

# **GUIDELINES FOR FULLY ENGAGING THE BELOVED COMMUNITY**

**Our values as a parish are seen in our Welcoming Statement and our Parish Mission Statement:**

## **You are Welcome!**

Reflecting the welcome that Jesus Christ offers to all, Christ the King Parish welcomes every person to full participation in our parish community. We believe that all are worthy of respect and love, because all are created in the image of God.

We strive to welcome into full participation in the Body of Christ persons of every age, race, cultural background, gender identity and expression, sexual orientation, physical and mental ability, social and economic situation, marital status, and faith background. We do not seek to erase our differences. Rather, we lovingly embrace the rich and unique dimensions within each of us; this is the wholeness of life.

Moving with as much graciousness and humility as we can, we journey together in a safe, positive and nurturing environment, beyond tolerance, toward mutual respect, in grateful celebration of God's creation.

## **Parish Mission**

We are Christ the King Parish, a richly diverse Christian Community in Northwest Detroit. We are on a journey of Discipleship with Jesus, seeking conversion, reconciliation and renewal. We reach out in welcome to all the people within our neighborhood, proclaiming the Good News of Christ the King, building community, celebrating together, serving one another's need and the needs of all our neighbors.

**In view of our welcoming statement and our mission statement, we propose the following guidelines for our parish:**

1. Take steps to demonstrate our values through actions.
2. Make sure the values of our welcoming statement are visible and audible through diversity in the art work and music that surround us. Honor our traditions and be open to new developments.
3. We are called to serve our parish neighborhoods. Take steps to be fully engaged in each of our distinct parish neighborhoods.
4. Make worship, parish meetings and events more accessible to all, taking into consideration transportation, child care, economic constraints, physical challenges and time constraints.
5. Encourage and facilitate the challenging conversations necessary to fully engage this congregation in understanding different perspectives.

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6. Cultivate and nurture leadership in our younger parishioners, encouraging fresh perspectives.
7. Utilize our periodic liturgy planning to maintain the tradition of a shared ministry at Christ the King. When appropriate the pulpit should be shared as a place of breaking open and witnessing to the Gospel out of our lived experience.
8. Plan and/or publicize events which would expose us to and help us learn about all the cultures in our parish.
9. Plan new ways of inclusive communication within our parish family, in order to reach out to and get input from all.
10. Take steps to regularly evaluate whether we are on course with these guidelines.