

Resolution concerning immigrants in our church and our community:

Resolved, that this 92nd Convention of the Diocese of Olympia

Recognizes the gift which Hispanic/Latino immigrants and recent immigrants from other parts of the world make to our community and to our church, providing us with new understandings of the breadth of God's mercy and love;

And further recognizes new opportunities for our church for enriched liturgy, theology and spirituality provided by persons of diverse ethnic backgrounds;

And further recognizes the growth and potential growth for our church and for church leadership, and the Christian call to open our doors and our hearts to provide a home for those who are strangers;

And further recognizes that new immigrants coming to our churches often work under inhumane and grueling conditions which are degrading to their human dignity, as well as suffer from fear of persecution, discrimination, and prejudice;

Therefore be it resolved that this convention

Encourages the Diocese and local parishes to respectfully incorporate multi-cultural and multi-lingual liturgical resources into our liturgies and to proactively provide church teaching and outreach materials in our churches in languages of the surrounding community;

Encourages parishes to include multi-lingual signage, using the languages of the community in which it is located and not just the language of current parishioners;

Encourages the Diocese and local churches to join together with ecumenical and community groups working towards just immigration reform and full human rights for all human beings, regardless of their race, ethnicity or immigration status.

Encourages churches to be a holy and safe place, free from threats of racist or prejudiced attitudes and stereotypes, and free from questioning without lawful warrant by police or immigration authorities;

Explanation:

The changing demographics of our diocese and our community mean that our Episcopal churches must become multi-ethnic if they are to grow in a healthy way and spread the Gospel into the community around us. We cannot bring a friend to church if we do not show respect for that friend's language and culture.

We must be intentional about learning who are neighbors are. The measures called for in this resolution are in keeping with our baptismal promise to love our neighbors and to respect the dignity of every human being.

Our national church Executive Council (July 2005) has called for immigration reform which 1)will acknowledge and honor the contribution of low-wage laborers, many of whom currently do not have access to legal documentation, 2)will assure immigrant laborers basic human and workers rights, 3)will reunite families who are separated by the U.S./Mexico border, and 4)will provide a legal process for granting legal residency to immigrant laborers contributing to the U.S. economy.

Many people in our communities and churches labor long and hard at low-wage jobs and with few legal rights in order to provide for their families both here and in their countries of origin. Our churches can be safe and welcoming communities to those who labor in our midst if we treat them with dignity and respect.

“When they had gone, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream. ‘Get up,’ he said, ‘take the child and his mother and escape to Egypt. Stay there until I tell you, for Herod is going to search for the child to kill him.’ So he got up, took the child and his mother during the night and left for Egypt, where he stayed until the death of Herod.” (Matt. 2:13-15)

“When a foreigner resides with you in your land, you shall not oppress the foreigner. The foreigner who resides with you shall be to you as the citizen among you; you shall love the foreigner as yourself, for you were foreigners in the land of Egypt.” (Lev.19:33-34)

Submitted by Hispanic Ministry Committee

Resolución acerca de los inmigrantes en nuestra Iglesia y nuestra comunidad:

Resuelto, que esta Convención 92 de la Diócesis de Olympia

Reconoce los dones que nos traen inmigrantes hispanos/latinos y de otros países a nuestra comunidad y a nuestra Iglesia, abriendo para nosotros un nuevo entendimiento de la profundidad de la misericordia y el amor de Dios.

Además reconoce nuevas oportunidades para la iglesia para enriquecer su liturgia, teología y espiritualidad, según los aportes de personas de diversas etnicidades.

Además reconoce el crecimiento y la potencialidad para crecimiento en la Iglesia y en el liderazgo de la Iglesia, y reconoce la vocación cristiana a abrir nuestras puertas y nuestros corazones para preparar un hogar para los extranjeros.

Además reconoce que los nuevos inmigrantes que llegan a nuestras iglesias trabajan frecuentemente bajo condiciones inhumanas y agotadoras, condiciones degradantes a su dignidad humana, y sufren de temor de persecución, discriminación y prejuicio;

Therefore be it resolved that this convention

Encourages the Diocese and local parishes to respectfully incorporate multi-cultural and multi-lingual liturgical resources into our liturgies and to proactively provide church teaching and outreach materials in our churches in languages of the surrounding community;

Encourages parishes to include multi-lingual signage, using the languages of the community in which it is located and not just the language of current parishioners;

Encourages the Diocese and local churches to join together with ecumenical and community groups working towards just immigration reform and full human rights for all human beings, regardless of their race, ethnicity or immigration status.

Encourages churches to be a holy and safe place, free from threats of racist or prejudiced attitudes and stereotypes, and free from questioning without lawful warrant by police or immigration authorities;

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