

Proposed Resolution: Migration with Dignity in the Episcopal Diocese of Georgia

Whereas, Holy Scripture charges the Church with proclaiming release to captives and good news to the poor (Luke 4:18–19), and our Baptismal Covenant commits us to seek and serve Christ in all persons, to strive for justice and peace among all people, and to respect the dignity of every human being; and

Whereas, the 81st General Convention adopted **C031: Migration with Dignity**, articulating a framework of principles to guide Episcopal ministry with migrants; and

Whereas, the framework of “Migration with Dignity” affirms that all migrants have: (1) a universal right of movement; (2) the right to be secure from arbitrary and abusive detention, forced labor, and sexual violence; (3) equality before the law; (4) a basic quality of life; (5) access to services; and (6) civil and political rights; and

Whereas, policies that deprive migrants of these rights undermine the common good and the ministry of local congregations; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, that the **204th Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Georgia** affirms (reaffirms) our support for **Migration with Dignity** as adopted by the 81st General Convention (Resolution C031), and commends its use across this Diocese; and be it further

Resolved, that we oppose policies and actions that deprive migrants of these rights, including—but not limited to—policies resulting in mass detention and deportation; and be it further

Resolved, that we oppose government actions that (1) halt refugee resettlement programs; (2) terminate Temporary Protected Status and humanitarian parole for many categories of migrants; (3) sharply restrict migrants’ ability to seek asylum; (4) conduct mass arrests of migrants; (5) deport migrants without due process to foreign prisons or to countries other than their countries of origin; (6) authorize enforcement actions within houses of worship, schools, and hospitals (7) defy rulings of U.S. courts; and (8) harass or detain public officials for investigating detention facilities or accompanying migrants to court hearings; and be it further

Resolved, that this Convention calls upon all Episcopalians in the Diocese of Georgia to advocate that local, state, national, and international governing bodies **promote Migration with Dignity** by rescinding harmful actions and programs and by enforcing existing laws that protect refugees, migrants, asylum seekers, and displaced persons, and by enacting new laws and policies guaranteeing their welcome, protection, and integration; and be it further

Resolved, that acknowledging the current state of emergency for migrants and the daunting challenges facing migration ministries across the Church, this Convention **urges** the Presiding Bishop, the President of the House of Deputies, and the Executive Council to establish the **Task Force on Migration with Dignity** as called for in C031 to (1) inventory current Church assets and resources for serving and supporting migrants; (2) conduct a gap analysis to identify missing elements that could strengthen the Church's response; and (3) recommend a whole-of-Church strategy for supporting migrants and for information and resource sharing; and be it further

Resolved, that this Convention **encourages** participation within the Diocese of Georgia in a **Migration with Dignity formation program** to engage Episcopalians with the plight of refugees, migrants, asylum seekers, and displaced persons and to encourage actions to assist them and advocate on their behalf; **no diocesan appropriation is requested by this resolution**; and be it further

Resolved, that the Episcopal Diocese of Georgia **expresses grave concern** regarding **287(g)** agreements that delegate federal immigration enforcement authority to local law enforcement, **recognizing risks of racial profiling, erosion of community trust, and separation of families**, and **urges local jurisdictions to review any current or proposed 287(g) agreements** through transparent public processes with full community input, **prioritizing policies that strengthen public safety by building trust and cooperation**; and be it further

Resolved, that the Secretary of Convention is directed to transmit this resolution to the Bishop of Georgia, members of Diocesan Council, rectors and vicars of congregations, and—where appropriate—local officials.