

**GENERAL CONVENTION OF THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH 2018
ARCHIVES' RESEARCH REPORT**

RESOLUTION NO.: 2018-C009
TITLE: Becoming A Sanctuary Church
PROPOSER: New Jersey
TOPIC: Immigration

Directly Related: (Attached)

2015-D048 Support Immigration Actions for Youth and Parents
2015-D057 Recommit to Giving Sanctuary to Immigrants
2015-D077 Urge Partnerships to Support Immigrant Families
2015-D079 Urge Church-Wide Assistance to Undocumented Persons
2012-D059 Halt Unjust Immigration Enforcement
2009-B006 Advocate for Immigration Reform
2006-A017 Adopt the Principles of “The Alien Among You” as the Church Policy
2000-A053 Adopt Migration Ministries Mission Statement
1994-D132 Reject Racism Toward Immigrants and Request the Church to Respond

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

2015-D074 Extend Temporary Protective Status to Immigrants Fleeing Abuse
2012-D067 Support the DREAM Act
1982-A063 Encourage Relief for Refugees

In preparing this report, the Archives researched the resolutions in the Acts of Convention database for the period 1976 through 2015, 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 at 800-525-9329 before Convention or at Convention in the General Convention Secretariat.

C009 Becoming A Sanctuary Church

Proposer	Diocese of New Jersey
Topic	Immigration
Endorsed by	
Sponsored by	
Page numbers	Blue Book: p. N/A; Constitution & Canons: p. N/A
HiA / Leg. Cttee	HB / 08 - Social Justice and United States Policy
Current Status	Resolution Filed
Version	Original (as filed)
Review Status	Not yet reviewed

RESOLUTION TEXT

- Resolved*, the House of _____ concurring, That the 79th General Convention of The Episcopal Church, in obedience to the many biblical injunctions imploring us not to wrong or oppress the alien in our midst and Jesus' own mandate to extend care for the stranger, and in accordance with our Baptismal Covenant and in the spirit of being inclusive, reaffirms resolution 2015-DO57 supporting the New Sanctuary Movement; and be it further
- Resolved*, That The Episcopal Church urge its members, as people of faith and people of conscience, pledge to challenge and question any unjust immigration law, policy, or practice that is inconsistent with our biblical mandate to "not wrong or oppress a resident alien" (Exodus 22:21); and be it further
- Resolved*, That The Episcopal Church recommend that its dioceses and congregations become places of sanctuary, serving as places of welcome, refuge, healing, and other forms of material and pastoral support for those targeted for deportation due to immigration status or some perceived status of difference, and that we work alongside our friends, families, and neighbors to ensure the dignity and human rights of all people; and be it further
- Resolved*, That The Episcopal Church encourage its members to connect with local and national sanctuary communities and institutions, immigrant rights groups and coalitions, and engage in educating, organizing, advocacy, and direct action, and other methods as deemed appropriate in each context, to ensure the safety and security of the undocumented community, and to assist in equipping congregations, clergy and lay leaders to engage in such work, appropriate to local contexts, capacity, and discernment.

EXPLANATION

As a people of faith committed to dismantling oppressive systems and building structures and communities that reflect God's compassion and justice, we must do nothing less than make straight a highway in the desert for our sisters and brothers. The bible has numerous injunctions that instruct us not to wrong or oppress the alien in our midst (Exodus 22:21 & 23:9, Leviticus 19:33, 23:22 & 24:22, Numbers 15:16, Deuteronomy 24:20-21 & 27:19, Jeremiah 7:6-7, Zechariah 7:10, and Malachi 3:5). Jesus is clear that the righteous inherit eternal life because "I was a stranger and you welcomed

me" (Matthew 25:35). He also makes clear that our failure to address his need results in the condemnation of the unrighteous because "I was a stranger and you did not welcome me" (Matthew 25:43). Our baptismal vows require us to "seek and serve Christ in all persons" and to "strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being" (Book of Common Prayer p. 305).

For many years, immigrants and their families have suffered on the margins of our society. They have been scapegoated during difficult economic times and victimized by harsh anti-immigrant sentiment.

In the aftermath of statements made during the presidential campaign of 2016, there is heightened concern that rhetoric villainizing immigrants will become policy that targets our siblings in the family of God because of their immigration status, political or religious beliefs.

This resolution puts our faith into action by standing with the growing number of cities, colleges, and communities of faith declaring themselves places of welcome, refuge, and healing, for those targeted for deportation due to immigration status or some perceived status of difference or barred from entry to this country, as we work alongside our friends, families, and neighbors to ensure the dignity and human rights of all people.



Resolution Number: 2015-D048
Title: Support Immigration Actions for Youth and Parents
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred as Amended
Final Text:

Resolved, That the 78th General Convention urge The Episcopal Church to support the goals of expanded immigration relief for youth and parents designed to keep families together, as outlined in the expanded Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) and Deferred Action for Parental Accountability (DAPA) executive actions; and be it further
Resolved, That The Episcopal Church re-affirm 2009-B006 which advocates for immigration reform.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Salt Lake City, 2015* (New York: General Convention, 2015), p. 408.



Resolution Number: 2015-D057
Title: Recommit to Giving Sanctuary to Immigrants
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred as Amended
Final Text:

Resolved, That the 78th General Convention recommit to the spirit of the New Sanctuary Movement by supporting congregations so they can assist immigrant individuals, unaccompanied minors, families, and communities by being centers of information, services and accompaniment, and by supporting families facing separation in the absence of comprehensive, humane immigration reform.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Salt Lake City, 2015* (New York: General Convention, 2015), p. 407.



Resolution Number: 2015-D077
Title: Urge Partnerships to Support Immigrant Families
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred as Amended
Final Text:

Resolved, That the 78th General Convention strongly urge dioceses and congregations to develop programs and partnerships with local agencies that emphasize the value of strong immigrant families and provide assistance with psychological, financial, and spiritual needs so as to assist immigrant families with their needs as they struggle to adapt to their new home country; and be it further

Resolved, That the Joint Standing Committee on Program, Budget and Finance consider a budget allocation of \$10,000 for the implementation of this resolution.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Salt Lake City, 2015* (New York: General Convention, 2015), p. 410.



Resolution Number: 2015-D079
Title: Urge Church-Wide Assistance to Undocumented Persons
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred as Amended
Final Text:

Resolved, That the 78th General Convention strongly urge dioceses and congregations to provide resources and education for undocumented persons and their families to learn about their legal rights, including their rights regarding certain immigration relief such as asylum; and be it further

Resolved, That the Joint Standing Committee on Program, Budget and Finance consider a budget allocation of \$10,000 for the implementation of this resolution.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Salt Lake City, 2015* (New York: General Convention, 2015), p. 409.



Resolution Number: 2012-D059
Title: Halt Unjust Immigration Enforcement
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred as Substituted
Final Text:

Resolved, That the 77th General Convention call for a halt to the U.S. Immigration and Custom Enforcement's Secure Communities program (in which local jurisdictions send fingerprints of detainees suspected of immigration violations to federal authorities), which in practice leads to lengthy detention at the public expense of unrepresented immigrants who have no serious charges pending against them, and effectively discourages victims of various crimes, such as domestic violence, from reporting those crimes; and be it further

Resolved, That The Episcopal Church decry the use of racial profiling or the use of race as a reason to question one's immigration status; and be it further

Resolved, That The Episcopal Church oppose the use of identity checks for the purpose of determining immigration status.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Indianapolis, 2012* (New York: General Convention, 2012), p. 321.



Resolution Number: 2009-B006
Title: Advocate for Immigration Reform
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred as Amended
Final Text:

Resolved, That the 76th General Convention recognize that all people living in the United States are entitled to protection provided by due process of law and that all immigrants and their families are entitled to receive protection granted by our laws and Constitution; and be it further

Resolved, That the General Convention call for a moratorium on roadside checkpoints and raids carried out by Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) at work sites, transportation systems, community gatherings, places of worship, lawful assemblies and private residences leaving families torn apart and children parentless and negatively affecting businesses, workers and communities; and be it further

Resolved, That the General Convention advocate for a return of congressional consideration and implementation of comprehensive immigration reform which will allow millions of undocumented immigrants who have established roots in the United States and are often parents and spouses of U.S. Citizens to have a pathway to legalization and to full social and economic integration in to the United States; and be it further

Resolved, That the General Convention deplore conditions found in immigration detention centers and the over-reliance on a costly prison-like detention system for immigrants, and urge the uses of alternatives to detention, and calls for accountability and oversight to ensure detainees are provided with humanitarian treatment, adequate food and medical care and sanitary conditions; and be it further

Resolved, That the General Convention call for termination of any program which allows or funds local enforcement agencies to enforce immigration law, and return that enforcement to Federal Immigration Agents, leaving local law enforcement agencies the work of keeping communities safe and dedicating their resources to that end, and provide for a sense of safety for immigrant victims of crimes to come forward and report without fear of detention and deportation; and be it further

Resolved, That in as much as youth are a priority of The Episcopal Church, the 76th General Convention support the provision of conditional legal status for undocumented youth who arrived as infants and/or children and have grown up as members of our communities and schools, providing for them the opportunity to pursue higher education and/or serve the United States so they can become full contributing members of our communities and could eventually become U.S. Citizens.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Anaheim, 2009* (New York: General Convention, 2009), p. 142.



Resolution Number: 2006-A017
Title: Adopt the Principles of “The Alien Among You” as the Church Policy
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred as Amended
Final Text:

Resolved, That the 75th General Convention of The Episcopal Church receive “The Alien Among You” in the Blue Book Report of the Standing Commission on Anglican and International Peace with Justice Concerns; and, while recognizing the duty and right of a sovereign nation to protect and defend its borders, adopt the following fundamental principles included in “The Alien Among You” as the policy of The Episcopal Church.

1. **Undocumented aliens should have reasonable opportunity to pursue permanent residency.**
2. **Legal workers should be allowed to enter the United States to respond to recognized labor force needs.**
3. **Close family members should be allowed to reunite without undue delay with individuals lawfully present in the United States.**
4. **Fundamental U.S. principles of legal due process should be granted all persons.**
5. **Enforcement of national borders and immigration policies should be proportional and humane; and be it further**

Resolved, That the 75th General Convention of The Episcopal Church deplore any action by the Government of the United States which unduly emphasizes enforcement, including militarization of the border between the United States and Mexico, as the primary response to immigrants entering the United States to work; and be it further

Resolved, That The Episcopal Church undertake a campaign to educate Episcopalians as to the plight of refugees, immigrants, and migrants, which will include information about the root causes of migration; and be it further

Resolved, That this campaign call the Church to commit to welcoming strangers as a matter of Christian responsibility, to advocate for their well being and protection and to urge its members to resist legislation and actions which violate our fundamental beliefs as Christians, including the criminalization of persons providing humanitarian assistance to migrants.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Columbus, 2006* (New York: General Convention, 2007), pp. 532-533.



Resolution Number: 2000-A053
Title: Adopt Migration Ministries Mission Statement
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred as Amended
Final Text:

Resolved, That the 73rd General Convention of the Episcopal Church adopt the statement "The Episcopal Church in Service to Refugees and Immigrants" as the mission statement of the Episcopal Church on behalf of refugees and immigrants.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Denver, 2000* (New York: General Convention, 2001), p. 538.



Resolution Number: 1994-D132
Title: Reject Racism Toward Immigrants and Request the Church to Respond
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred As Substituted and Amended
Final Text:

Resolved, That the 1994 General Convention of the Episcopal Church declare reprehensible the widespread racist and unjust treatment of immigrants that has become a convenient theme of current political discourse; and be it further
Resolved, That provinces and dioceses develop programs of literacy, citizenship, voter registration and advocacy to counteract violations of civil rights.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Indianapolis, 1994* (New York: General Convention, 1995), p. 355.