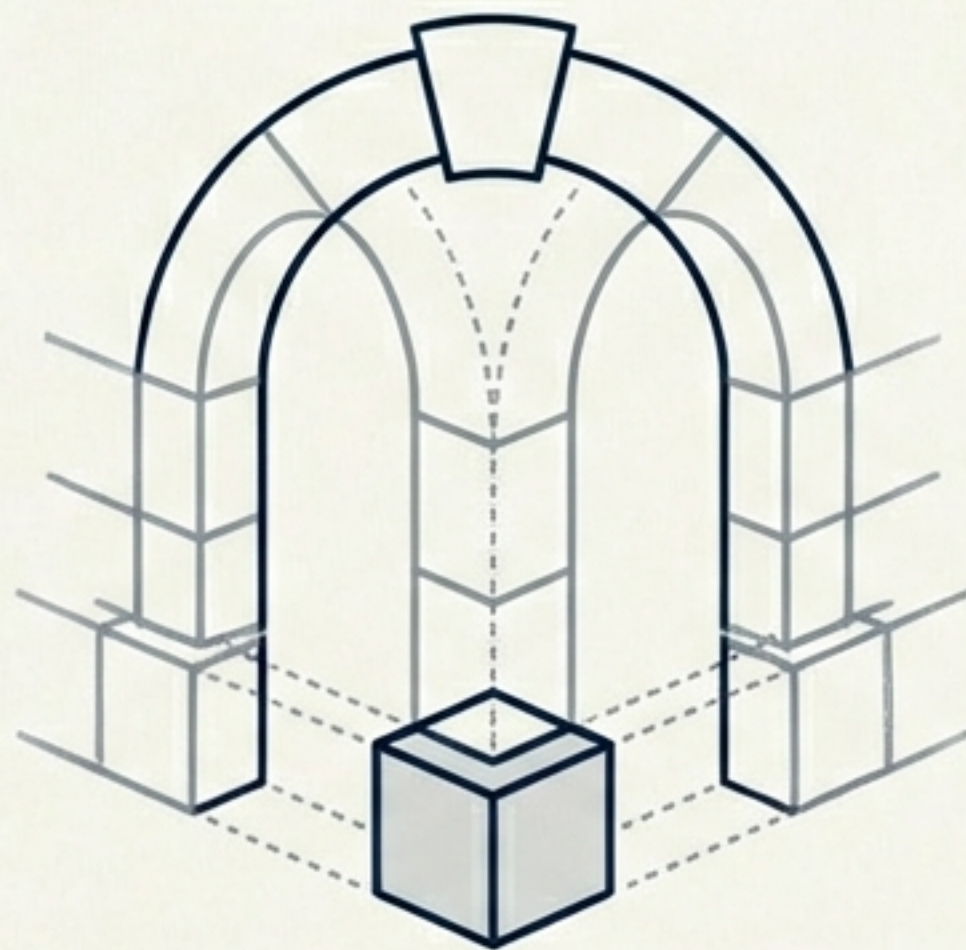
Efficiency: Share resources without centralizing sensitive information.



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.