



# The Episcopal Church in Delaware

The Rt. Rev. Kevin S. Brown, Bishop

*all things in love*

*1 Cor. 16:14*

## RESOLUTION #240-01

Title of Resolution		Becoming a Sanctuary Diocese
Submitted by		The Rev. Victoria Pretti
Submitted on behalf of		The Rev. Canon Mark Harris The Rev. Jeffery Ross The Rev. Rita Nelson The Rev. Shelley Mc Dade The Rev. Theodore Olson The Rev. Jack Anderson The Rev. Larry Norfleet The Rev. Deacon Chris Miller-Marcin The Rev. Deacon Paula Waite Ms. Caryn Cleveland Short Ms. Anne Canan Mr. John Michael Sophos
Authorized representative to respond to questions, at convention, concerning this resolution		The Rev. Victoria Pretti

- 1 RESOLVED, That the people of the Episcopal Church in Delaware, as disciples of Jesus
- 2 Christ and persons of faith and conscience, take seriously the biblical mandate to
- 3 "honor the immigrant in our midst as one of our own" (*Lev. 19:34*), and in faithfulness
- 4 to our Baptismal Covenant, do pledge to support immigrants in Delaware as they seek
- 5 places of safety to dwell and thrive; and be it further
- 6
- 7 RESOLVED, That the Episcopal Church in Delaware encourage its congregations and
- 8 institutions to serve as places of sanctuary, welcome and healing, and to provide other
- 9 forms of material and pastoral support for all persons, regardless of immigration status
- 10 or who are otherwise marginalized, and that we work alongside our neighbors and
- 11 organizations to ensure the dignity and human rights of all people; and be it further
- 12



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13 RESOLVED, That the Episcopal Church in Delaware, including its congregations and  
14 institutions, support the Episcopal Church initiatives to engage in education,  
15 organizing, advocacy, legal direct action, and other methods as deemed appropriate in  
16 each context to ensure the safety and security of all immigrants, refugees, and other  
17 marginalized people; and be it further

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19 RESOLVED, That the Episcopal Church in Delaware pledge to support and encourage  
20 congregations and their members to continue the work begun to respond to previous  
21 resolutions, both from General Convention and the Episcopal Church in Delaware, that  
22 advocate meaningful reform of U.S. immigration laws and policy, and recognize that  
23 the root causes of undocumented immigration into the United States are multi-faceted  
24 and complex, and should be addressed with a combination of humanitarian and  
25 economic foreign aid; and be it further

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27 RESOLVED, That the Episcopal Church in Delaware pledges to assist in equipping  
28 congregations, clergy and lay leaders to engage in such work, appropriate to local  
29 contexts, capacity and discernment.

## EXPLANATION

The past, current and future leadership of the country have engaged and promised to engage in a deliberate effort to reduce the number of foreigners living in the US. Of particular concern are steps taken or being threatened by the federal government to target and deport undocumented immigrants, including veterans who have served honorably in the U.S. military. Threats to breaking up families, even where the children are born citizens of this country, cause immigrants and their employers, neighbors, and friends tremendous and fear and distress. They fear more than ever the break-up of their families, the loss of homes and businesses, and the destruction of the lives they have built in this country, often over decades.

Delaware has a substantial number of immigrants, and our parishes serve many of these people, their friends, neighbors, and employers. As the primary body for expressing common concerns of the Episcopal Church in Delaware, we submit this resolution to Diocesan Convention because its passage would send a message of solidarity to the hundreds of immigrants in our midst. We stand with them and ask that our Diocesan Convention do the same.