

Proposed Resolution for the Episcopal Church in Colorado
139th Annual Diocesan Convention
October 8-10, 2026

Proposer: The Rev. Deacon Jack Karn, Saint John's Cathedral, Denver, CO

Title of Resolution: Affirming the Dignity of Immigrants and Calling the Episcopal Church in Colorado to Faithful Action

Whereas, the Episcopal Church in Colorado affirms the inherent dignity of every human being, as articulated in the Baptismal Covenant, that calls us to “seek and serve Christ in all persons” and to “strive for justice and peace among all people”;

Whereas, immigrants, refugees, and asylum seekers - including families and children - continue to face displacement, economic hardship, legal uncertainty, and barriers to housing, healthcare, and employment;

Whereas, Holy Scripture repeatedly enjoins us to care for the strangers and refugees in our midst (Bible: Deut. 10:19; Deut. 24:17; Ex. 22:21; Ex. 23:9; Lev 19:10; Lev 19:33; Num 15:14; Ruth 2:10; Jer. 22:3; Zech. 7:10; Matt. 24:34-40);

Whereas, the Presiding Bishop and President of the House of Deputies of The Episcopal Church issued a joint letter emphasizing the Biblical imperative to welcome immigrants and refugees. (Presiding officers uphold Biblical call to ‘welcome the stranger’ - 1/21/25). Additionally, the Episcopal Church is one of 45 religious groups to sign the Church World Service declaration calling on faith communities to stand against anti-immigration policies through advocacy and prayer (The Ash Wednesday Ecumenical Declaration - 3/4/25);

Whereas, The Rt. Rev. Kimberly Lucas has articulated compassionate calls to stand with immigrants, refugees, and asylum seekers. She joined with 154 Episcopal bishops “to promise to keep showing up – to pray, speak and stand with every person working to make our communities just, safe and whole.”

(A pastoral letter to clergy from the Bishop of Colorado on managing ICE - 2/8/25; 154 Episcopal Bishops issue message calling for immigration policies respecting the dignity of all - 2/3/26; Christian Leaders in Colorado Voice Opposition - 2/3/25);

Whereas, immigrants play a significant and measurable role in the economy of the State of Colorado. These contributions include economic growth, tax contributions, workforce

strength, entrepreneurship and business creation. (Immigrants Power Colorado's Economy - 2024);

Whereas, detaining and criminalizing immigrants is costly and inhumane. ICE detention centers impose significant human and financial costs on both immigrants and surrounding communities. (The human and financial costs rack up as immigration detention expands - 3/26/26);

Whereas, many congregations within this Diocese are already engaged in ministries of welcome, accompaniment, service, legal support, and advocacy with and on behalf of immigrants.

Be it resolved that, the 139th Convention of the Episcopal Church in Colorado affirms its commitment to the dignity, safety, and full humanity of immigrants, refugees, and asylum seekers, regardless of documentation status and opposes policies and practices that cause harm through detention, separation, or dehumanization.

Be it further resolved that, the Episcopal Church in Colorado affirms that local, state, and federal immigration policies and laws ought to be just, humane, and protect the dignity of every human being. Therefore, we urge legislative reform to establish clear and consistent processes for immigration, asylum, refugee resettlement, and detention.

Be it further resolved that, the Office of the Bishop, Standing Committee and Resolution Writing Group will organize a Diocesan Working Group across regions that gathers parish information and interest, consults with local immigrant organizations, coordinates worship, education, formation, service opportunities, and advocacy efforts around immigration. The working group will act as an advisory body in the Diocese that equips individuals and congregations with tools and resources in support of immigrants.

Be it further resolved that, the Convention requests that the Diocesan Working Group reports back to the next Convention on recommendations and actions taken in support of this Resolution. Beyond the one-year report, the working group may provide additional updates and reports to the Diocese.

Rationale:

How will the resolution build up and strengthen one or more of the marks of mission: proclamation, discipleship and servanthood?

Passage of this resolution will 1) raise awareness that we are followers of Christ and we are called to seek and serve Christ in all persons and strive for justice and peace among all people regardless of immigration documentation status; 2) raise up and strengthen discipleship as we listen to those with different experiences in seeking immigration, asylum and economic hardship leading to migration; 3) strengthen diocesan, congregational and personal servanthood, empowering all to do what we can to welcome the stranger; 4) ensure their dignity, material and family support in the process of immigration and advocate to respond faithfully and publicly to the moral and humanitarian needs of immigration.

Who will be impacted by the resolution, and how?

The resolution impacts congregations and their surrounding communities, especially those with large immigrant populations, within the Episcopal Church in Colorado. It affects individuals, families and businesses adversely affected by arrest, detention and deportation of immigrants. By raising awareness of education and actions that can be taken at the personal, congregational and legislative levels, the resolution advocates for dignified, humane treatment and just immigration reform.

How will the resolution be enacted, including an estimated time frame for enacting the resolution? Who is responsible for enacting the resolution? Who will be accountable? Against which criteria will it be evaluated (how will we know it's been done), and specifically how long will implementation take?

This resolution will be enacted by a Diocesan Working Group in consultation with the Office of the Bishop and Standing Committee. The resolution will be initiated in the first year, but additional updates are expected to be ongoing.

The group will gather parish experience and information, and consult with local immigrant organizations. The group will explore opportunities for worship, education, formation, community service, and advocacy efforts around immigration. The group will act as an advisory body in the Diocese that equips individuals and congregations with tools and resources in support of immigrants.

The Diocesan website currently lists information resources available to congregations to learn and take action in support of immigrants (<https://episcopalcolorado.org/immigration-injustice/>). The page will be updated as additional resources become available and used as a hub for activities to bring parishes and ministries together.

A survey will be conducted to determine congregational experience and interest and help direct the working group. Periodically, the group may convene congregations to share information, learnings, and build community. Its goal is to encourage congregations to create and deepen ministries of welcome, accompaniment, service, and advocacy. The working group will report back to the next Diocesan Convention on recommendations and actions taken in support of this resolution. Beyond the one-year report, the working group may provide additional updates and reports to the Diocese.

Are there budgetary implications? What is the source of funding? It should include a cost estimate and detail the source.

The resolution at this time does not add Diocesan costs as the working group will first begin with exploration and study on its needs. Any future funding proposals will be brought separately for consideration. This resolution anticipates a range of financial resources from individuals, parishes, regions, and outside funders to support the resolution in areas of outreach, worship, education, advocacy, accompaniment, training, legal review, etc.

What impact of time and workload on diocesan staff, congregations and other responsible parties?

Congregational resources of time and talent will be offset by the benefits experienced by their parishes and respective communities.