RESOLUTION # 2026-03

Comprehensive Immigration Reform

Resolved, That the 60th Diocesan Convention recognize that all people living in the United States are entitled to protection provided by due process of law, and that all immigrants and their families are entitled to receive protection granted by our laws and Constitution; and be it further

Resolved, That the 60th Diocesan Convention advocate for a return of congressional consideration and implementation of comprehensive immigration reform which will allow millions of undocumented immigrants who have established roots in the United States, and are often the parents and spouses of United States citizens, to have a pathway to legalization and to full social and economic integration into the United States; and support the continued provision of conditional legal status for undocumented youth who arrived as infants or children and have grown up as members of our communities and schools, providing for them the opportunity to pursue higher education or to serve the United States, so that they may become full contributing members of our communities and could eventually become United States citizens; and be it further

Resolved, That the 60th Diocesan Convention call for the termination of any program which allows or funds local enforcement agencies to enforce immigration law, and for the return of that enforcement to federal immigration agents, leaving local law enforcement agencies the work of keeping communities safe and dedicating their resources to that end, and providing a sense of safety for immigrant victims of crimes to come forward and report without fear of detention and deportation; and be it further

Resolved, That the 60th Diocesan Convention call for a moratorium on roadside checkpoints and raids carried out by Immigration and Customs Enforcement at work sites, transportation systems, community gatherings, places of worship, lawful assemblies, and private residences, which leave families torn apart and children parentless and negatively affect businesses, workers, and communities; deplore conditions found in immigration detention centers and the over-reliance on a costly prison-like detention system for immigrants, urge the use of alternatives to detention, and call for accountability and oversight to ensure that detainees are provided with humanitarian treatment, adequate food and medical care, and sanitary conditions; and urge the congregations and members of the Diocese of Wyoming to make the positions stated in this resolution known to the Wyoming delegation to the Congress of the United States.

Explanation

This resolution asks the Diocese of Wyoming to adopt, in its own voice, the position The Episcopal Church took in Resolution 2009-B006, "Advocate for Immigration Reform," adopted by the 76th General Convention meeting in Anaheim in 2009. The resolve clauses above keep the substance and the spirit of that resolution, and ask the members of this Diocese to carry its position to our own delegation in Congress.

This is settled ground for The Episcopal Church, not a new position. The 80th General

Convention expressly reaffirmed 2009-B006 in Resolution 2022-D031, and the 81st General

Convention continued the same commitment in Resolution 2024-C031, "Migration with Dignity." Seventeen years after 2009-B006 was adopted, Congress has still not taken up comprehensive reform, and the young people that resolution described — those who arrived as children and grew up in our schools — remain without settled status.

The detention system that 2009-B006 called costly and prison-like now holds, in the main, people who have been convicted of no crime. Of the 65,765 people in immigration detention on July 11, 2026, 46,436 — 70.6 percent — had no criminal conviction of any kind, and the Transactional Records Access Clearinghouse, which compiles this data from federal records, notes that many of those who did had been convicted only of minor offenses, including traffic violations (tracreports.org/immigration/quickfacts). The people described in these clauses are, for the most part, workers, parents, and neighbors.

Fiscal impact: none. This resolution requires no budget allocation.

This resolution was submitted by The Rev. Mary Erickson, St. John's Jackson.

Approved as to Form:

Elizabeth B. Lance
Chancellor

03/10/26
Date

Signature: Beth Lance (Oct 3, 2026 15:00:47 MDT)

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