

Revised B-178

Immigration and Deportation

Submitted by Metro III Convocation

1. **BE IT RESOLVED** that this 178th convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Missouri recognizes that our church includes members with mixed immigration status. As Christians, we embrace God's call to welcome the stranger and to love our neighbors. We also seek laws that are just. We invite members throughout the diocese to call on the President of the United States and members of Congress to reject proposals that separate families, and to adopt new immigration laws that include a humane and just process by which undocumented immigrants can earn lawful permanent residency and eventually apply for citizenship;
2. **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that this convention strongly encourages members of the diocese to contact their elected representatives to call for the elimination of for-profit detention centers, elimination of indefinite detention, incarceration of children, and the preservation of due process, access to courts, and access to adequate legal representation for all migrants regardless of legal status;
3. **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that this convention encourages our congregations to offer compassionate hospitality toward immigrants and supports those congregations that prayerfully choose to offer sanctuary to undocumented migrants facing deportation; and
4. **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that we support and encourage those who are called to act as witnesses as they accompany the immigrants in our midst, by standing in solidarity with programs that seek to assist immigrants facing deportation.

RATIONALE

As people of faith, we are taught to welcome the stranger, offer hospitality to the sojourner and to accompany the persecuted. Remembering that we “were strangers in the land of Egypt” (Deuteronomy 10:19) and as followers of Jesus, we are commanded to love God and to love our neighbors as ourselves.

Some organizations supporting this work include:

St. Louis Inter-Faith Committee on Latin America (IFCLA) <http://www.stl-ifcla.org/>

Missouri Faith Voices <http://www.missourifaithvoices.org/sanctuary/>

PICO National Network <https://www.piconetwork.org/>

Immigration Accompaniment Program of New Sanctuary Coalition of New York City
<https://newsanctuarynyc.wordpress.com/accompaniment/>