DIGNITY, NOT HATE, NOT MASS DEPORTATION, NOT SILENCE

Submitted by: The Rev. Nancy Stockbridge, Deacon, St. John's, Olney (Principal Sponsor); with Co-Sponsors Pat Alexander, St. George's, Glenn Dale; Peggy Alexander, St. George's, Glenn Dale; Ray Barry, Delegate to the Diocesan Convention, Christ Church, Kensington; Christine Bloecker, Delegate to the Diocesan Convention, St. George's, Glenn Dale; The Rev. Dawn Booth, Deacon, St. Nicholas, Germantown; James Cassedy, Delegate to the Diocesan Convention, St. Matthew's/Iglesia San Mateo, Hyattsville; Carol Coonrod, St. Thomas' Dupont Circle; John Coonrod, St. Thomas' Dupont Circle; Denyse Corrado, St. John's Norwood; Carol Cropp, Washington National Cathedral; Dora Currea, Co-chair, Washington National Cathedral Sanctuary Ministry, DC; The Rev. Anne Derse, Deacon, St. John's Norwood; Martin Dickinson, Washington National Cathedral Sanctuary Ministry; The Rev. Elizabeth Dixon, Deacon, St. Barnabas, Upper Marlboro; Mark Edwards, St. Johns' Norwood; The Rev. Sally Ethelston, Deacon, St. Matthew's/Iglesia San Mateo, Hyattsville; The Rev. Emily Guthrie, Christ Church, Kensington; Rob Hartmann, St. John's Norwood; Dr. Susan Hebert, St. John's Norwood; Doug Jolly, St. John's Norwood; Liz Jones, St. Johns' Norwood; Thea Kayne, Christ Church, Kensington; The Rev. Mary Alcuin Kelly, Deacon, St. Stephen and the Incarnation; The Rev. Lesley Krauland, Deacon, St. Andrew's, College Park; Paula Mays, Delegate to the Diocesan Convention, Washington National Cathedral; William Mertens, St. George's, Glenn Dale; The Rev. Ed Munro, Deacon (ret.), St. George's, Glenn Dale; The Rev. Melana Nelson-Amaker (ret.); Eva-Marie Nye, Christ Church, Kensington; Jayne Osgood, St. John's Norwood; Susan Patch, Christ Church, Kensington; Diane Paulsell, Washington National Cathedral Sanctuary Ministry; Lisa Raisner, St. John's Norwood; Roy Peterson, Delegate to the Diocesan Convention, St. George's, Glenn Dale, and member EDOW Standing Committee; The Rev. Connie Reinhardt, Rector, St. George's Glenn Dale Parish, and Dean, North Prince George's County Region; The Rev. Vidal Rivas, St. Matthew's/Iglesia San Mateo, Hyattsville; Claudia Russell, Co-chair, Washington National Cathedral Sanctuary Ministry; Stephen Simpson, Delegate to the Diocesan Convention, St. John's, Olney; The Rev. Dr. Melissa Sites, Deacon, St. Christopher's, New Carrollton; Michael Stratmoen, St. John's Norwood; The Rev. Sara Thorne, Deacon, Christ Church, Kensington; Kileen Turner-Wiley, Delegate to the Diocesan Convention, St. Peter's, Poolesville; The Rev. Susan K. Walker, Deacon, St. Thomas' Dupont Circle; The Rev. Peter Gachira Wanjiku, Rector, St. Michael & All Angels Episcopal/Anglican Church, Adelphi; Rachel Willingham, St. George's, Glenn Dale.

He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor. (Lk 4:18-19)

***RESOLVED*,** that the 131st Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Washington, as people of faith, honor our baptismal covenant to seek and serve Christ in all persons loving our neighbors as we love ourselves, to strive for justice and peace among all people and to respect the dignity of every human being. Therefore, we reaffirm our support for Migration with Dignity; and be it further

RESOLVED, that we oppose U.S. Government actions that: 1) halt refugee resettlement programs; 2) terminate temporary protected status (TPS) 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 and countries other than their countries of origin; 6) give the green light to enforcement within houses of worship, schools and hospitals; and 7) defy U.S. courts by failing to carry out their orders; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Episcopal Diocese of Washington encourage members of the diocese to advocate that relevant governing bodies promote Migration With Dignity by cancelling and repealing these actions and programs and by enforcing existing laws and policies on behalf of refugees, migrants, asylum seekers and displaced persons and enacting new laws and policies guaranteeing their welcome, protection and integration into our communities; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Episcopal Diocese of Washington offer a Migration with Dignity formation program to engage Episcopalians in this diocese with the plight of refugees, migrants, asylum seekers and displaced persons.

EXPLANATION: The Episcopal Diocese of Washington has a long history of solidarity with migrants, refugees, and asylum seekers, including our commitment to be a sanctuary diocese since 2018. As a sanctuary diocese, EDOW works to support the safety and security of all immigrants, refugees and asylum seekers. Our diocese adopted Migration with Dignity as our migrant justice framework at our convention in 2024. In the current state of emergency for immigrant families in our communities, we have redoubled our efforts to welcome new arrivals and to support our immigrant congregation members and neighbors through the ongoing work of the Refugee Response Team, Washington National Cathedral Sanctuary Ministry and ministries of many of our congregations.

This resolution builds on those commitments through the framework of "Migration with Dignity," a set of principles for migration ministry and migrant-solidarity. These principles include: 1) a universal right of movement; 2) the right to be secure from arbitrary and abusive detention, forced labor and sexual violence; 3) the right of equality; 4) the right to a basic quality of life; 5) the right to access services; and 6) civil and political rights.

The resolution encourages our congregations to learn and teach about Migration with Dignity, specifically by offering a Migration With Dignity formation program to engage congregation members in learning about the plight of refugees, migrants, asylum seekers and displaced persons.

The resolution also encourages Episcopalians to advocate that relevant governing bodies (local, state, national, and international) cancel and repeal anti-immigrant polices and enact new laws and policies guaranteeing their welcome, protection and integration into our communities. Examples of anti-immigrant policies are 287 (g) agreements within our diocese, which allow local law enforcement to coordinate with ICE and other federal agencies' anti-immigrant profiling arrest, detention and deportation.