

General Convention of The Episcopal Church 2024 Archives' Research Report

Resolution No.: 2024-D037
Title: Encourage All Ministries of The Episcopal Church to Assess Intersections with Migration
Proposer: Culbreath, The Rev. Leeann
Topic: Immigration

Directly Related: (Attached)

None

Indirectly Related: (Available in the [Acts of Convention](#) database, searchable by resolution number)

2018-C009	Urge Church to Become a Sanctuary in Support of Immigrants
2015-D077	Urge Partnerships to Support Immigrant Families
2006-A017	Adopt the Principles of “The Alien Among You” as the Church Policy
1997-A129	Charge Dioceses and Provinces with Ministry to Migrant Farm Workers
1985-A137	Encourage Local Church Ministry to Migrant Workers
1982-A063	Encourage Relief for Refugees
1979-D124	Urge Congregations to Continue to Sponsor Refugee Resettlement

In preparing this report, the Archives researched the resolutions in the Acts of Convention database for the period 1973 through 2022, selecting “direct” resolutions that have a substantive bearing on the proposed legislation. The “direct” resolutions are attached and “indirect” resolutions are available in the Acts of Convention database. Committee members who require other research assistance should contact the Archives through the [Research Request Form](#).

D037 - Encourage All Ministries of The Episcopal Church to Assess Intersections with Migration

Final Status: Not Yet Finalized

Proposed by: Culbreath, The Rev. Leeann

Endorsed by: Day-Strehlow, Ms. Janet, Wiley, Mr. James

Has Budget Implications: No

Cost:

Amends C&C or Rules of Order: No

Requests New Interim Body: No

Changes Mandate Of Existing Ib: No

Directs Dfms Staff: Yes

Directs Dioceses: Yes

Directs Executive Council: Yes

HiA: HB

Legislative Committee Currently Assigned: 06 - Social Justice & International Policy

Completion Status: Incomplete

Latest House Action: N/A

Supporting Documents: Yes

Resolution Text

Resolved, the House of _____ concurring,

That the 81st General Convention acknowledge that immigrants are part of every community and congregation; and be it further

Resolved, That the General Convention acknowledge that immigration and the lives of immigrants are intimately linked with diverse phenomena that are the focus of Ministries of The Episcopal Church, including but not limited to creation care, racial justice, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, economic justice, healthcare, social justice, and evangelism; and be it further

Resolved, That the General Convention encourage all Ministries and organizations of The Episcopal Church, including local, diocesan, provincial, and churchwide ministries and seminaries, to assess how issues of migration intersect with these ministries, using a survey developed by Episcopal Migration Ministries; and be it further

Resolved, That the General Convention request participating ministries to forward completed surveys to The Executive Council Joint Standing Committee on Mission Within the Episcopal Church to review and to report data to Episcopal Migration Ministries.

Explanation

- Immigrants are part of all communities, whether they be defined by geography, ancestry, socioeconomic status, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, language, or other characteristics.
- Episcopal Migration Ministries is currently located in The Episcopal Church's structure as a "Mission Beyond the Episcopal Church" and the Church lacks comprehensive data and a holistic approach for migration-related ministries, immigrant communities, and migration-related opportunities and challenges already existing within the Church.
- Increasing numbers of people around the world live as "forced migrants" or "forcibly displaced persons": at the end of 2022, 108.4 million people had been compelled to flee from their home countries or regions as a result of persecution, conflict, violence, human rights violations or events seriously disturbing the public order, compared with 89.3 million at the end of 2021.[1]
- Forced migrants seeking safety in the United States are overwhelmingly people of color. In federal year 2022 (the most recent year for which data are available) approximately 54% of refugees admitted to the U.S. were from Africa, 37% were from Asia, 10% were from Latin American or the Caribbean, and 9% were from Europe or Central Asia. In that same year the countries of origin of people granted asylum were from the following countries, in rank order: P.R. China, Venezuela, El Salvador, Guatemala, India, Honduras, Afghanistan, Turkey, Russia, and Mexico, with a remaining 39.5% from countries not listed.[2] In 2021, Undocumented immigrants were most likely to be from Mexico and Central America (66%), Asia (11%), South America (9%), Europe/Canada/Oceania (7%), the Caribbean (4%), and Africa (3%).[3]
- "As climate change makes some parts of the earth uninhabitable, a climate migration crisis looms that international law is not prepared to address." [4] Climate change fuels forced migration in many ways: For example, by increasing the likelihood and frequency of natural disasters, increasing extreme poverty and conflict over dwindling resources, and exacerbating social tensions that can lead to scapegoating and warfare.[5]
- The Episcopal Church has repeatedly affirmed its call to aid migrants, regardless of their formal legal status, for example by recommending that Episcopal Church "institutions and congregations become places of welcome, refuge, healing, and other forms of material and pastoral support for those targeted for deportation due to immigration status..." (2018-C009).[6] A broad assessment of migration-related ministries, opportunities, and challenges within the Episcopal Church will help Episcopal Migration Ministries and all Ministries of the Church to more fully live out this call.
- Through the Christian Principles to Guide Responses to Human Migration (2018-C009) General Convention acknowledged the need to view and act on migration holistically rather than in isolation from other areas of concern. [7] For example:

- Principle #4: “We commit the church to learning and engaging migration issues as part of the Jesus Movement, sacredly holding the voices and leadership of migrants themselves and honoring their leadership in this process;
- Principle #5: “We will endeavor to learn and address root causes of migration and advocate for just solutions with Anglican/Episcopal, ecumenical, and interfaith partners.”
- Principle #6 highlights “the connection between U.S. policies, and the policies of other states, and the root drivers of migration, including climate change, armed conflict, and disruption of local economies through global trade policies.”
- Principle #12 states that “In the event that people are forced to migrate, we insist that our governments address the drivers holistically, without racial, ethnic, socioeconomic status, sexual orientation, gender identity, physical or mental ability, health status, or religious practice.”
- Principle #16 states that “We recognize that displacement due to climate change already happens and will increase.”

[1] Cf. United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees Global Trends Reports for 2021 (<https://www.unhcr.org/media/global-trends-report-2021>) and 2022 (<https://www.unhcr.org/global-trends-report-2022>).

[2]Gibson, Irene. (November 2023). Refugees and Asylees: 2022, Annual Flow Report. Office of Homeland Security Statistics, U.S. Department of Homeland Security. Pp. 2, 23. Accessed March 15, 2024: https://www.dhs.gov/sites/default/files/2024-02/2023_0818_plcy_refugees_and_asylees_fy2022_v2_0.pdf

[3] Van Hook, Jennifer, Julia Gelatt, and Ariel G. Ruiz Soto. (September 2023). A Turning Point for the Unauthorized Immigrant Population in the United States. Migration Policy Institute. Accessed March 15, 2024: <https://www.migrationpolicy.org/news/turning-point-us-unauthorized-immigrant-population>

[4] Prange, Mia. (December 19, 2022.) Climate Change Is Fueling Migration. Do Climate Migrants Have Legal Protections? Council on Foreign Relations. Accessed March 19, 2024: <https://www.cfr.org/in-brief/climate-change-fueling-migration-do-climate-migrants-have-legal-protections>

[5] IOM International Organization for Migration. (2008). Migration and Climate Change. IOM Migration Research Series No. 31. Accessed March 19, 2024: <https://publications.iom.int/books/mrs-no-31-migration-and-climate-change>

[6] 2018-C009: Urge Church to Become a Sanctuary in Support of Immigrants. Accessed February 27, 2024: https://episcopalarchives.org/cgi-bin/acts/acts_generate_pdf.pl?resolution=2018-C009

[7] 2018-D009: Set Forth Christian Principles to Guide Responses to Human Migration. Accessed February 27, 2024: https://episcopalarchives.org/cgi-bin/acts/acts_resolution.pl?resolution=2018-D009

Support Documents:

[Migration Policy Institute Article](#)

[Article on climate-related migration](#)

Note: this resolution and/or its explanation contains external references, such as URLs of websites, that may not be in the required languages of General Convention. Because of copyright restrictions, the General Convention cannot provide translations. However, your web browser may be able to provide a machine translation into another language. If you need assistance with this, please contact gc.support@episcopalchurch.org.