

**Progress Report from the Episcopal City Mission (ECM), in collaboration with our diocesan Canon for Immigration and Multicultural Ministries to the 234th Convention to the Diocese of Massachusetts.**

On November 3, 2018 at the 233rd Convention to the Diocese of Massachusetts, **The Resolution: Seeking Immigrant Justice through Accompaniment, Advocacy, and Direct Action** was passed with a majority vote.

The following is an update of the accompaniment, advocacy and direct action work of parishes, the Cathedral of St. Paul, Episcopal City Mission (ECM), and the Office of the Canon of Immigration and Multicultural Ministries and other networks and partner organizations across the diocese. The report is organized into 1) Upcoming ways to get involved in Accompaniment, Advocacy, Direct Action and Education 2) Actions taken in the last year.

We offer this report as an opportunity for reflection and information for you to act on this resolution as an expression of your faith which calls us to seek immigration justice.

Thank you all - who as followers of Christ - have given this resolution traction by living out your baptismal promises through accompanying, advocating, and connecting with our immigrant neighbors who are being unjustly targeted.

With Gratitude,

The Rev Arrington Chambliss, Executive Director, Episcopal City Mission  
The Rev Canon Jean Baptiste Ntagengwa, Canon for Immigration and Multicultural Ministries  
Ms. Natalie E. Thomas, Director of Programs and Engagement, Episcopal City Mission

**Ways to Get Involved**  
**Immigrant Justice Accompaniment, Advocacy, Direct Action and Education**

**Saturday, October 26, 2019 starting at 3:00pm** Open House at St. Luke's-San Lucas Church, (201 Washington Ave, Chelsea) to learn about a program to be trained to provide legal support for immigrants without legal representation. San Lucas will welcome the community for refreshments and snacks while we learn about the Accreditation and Recognition Program offered by the US Department of Justice. Under certain federal regulations, non-attorney individuals may become accredited before the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and the Executive Office for Immigration Review (EOIR), which includes immigration courts and the Board of Immigration Appeals. This program allows non-profit agencies and their non-attorney staff to practice immigration law. It is an essential tool for increasing capacity to serve low-income, vulnerable immigrant populations with high quality, charitable immigration services. The practice of immigration law includes giving immigration advice, filling out immigration forms, and drafting legal documents for a

case. Under certain circumstances, A DOJ accredited person may practice immigration law. Contact Ruth Logan with questions and to RSVP: [ruthlogan@justice.com](mailto:ruthlogan@justice.com) or call 617-775-6640.

**Saturday, October 26th, 4:00-6:00pm** an educational workshop--"Immigration Crisis: We Are In This Together, Aren't We?" is open to anyone who wants to learn more about immigration topics, including Temporary Protected Status, The event will highlight opportunities to get involved. It will be hosted at [St. Barnabas's Church](#) (91 Main Street, Falmouth), from 4-6 p.m., . Dinner and childcare will be provided. All are welcome. RSVP to the Rev. Canon Jean Baptiste Ntagengwa, Canon for Immigration and Multicultural Ministries, at [jbntagengwa@diomass.org](mailto:jbntagengwa@diomass.org).

**November 17, 2019 5:30-8:30** 33rd Anniversary International Dinner & Silent Auction  
Hosted by Refugee Immigration Ministry at the Armenian Cultural and Education Center (47 Nichols Avenue, Watertown, MA) Share the Gifts of Our Diverse Cultures Through Music, Art and Food!

**November 18 and 19, 2019, "Love God, Love Neighbor: Advocacy in Action" in Washington, D.C.** Hosted by the Office of Government Relations and the Episcopal Migration Ministries, in partnership with the Episcopal diocese of Massachusetts and Province I, [jbntagengwa@diomass.org](mailto:jbntagengwa@diomass.org).

### **Ongoing Opportunities**

#### **BIJAN (Boston Immigration Justice and Accompaniment Network)**

<https://beyondbondboston.org/> visit this website to learn more about donating funds and volunteering to support the Boston Immigrant Justice Accompaniment Network. If you would like to join us as a volunteer, sign up at: [bit.ly/joinBIJAN](https://bit.ly/joinBIJAN).

**Immigrant Justice Bond Fund** The primary determinant of whether an immigrant arrested by ICE will be deported -- or granted relief -- is their ability to post bail. The Immigrant Justice Bond Fund works in partnership with local Episcopal parishes and grassroots organizations to increase access to lawyers and bond funds for our immigrant neighbors. To donate visit: [www.episcopalcitymission.org/how-to-donate](http://www.episcopalcitymission.org/how-to-donate).

**Jericho Walks At ICE Headquarters in Burlington** The Jericho Walk is an interfaith prayer and act of solidarity. The walk draws inspiration from the Battle of Jericho, in which the community marched around the city of Jericho seven times, causing the city walls to fall. The Jericho Walk of today is a peaceful and prayerful walk to bring down the walls of our unjust immigration system and is open to people of all or no faiths. You may sign up for alerts about these walks from the Burlington Immigration Justice Cluster. ([Bit.ly/burlingtoncluster](http://bit.ly/burlingtoncluster)). Metrowest Immigrant Solidarity Network organizes the walks, donate to support the work: <http://bit.ly/MISNNeighborFund>

**Monthly Interdenominational Prayer Vigils at South Bay Detention Center Vigils Last Sunday of the Month. 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM** Lead organizer is Mass Community Action Network (MCAN). Epiphany, Winchester members regularly participate in/lead vigils at South Bay Detention Center. These are held approximately one Sunday afternoon per month. To learn more about these, please visit Mass Community Action Network's website at: <https://www.mcan.us/new-event>.

**Refugee Immigrant Ministries. Learn of ways to volunteer to support refugees and immigrants.** RIM Clusters are currently in: Arlington/Cambridge, Chelmsford/Lowell, Marblehead, Metro-North, Newton-Brookline, North Shore, and Metro-West. Clusters work with Asylum Seekers to provide housing, food, transportation and support until they are able to work. <http://www.r-i-m.net/>.

**Episcopal Church resources for refugee and immigrant ministry and advocacy:** The Episcopal Church's Office of Government Relations, in partnership with Episcopal Migration Ministries, offers information and resources for advocacy and ministry with immigrants and refugees <https://www.episcopalchurch.org/OGR/migration-refugees-immigration>

**Drive Families Forward petition** <https://actionnetwork.org/petitions/dff-petition/>  
Organize a weekly or monthly phonebanking / pizza party to generate constituent calls. Driving Families Forward Phonebank: Go to <http://bit.ly/DFFPhonebank>.

**Organize a weekly or monthly phonebanking / pizza party to generate constituent calls!** To organize a phone bank for the Safe Communities Act (a bill that ensures local law enforcement will first and foremost protect their communities) contact [info@actonmass.org](mailto:info@actonmass.org) with the Subject: SCA Phone banking.

## **ProGente - Metrowest**

**Teaching an ESL class** - in Framingham or Marlborough using a curriculum provided by Intercambio. We offer extensive ESL training and support to our teachers and provide you with all needed materials. No teaching background is required!

**Host an ESL Party** - All our ESL classes conclude with celebration! Help us host a party at the end of the trimester. Provide a dish, drinks, paper goods, and bring a few English-speaking friends to help our students celebrate and practice!

## **Report on the Immigrant Justice Accompaniment, Advocacy, Direct Action and Education in 2018-2019**

The report details the accompaniment, advocacy, and educational actions that we know have taken place throughout the diocese of Massachusetts since the 2018 Convention. We are certain that this does not represent all of the good work of parishes - if we have missed your engagement, please contact Episcopal City Mission at (617) 879-6304 or Carol Koskelowski at [carol@episcopalcitymission.org](mailto:carol@episcopalcitymission.org) so that we can get your information included as a resource to others and added to the online map local work of parishes and networks in the diocese that Martha Gardner, the Missioner for Networking and Formation is creating.

### **Accompaniment**

- New Bedford Transportation Network - Episcopal, Unitarian Universalist lay leaders the Community Economic Development Corporation (CEDC), and ECM created a Transportation Network (many retired people from faith communities) who drive people to appointments related to their immigration process in Boston, Burlington, Worcester, and Rhode Island. To date, 400 rides have been provided free of charge by more than 48 volunteer drivers.
- The Parish of the Epiphany in Winchester is taking leadership in their region for immigrant justice advocacy and accompaniment work as well as shaping their worship to keep the parish oriented towards the work of immigrant justice in the following ways:
  - Sanctuary volunteers with the First Parish in Bedford Unitarian Universalist.
  - Leading and participating in Interdenominational Prayer Vigils at South Bay Detention Center. (See: flyer for Ways to Get Involved)
  - Jericho Walks At ICE Headquarters in Burlington. (See: flyer for Ways to Get Involved)
  - Donations of money and time to the BIJAN ("BEYOND") Immigrant Bond fund and accompaniment network.
- BIJAN (Boston Immigrant Justice Accompaniment Network ("BEYOND") and ECM have developed a partnership that enables accompaniment and money to be raised for Bond

- More than 114 people have been bonded out and over \$600,000 has been raised to support bonds.
- ECM raised \$100,000. for Annual Celebration; \$30,000 of this money raised is for legal fees for immigrants no longer eligible for fee waivers and \$20,000 for the BEYOND Bond Fund. In addition, attendees had the opportunity to contribute directly to BIJAN at the event.
- On Sunday, March 3rd at the Cathedral Church of St. Paul, BIJAN and ECM convened a gathering for spiritual sustenance for immigration justice. Advocates.
- Pro Gente, Metrowest - strengthens Brazilian immigrant families and their connection with their communities through: Português Plus classes for children ages 4-14; English Plus (ESL) classes for adults; Immigrant rights education and advocacy and opportunities for facilitated cross-cultural experience.  
<https://www.pgcmetrowest.org/>.

### **Advocacy**

- ECM is working towards the passing of [Safe Communities Act \(SCA\) legislation](#); The SCA has provisions that ensure that local law enforcement will first and foremost protect their communities. ECM is partnering with MIRA by connecting them with parishes in target districts who can host a call bank where parishioners and neighbors can call their representatives.
- ECM is participating in Cosecha's [Driver's License Campaign](#) to pass a bill that would enable all qualified state residents to apply for a standard Massachusetts driver's license, regardless of immigration status, to increase road and public safety and allow for greater mobility across our Commonwealth.
- June 2019, ECM and Catholic Social Services Immigration Clinic in Fall River have partnered with the Massachusetts Attorney General's Division for Civil Rights to stop predatory bond companies like Libre by Nexus. The leaders met with Jon Burke the Attorney General's Assistant for Civil Rights.
- The Cathedral of St. Paul, ECM and the TPS Comité co-hosted a film screening of "The Last Dream," a documentary/play depicting the feelings and experiences of children with TPS. TPS (Temporary Protected Status), is a humanitarian protection designated by the Secretary of Homeland Security to individuals whose countries are suffering from long lasting conditions that prevent them from returning safely. The current administration is threatening to end TPS which will impact hundreds of thousands of people who have TPS and have been here for many years..

### **Education**

- January 15, 2019 ECM convened a gathering for immigration justice at Bristol Community College, New Bedford campus that was attended by over 100 people.
- February 27th, 2019 20 members of the Immigration Task Force met to discuss the resolution and map some of the opportunities for engagement. You will see below some of these listed.

- 2018-2019 - the Episcopal Diocese of MA and ECM collaborated to lead Las Fronteras, a high school youth program that explored issues of security and hospitality, stranger and neighbor, privilege and disadvantage through service learning opportunities in Massachusetts, facilitated conversations, and a trip to the Nogales borderlands.
- March 7, 2019 - Immigration Collaboration - 40 persons from faith community, social services, and other supportive organizations gathered for a day to learn about current immigration policies, convene with leaders from Agencia Alpha and Episcopal City Mission, and discern how to minister to those in vulnerable situations
- June 20, 2019 - The Bishops of the Episcopal Diocese of MA hosted a Refugee Day celebration, *Honoring Refugees Among Us: Share a Meal, Share a Story*. The dinner event took place at The Episcopal Church of the Holy Spirit, Mattapan. Refugees and immigrants, and those who are allies were all invited.
- July 13, 2019 The Cathedral of St. Paul and Episcopal City Mission hosted an Immigration Teach-In called the Action for Immigrant Lives in response to the threat of ICE raids in major cities.. At this educational event, participants learned ways we can participate in supporting Temporary Protective Status (TPS), Campaign Organizing Against Muslim Surveillance, Safe Communities Act, Driving Families Forward Campaign, Accompaniment Networks (monthly Jericho Walks at Burlington Detention facility, Vigil at South Bay Detention facility, Metrowest Immigrant Solidarity Network, and BIJAN (Boston Immigrant Justice Accompaniment Network).

#### **Participants in the Immigrant Justice Task Force 2018-2019**

- The Rev. Canon Jean Baptiste Ntagengwa, Martha Gardner, Diocesan Staff
- The Rev. Arrington Chambliss, Ms. Natalie Thomas, Dax Crocker, the Rev. Michael Melendez, Episcopal City Mission
- The Rev. Miriam Gelfer, Ms. Roz Nazzaro, Ms. Nelia Nowell, Ms. Pam Chester, Church of the Epiphany, Winchester
- The Rev. Matt Stewart, St. James's, Porter Square
- The Rev. Nathan Ives, San Pedro/St. Peter's, Salem
- The Very Rev. Amy McCreath, Cathedral Church of St Paul
- The Rev. Libby Berman and Kate Gyllensvard, Church of the Good Shepherd, Watertown
- The Rev. Clyde Elledge, St. Andrew's, Marblehead
- The Rev. Rebecca Black, Christ Church, Waltham
- The Rev. Scott Ciosek, St. Peter's Dartmouth
- The Rev. Ed Cardoza, St. Mark's Foxboro
- The Rev. Carol Morehead, Jane Scherban, Grace Episcopal Church, Medford
- The Rev. Ruth Bersin, Refugee Immigration Ministry
- The Rev. Tim Crellin, Beverly Merz, St. Stephen's in South End
- Dr. Alexandra Pineros Shields, Essex County Community Organization
- The Rev. Lori Mills Curran, Hannah Fields, Raquel Riberti, Progente Connections, Metro West Mission Hub
- The Rev. Amy Whitcomb Slemmer, Immigration Lawyer
- The Rev. Edwin Johnson, St. Mary's, Dorchester
- The Rev. Margot Critchfield, St. Mary's, Barnstable
- The Rev. Lisa Fortuna, St. Paul's Malden