

Acts of the Episcopal Church's 2015 General Convention regarding immigration
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Resolution Number	Title	Legislative Action Taken	Abstract
2015-A011	Urge Advocacy for Policy Changes to End Mass Incarceration Practices	Concurred as Substituted and Amended	The 78th General Convention urges advocacy for changes in federal policies that perpetuate mass incarceration, and encourages congregations and dioceses to undertake a specific initiative to address the issue.
2015-A182	Address Systemic Racial Injustice	Concurred as Amended	The 78th General Convention urges the Church to enter into dialogue, listening exercises, strategic partnerships, and internal analysis to address systemic racial disparities and injustice in the Church and the wider culture.
2015-D048	Support Immigration Actions for Youth and Parents	Concurred as Amended	The 78th General Convention urges support for government action on immigration reform intended to keep families together, and to continue advocating for immigration reform.
2015-D057	Recommit to Giving Sanctuary to Immigrants	Concurred as Amended	The 78th General Convention recommits to supporting congregations participating in the New Sanctuary Movement to assist immigrants.
2015-D061	Search for Scholarships for Immigrant Youth	Concurred as Amended	The 78th General Convention asks the mission program staff to disseminate information about scholarships available to immigrant youth, and study the feasibility of an Episcopal scholarship for this purpose.
2015-D069	Support Permanent Birth Right Citizenship	Concurred as Amended	The 78th General Convention supports citizenship for individuals born in a country and opposes retroactive legal attempts to repeal this right.
2015-D074	Extend Temporary Protective Status to Immigrants Fleeing Abuse	Concurred	The 78th General Convention urges extending Temporary Protective Status to Guatemalans in the US and all refugees of violence, environmental disaster, economic devastation, and cultural abuse.
2015-D077	Urge Partnerships to Support Immigrant Families	Concurred as Amended	The 78th General Convention urges dioceses and congregations to partner with local agencies to provide support services to immigrant families.
2015-D079	Urge Church-Wide Assistance to Undocumented Persons	Concurred as Amended	The 78th General Convention urges dioceses and congregations to provide education and resources to help undocumented persons and families learn about their rights.

2008 Action of the Diocesan Convention, Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts

Resolved, That in response to the New Sanctuary Movement Resolution of the Executive Council of the General Convention*, this Diocese of Massachusetts will undertake a program to educate the clergy and congregations of this Diocese concerning the plight of refugees and immigrants, and will include information about immigration laws, enforcement issues and policies; and

That this Diocese of Massachusetts, aware of the dehumanizing impact of the label “alien” as applied to immigrants, will direct all clergy and lay persons in our diocese to use instead the term “immigrant” or any other one that unequivocally reflects the humanity of foreign-born persons, and will encourage the general population to do the same; and

That this Diocese of Massachusetts, consistent with the New Sanctuary Movement Resolution of the Executive Council*, encourage clergy and lay persons in our diocese, after careful consideration and in consultation with the Bishop's Office, to assist those seeking protection from detention and deportation by granting them Sanctuary in our churches, which may include: shelter, pastoral and material support, and access to legal assistance and to education concerning immigration laws and rights of immigrants; and

That this Diocese of Massachusetts encourage our congregations and its members to consider sponsoring refugees and asylum seekers in appropriate situations.

**The Executive Council resolution referred to in this 2008 Diocesan Convention resolution is as follows:*

EXC062007.01

Support for Refugees, Immigrants, and Migrants

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Committee: National Concerns (report 22)

Citation: *Executive Council Minutes*, Jun. 14, 2007, Parsippany, NJ, p. 4.

Resolved, That The Episcopal Church deplores raids carried out by the Immigration Customs Enforcement Agency (ICE) at work sites, community gatherings, and residences seeking undocumented workers, which result in separating families and leaving children parentless; and be it further

Resolved, That concerted effort be made to educate all levels and sectors of the Church to the plight of refugees, immigrants and migrants; to the need to offer them Christian hospitality; and to continue advocacy throughout the Church on behalf of immigration legislation which adheres to the principles espoused by the Church in resolution A017 (attached) adopted by General Convention in 2006; and be it further

Resolved, That The Episcopal Church encourages Episcopal clergy and lay persons to assist those seeking protection from deportation and detention by the provision of sanctuary which can include material, legal, and pastoral support, and those considering such action do so only after careful consideration and consultation with local experts on the legal implications of such actions.

General Convention's 2006 Resolution A017, referred to in the above Executive Council resolution, follows on the next page.

Resolution Number: 2006-A017
Title: Adopt the Fundamental Principles Included in "The Alien Among You" as the Policy of the Episcopal Church
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.
