

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

RESOLUTION NO.: 2018-C033
TITLE: Respecting the Dignity of Immigrants
PROPOSER: Province II
TOPIC: Immigration

Directly Related: (Attached)

2015-D048 Support Immigration Actions for Youth and Parents
2015-D074 Extend Temporary Protective Status to Immigrants Fleeing Abuse
2012-D067 Support the DREAM Act
2009-B006 Advocate for Immigration Reform
2006-A017 Adopt the Principles of “The Alien Among You” as the Church Policy
1997-D081 Develop Advocacy Agenda of Refugee Admissions and Asylum

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

2015-D057 Recommit to Giving Sanctuary to Immigrants
2012-D059 Halt Unjust Immigration Enforcement
1994-D132 Reject Racism Toward Immigrants and Request the Church to Respond
1985-D113 Request Congress to Reform Immigration Legislation

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.

C033 Respecting the Dignity of Immigrants

Proposer	Province II
Endorsed by	
Sponsored by	
Page numbers	Blue Book: p. N/A; Constitution & Canons: p. N/A
HiA / Leg. Cttee	/
Current Status	Resolution Filed
Version	Original (as filed)
Review Status	Not yet reviewed

RESOLUTION TEXT

- 1 *Resolved*, the House of _____ concurring, That the 79th General Convention of The Episcopal Church reject and deplore racist and unjust treatment of immigrants of any residential status; and be it further

- 2 *Resolved*, That The Episcopal Church affirm the following propositions regarding immigrants in our country: 1. Just reception and hospitable treatment of the stranger in our midst is a faith-based component of baptismal living. 2. Undocumented immigrants should have reasonable opportunity to pursue permanent residency. 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; and be it further

- 3 *Resolved*, That The Episcopal Church call upon the Government of the United States to implement humane means of enforcing reasonable border control; and be it further

- 4 *Resolved*, That The Episcopal Church support the goals of expanded immigration relief for youth as outlined in the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA); and be it further

- 5 *Resolved*, That The Episcopal Church advocate through education, communication, and representation before legislative authorities the continuation of Temporary Protective Status (TPS) for all persons fleeing to or currently resident in the US seeking refuge from violence, environmental disaster, economic devastation, or cultural abuse or other forms of abuse; and be it further

- 6 *Resolved*, That The Episcopal Church advocate for 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 citizenship and to full social and economic integration into the United States.

EXPLANATION

No explanation.



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-D074
Title: Extend Temporary Protective Status to Immigrants Fleeing Abuse
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred
Final Text:

Resolved, That the General Convention of The Episcopal Church welcome and affirm the bipartisan initiative of Reps. Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (R-FL), Eliot Engel (D-NY), Mario Diaz-Balart (R-FL), Albio Sires (D-NJ), Carlos Curbelo (R-FL), Tony Cardenas (D-CA), Robert Dold (R-IL), Juan Vargas (D-CA), David Valadao (R-CA), and Joaquin Castro (D-TX), urging President Obama to immediately extend Temporary Protective Status (TPS) to Guatemalans living in the United States with the hope of creating a path to citizenship for this group; and be it further

Resolved, That The Episcopal Church advocate through education, communication, and representation before legislative authorities for TPS for all immigrants fleeing for refuge from violence, environmental disaster, economic devastation, or cultural abuse or other forms of abuse; and be it further

Resolved, That this Resolution be communicated to the President of the United States and to the members of Congress of the United States.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Salt Lake City, 2015* (New York: General Convention, 2015), pp. 407-408.



Resolution Number: 2012-D067
Title: Support the DREAM Act
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred as Substituted
Final Text:

Resolved, That the 77th General Convention of The Episcopal Church support the passing of federal legislation that presents a pathway to citizenship for undocumented youth and young adults; and be it further

Resolved, That General Convention encourage the providing of scholarships to undocumented youth, also known as DREAMers, to have access to higher education, in the spirit of “responding to human need by loving service,” as stated by one of The Episcopal Church’s Five Marks of Mission; and be it further

Resolved, That congregations, dioceses, and/or provinces of The Episcopal Church be encouraged to research and solicit private donations to fund scholarships for undocumented young adults; and be it further

Resolved, That congregations, dioceses, and/or provinces encourage undocumented youth to apply for such scholarships.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Indianapolis, 2012* (New York: General Convention, 2012), p. 299.



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: 1997-D081
Title: Develop Advocacy Agenda of Refugee Admissions and Asylum
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred
Final Text:

Resolved, That the 72nd General Convention of the Episcopal Church charge Episcopal Migration Ministries with the responsibility for developing and implementing an advocacy agenda which reflects the concern of the Episcopal Church that the U.S. Government uphold a generous program of refugee admissions in response to the worldwide refugee crisis, maintain a just system of asylum for persecuted persons seeking safety in the United States, and ensure that needy immigrants are not unfairly denied access to essential services and benefits.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Philadelphia, 1997* (New York: General Convention, 1998), p. 250.