

# Introducing the Coalition of the Willing

## Working Together for Refugee Sponsorship

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### ***What is the coalition of the willing?***

It is a group of justice-minded congregations working together to sponsor two families from Liberia as refugees to Canada.

### ***Is Trinity, New Hamburg a part of it?***

Yes! Together with Trinity (Tavistock); Mount Zion (Waterloo); Trillium (Waterloo); Zion (Phillipsburg), Trinity (Hamilton) CLWR and a Buddhist peace group with work in Liberia.

### ***Why a coalition instead of one sponsoring congregation as we have done in the past?***

It is a lot for any single congregation to sponsor a refugee family. Some are not able to even consider it. But, working together we can achieve what none of us can do alone!

### ***Who are the families?***

There are 9 people – two fathers and 9 children including grandchildren. One of the fathers has been a church musician and choir director at the Lutheran Church in Liberia. The other is a former soldier who has been working with the Lutheran Church and other peace organizations after many years of war. They have had to flee the country because of threats to their lives due to their peace work. The children are no longer able to be in school.

### ***Where will they settle?***

Trinity (Hamilton) has taken on the legal responsibility with CLWR for the sponsorship and will welcome the families to Hamilton. The rest of us will raise money to meet the high costs that are needed (and required by the government) for a sponsorship of this many people. We will also provide in kind support to Trinity (Hamilton) as needed. And support them with prayer.

### ***Does Trinity church council know about this?***

Yes, the church council has approved this project but not as part of the church budget. Trinity will receive donations from individuals who want to contribute ***over and above regular offerings***. Cheques can be made out to Trinity Lutheran Church with a designation of “Refugee Sponsorship.” Charitable receipts will be available.

### ***Save the date!***

Watch for more information about the educational zoom on Tuesday, March 21<sup>st</sup> at 7:00 pm. It is open for members of all the participating churches who want to learn more about this project.

### ***What can I do?***

Give generously! Pray for these two families and all refugees! Enjoy working with Lutherans from other churches on a common project!

### ***More information?***

Stay alert for the Dove, upcoming emailers, or speak to Rick Ritz, Rebecca Larson, or Pastors Tanya or Leanne.

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