

**Resolution Format**  
**Episcopal Diocese of San Joaquin 64th Annual Convention**  
**November 10-11, 2023**

RESOLUTION TO AMEND THE DIOCESAN CONSTITUTION [or CANONS] *[This statement must appear if the resolution will seek to change or add to the Constitution or Canons of the Diocese]*

**Title:** *[please include a descriptive but brief title]*

**Resolution No.:** *[leave blank- the number will be assigned by the Committee on Resolutions]*

**Sponsor:** *[sponsor's name]*  
*[contact info]*

**Required Vote:** *[leave blank – the voting requirements will be determined by the Committee on Resolutions].*

RESOLVED, that Article [canon or whatever] is hereby amended as follows:

EXPLANATION:

FISCAL IMPACT: [If none, so state. If unknown, so state.]

# Sample Resolution



**61<sup>st</sup> Annual Meeting of the Convention of the  
EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF SAN JOAQUIN  
November 13-14, 2020  
Virtual Meeting**

## **RESOLUTION**

**Title:** Resolution to be a Diocese of Holy Welcome and Advocacy  
**Resolution No.:** R-01-20  
**Sponsor:** The Rev. Deacon Nancy Key and The Rev. Deacon Tom Hampson  
**Required Vote:** Simple Majority

**RESOLVED**, that the 61st Convention of the Diocese of San Joaquin declares itself to be a Diocese of Holy Welcome and Advocacy for immigrants, asylum seekers, and refugees;

**RESOLVED**, that the Diocese and its congregations join with other immigrant rights allies to educate, organize and advocate for just and humane federal immigration and refugee policies that protect the safety and security of all immigrants and refugees;

**RESOLVED**, that the Diocese designates the Sunday nearest June 20 (World Refugee Day) as Immigrant/Refugee Sunday, and that annually on that Sunday, each congregation take a special collection in support of the work of the EDSJ Immigration Commission;

**RESOLVED**, that each congregation select one member to serve as liaison to the Immigration Commission in their congregation;

**RESOLVED**, that in accordance with Scripture and our Baptismal Covenant, the congregations of the Diocese discern ways they may serve as places of welcome, refuge, and healing to protect the dignity and human rights of all people including immigrants and refugees;

**RESOLVED**, that the Diocese through its Immigration Commission, assist in equipping and supporting each congregation in identifying ways to extend Holy Welcome and Advocacy to immigrants and refugees.

### **EXPLANATION:**

Throughout our country's history immigrant families have suffered on the margins of our society. They have been scapegoated during difficult economic times and victimized by harsh anti-immigrant ordinances passed by some states and localities. Because of increasingly hostile policies, migrants and immigrants in this country fear more than ever the break-up of their families, the loss of homes and business, and the destruction of the lives they have built in this country, often over decades.

Of particular concern are the efforts to target and deport millions of undocumented immigrants, including veterans who have served honorably in the US Military, utilizing "Expedited Deportation" without Due Process for individuals NOT convicted of a felony or violent crime, and

threatening to eliminate the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program that has granted temporary relief for thousands of young people in our communities and families with U.S. Citizen children.

As people of God, we believe that Holy Scripture calls us to welcome the stranger (Deuteronomy 10:19, Leviticus 19:34, Matthew 25:35), and therefore as a people of faith we commit to challenge oppressive systems and build structures and communities that reflect God's compassion and justice.

This resolution puts our faith into action by standing with the growing number of communities of faith, cities, colleges and organizations declaring themselves places of welcome, refuge, and healing for those targeted by hate due to immigration status or some perceived status of difference.

What does it mean to be a diocese of Holy Welcome and Advocacy?

- **Education & Advocacy** including signing petitions, attending hearings on relevant legislation, and/or participation in civic demonstrations;
- **Accompaniment of Immigration Families or Youth**, which usually involves members of the congregation, supported by the prayers of the congregation, accompanying families to hearings and providing emotional support;
- **Networks of Protection & Rapid Response**, which can involve being present at ICE raids to ensure compliance with law and accountability;
- **Practical assistance** for persons facing deportation and support of individuals and families seeking refuge.

The Immigration Commission (SJ Raise) has endorsed this Resolution.

#### **FISCAL IMPACT:**

Unknown.