

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

RESOLUTION NO.: 2018-C018
TITLE: Becoming a Sanctuary Church
PROPOSER: California
TOPIC: Immigration

Directly Related: (Attached)

2015-D048 Support Immigration Actions for Youth and Parents
2015-D057 Recommit to Giving Sanctuary to Immigrants
2015-D079 Urge Church-Wide Assistance to Undocumented Persons
2006-A017 Adopt the Principles of “The Alien Among You” as the Church Policy

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

2012-D059 Halt Unjust Immigration Enforcement
2015-D074 Extend Temporary Protective Status to Immigrants Fleeing Abuse
2015-D077 Urge Partnerships to Support Immigrant Families

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.

C018 Becoming a Sanctuary Church

Proposer	Diocese of California
Topic	Immigration
Endorsed by	
Sponsored by	
Page numbers	Blue Book: p. N/A; Constitution & Canons: p. N/A
HiA / Leg. Cttee	/
Current Status	Resolution Filed
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Review Status	Not yet reviewed

RESOLUTION TEXT

- 1 *Resolved*, the House of _____ concurring, That the 79th General Convention of The Episcopal Church declare itself to be a Sanctuary Church, as defined by the following actions and commitments; and be it further
- 2 *Resolved*, That The Episcopal Church encourage and support congregations and institutions of the church, both within and outside the United States, to consider becoming Sanctuary Congregations and Institutions, serving as places of welcome, refuge, healing, and other forms of material and pastoral support for migrants and refugees and for all those targeted by hate due to immigration status or some perceived status of difference such as religion or nationality; and be it further
- 3 *Resolved*, That The Episcopal Church encourage and support congregations and institutions across the church to work alongside our friends, families, and neighbors to ensure the dignity and human rights of all people, and specifically to connect with local and national sanctuary communities and institutions, faith-based coalitions, and immigrant rights groups engage in educating, organizing, advocacy, legal direct action, and other methods as deemed appropriate in each context, to ensure the safety, security, and due process for immigrants and refugees, with a focus on keeping families together; and be it further
- 4 *Resolved*, That The Episcopal Church affirm our church’s support for U.S. executive policies that deemphasize immigrant enforcement action against those who have not committed felony crimes, and reaffirm our church’s support for congressional action for comprehensive and just reform of the broken U.S. immigration system as called for in General Convention resolution 2009-B006: “to allow 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.”

EXPLANATION

For many years, migrant families in the United States and in many other countries have suffered on the margins of our society. They have been scapegoated during difficult economic times and victimized by harsh anti-immigrant ordinances passed by countries, states, and localities. In the

aftermath of the recent U.S. presidential election there is heightened concern that the campaign rhetoric villainizing immigrants has become policy targeting them because of their immigration status or religious beliefs.

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. 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 by hate due to immigration status or some perceived status of difference as we work alongside our friends, families, and neighbors to ensure the dignity and human rights of all people. We acknowledge that Holy Scripture calls us to welcome the stranger (Deuteronomy 10:19, Leviticus 19:34, Matthew 25:35), and therefore to resist the stated policy proposals of the newly elected Trump administration to target and deport millions of undocumented immigrants, including veterans who have honorably served in the US Military, and to eliminate the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program that has granted temporary relief for thousands of young people in our communities and families. We acknowledge that this call extends to supporting the rights of migrants and refugees throughout the Americas and the world who are fleeing violence (both state and non-state violence) and catastrophic events such as those brought on by climate change.

In reference to speaking up for justice on controversial issues, we remember the words of our former Presiding Bishop Frank Griswold saying, "To open the door of one's heart is to relinquish certitude in favor of living the questions and to see Christ in all who knock 'on the right or the left...It means to embrace and take into the inner chamber of one's own being seemingly irreconcilable and passionately held points of view, submitting them to the truth who is Christ and then remaining steadfast, even in the very midst of hell, without despair."



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-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: 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.