

Resolution #1 – On Becoming a Sanctuary Diocese:

Offering Sacred Welcome to Immigrants

Submitted by:

The Rev. Joseph M. Constant, Rector, St. John's Episcopal Church, Beltsville; Mr. Franklin Lemus, member and Lay Delegate, Iglesia Episcopal San Mateo; the Rev. Kimberly Lucas, Rector, St. Margaret's Episcopal Church, D.C.; Fr. Vidal Rivas, Senior Priest, San Mateo; and the Rev. Richard Mosson Weinberg, Associate Rector, St. Margaret's. Endorsed by the Race and Social Justice Task Force of the Diocese of Washington, Dr. Enid LaGessee, Co-Chair.

Resolved, that the people of the Diocese of Washington, as disciples of Jesus Christ and persons of faith and conscience, take seriously the biblical mandate to “honor the immigrant in our midst as one of our own” (*Lev. 19:34*), and in faithfulness to our Baptismal Covenant, oppose policies that target undocumented immigrants for deportation while also placing undue restrictions on refugees seeking safe haven in the U.S.; and be it further.

Resolved, that the Diocese of Washington encourage its congregations and institutions to serve as places of welcome and healing, and to provide other forms of material and pastoral support for all persons, regardless of immigration status, and that we work alongside our neighbors to ensure the dignity and human rights of all people; and be it further

Resolved, that the Diocese of Washington, including its congregations and institutions, support Episcopal Church initiatives to engage in education, organizing, advocacy, legal direct action, and other methods as deemed appropriate in each context to ensure the safety and security of all immigrants and refugees; and be it further

Resolved, that the Diocese of Washington pledge to support and encourage congregations and their members to continue the work begun to respond to previous General Convention and Diocesan resolutions that advocate meaningful reform of U.S. immigration laws and policy, and recognize that the root causes of undocumented immigration into the U.S. are multi-faceted and complex, and should be addressed with a combination of humanitarian and economic foreign aid; and be it further

Resolved, that the Diocese of Washington pledge to assist in equipping congregations, clergy, and lay leaders to engage in such work, appropriate to local contexts, capacity, and discernment.