

THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH IN UTAH**RESOLUTION FOR DIOCESAN CONVENTION 2018**

In order that debate may be directed toward the resolution and not toward its justification, only the "RESOLVED..." will be moved. The explanation of the resolution will, however, be distributed to delegates. Resolutions may be submitted to the Convention by the Bishop, Standing Committee, Diocesan Council, a member of the Clergy canonically resident in the Diocese, a Warden, a delegate to the Convention, a Diocesan Council representative of any Region of the Diocese, a Vestry, A Bishop's Committee, a Congregation, a Diocesan Commission or a Diocesan Committee.

TOPIC: Resolution Regarding Becoming a Sanctuary Diocese

1 **RESOLVED:** that the One Hundred Thirteenth Convention of the Diocese of Utah declares the
 2 Diocese of Utah to be a Sanctuary Diocese; and be it further Resolved, that the Diocese of Utah, as
 3 people of faith and people of conscience, pledges to resist the stated policy proposals of the
 4 Executive Office of the President of the United States to target and deport millions of
 5 undocumented immigrants, and to eliminate the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA)
 6 program that has granted temporary relief for thousands of young people in our communities and
 7 families; and be it further Resolved, that the congregations and institutions of the Diocese of Utah,
 8 as people of faith, discern becoming Sanctuary Congregations and Institutions, and determine how
 9 best to serve as places of welcome, safety, healing and other forms of material and pastoral support
 10 for those targeted due to immigration status or some perceived status of difference, and that we
 11 work alongside our friends, families, and neighbors to ensure the dignity and human right of all
 12 people; and be it further Resolved: that congregations and institutions of the Diocese of Utah may
 13 connect with other local and national sanctuary communities and institutions, immigrant rights
 14 groups and coalitions, and engage in educating organizing, or advocacy, or direct action as deemed
 15 appropriate in each context to ensure the safety and security of the undocumented community; and
 16 be it further Resolved, that the Diocese of Utah assist in equipping congregations, clergy and lay
 17 leaders to engage in such work, appropriate to local contexts, capacity, and discernment.

Date: 4/17/18

Moved by Kurt Wiesner, Pablo Ramos, Trace Browning, Kristin Knippenberg

Congregation/Organization: St. Paul's Episcopal, San Esteban Episcopal, and All Saints Episcopal churches

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EXPLANATION: As a people of faith committed to build 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. The Bible has numerous injunctions that instruct us not to wrong or oppress the alien in our midst (Exodus 22:21 & 23:9, Leviticus 19:33, 23:22 & 24:22, Numbers 15:16, Deuteronomy 24:20-21 & 27:19, Jeremiah 7:6-7, Zechariah 7:10, and Malachi 3:5).

Jesus is clear that the righteous inherit eternal life because "I was a stranger and you welcomed me" (Matthew 25:35). Our baptismal vows require us to "seek and serve Christ in all persons" and to "strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being" (Book of Common Prayer p. 305).

For many years, immigrants and their families have suffered on the margins of our society. They have been scapegoated during difficult economic times and victimized by harsh anti-immigrant policies. As the rhetoric villainizing immigrants becomes more normalized in our society, it enables these policies that would target our siblings in the family of God because of their immigration status. As a Diocese, it is our Christian duty to welcome those seeking refuge on our shores from war, civil strife, persecution, lawlessness, famine, or natural disaster, by assisting those in search of safety and a better life. 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 for deportation due to immigration status, barred from entry to this country, or some other perceived status of difference. We will work alongside our friends, families, and neighbors to ensure the dignity and human rights of all people.

Fiscal Note: \$5,000 for training purposes