

## **On Filling Vacancies in the Trustees of the Diocese**

It is enacted by the 192<sup>nd</sup> Annual Convention of the Diocese of North Carolina:

Canon 10, Section 1, is amended as follows:

**“Section 1. *Membership.*** The Trustees of the Diocese shall consist of the Bishop or other Ecclesiastical Authority, and six persons who are enrolled confirmed adult communicants in good standing in the Diocese or clergy of the Diocese elected by the Convention upon nomination of the Ecclesiastical Authority. The Treasurer of the Diocese and the Chancellor of the Diocese shall sit with and advise the Trustees but shall have no vote.

The elected Trustees of the Diocese shall, at the first annual Diocesan Convention at which the number of elected Trustees has been increased from two to six, be elected for such terms, not to exceed three years, as may be specified by the Secretary of the Convention to the end that two members shall be seated for three-year terms, two for two-year terms and two for one-year terms. Thereafter, all elections shall be for three-year terms. No person who has been seated for two full three-year terms shall be eligible for re-election as a Trustee until one year shall have elapsed following the expiration of the term of office. Any vacancy occurring in the office of elected Trustee shall, on nomination of the Ecclesiastical Authority, be filled by the Diocesan Council for the remainder of the unexpired term.”

Submitted by the Commission on Constitution and Canons

## **On Filling Vacancies in the Ecclesiastical Court**

It is enacted by the 192<sup>nd</sup> Annual Convention of the Diocese of North Carolina:

Canon 31, Section 3(c), is amended as follows:

**“(c)** Any vacancy on the Ecclesiastical Court occurring by reason of death, disability rendering a person unable to act, resignation or declination to serve as a member of an Ecclesiastical Trial Court between Conventions, shall be filled by the Diocesan Council for the remainder of the unexpired term.”

Submitted by the Commission on Constitution and Canons

**On Amending the Constitution of the Diocese of North Carolina to Specify the Quorum of the Convention**

It is enacted by the 192<sup>nd</sup> Annual Convention of the Diocese of North Carolina:

Article V of the Constitution of the Diocese of North Carolina is amended as follows:

**“Article V**

To constitute a quorum for the transaction of business, the presence of a majority of all the clergy entitled to vote, and of a majority of all the lay delegates authorized to be chosen as provided by canon, shall be necessary. Any lesser number shall be competent to receive reports and to recess or adjourn.”

Submitted by the Commission on Constitution and Canons

**On Amending the Constitution of the Diocese of North Carolina to Clarify the Majority Required in the Each Order for the Election of a Bishop**

It is enacted by the 192<sup>nd</sup> Convention of the Diocese of North Carolina:

Article XII of the Constitution of the Diocese of North Carolina is amended as follows:

**“Article XII**

When a Bishop is to be elected the Convention shall vote by written ballot and separately by orders; and a concurrence on the same ballot of a majority of all the clergy entitled to vote in the Convention, whether present or not, and of a majority of all lay delegates authorized to be chosen as provided by canon, whether present or not, shall be necessary to an election.”

**On Establishing the Parliamentary Authority for the Transaction of Business by the Convention**

It is enacted by the 192<sup>nd</sup> Annual Convention of the Diocese of North Carolina:

The Rules of Order of the Convention of the Diocese of North Carolina are amended by inserting a new Rule XXV as follows:

“XXV. Subject to the provisions of the Constitution and Canons of the General Convention of The Episcopal Church, the Constitution, Canons, and Rules of Order of the Diocese of North Carolina, and any Special Rule proposed by the Committee on Dispatch of Business for the election of a bishop or the consideration of any other specific items of business, the Parliamentary Authority governing the transaction of business by the Annual Convention or any Special Convention shall be the current edition of Robert’s Rules of Order newly revised.”

Submitted by the Commission on Constitution and Canons

**SUPPORT FOR COMPREHENSIVE IMMIGRATION REFORM  
AND EDUCATION OF CONGREGATIONS  
CONCERNING IMMIGRATION REFORM**

**A resolution to commit the Diocese of North Carolina to study immigration reform,  
encourage of local dialogue and advocate  
for the protection of undocumented workers.**

**RESOLUTION**

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the 192<sup>nd</sup> Annual Convention of the Diocese of North Carolina encourages the U.S. government to enact comprehensive immigration reform that includes reasonable pathways to permanent residency; increased legal avenues for workers to enter the United States in a safe and orderly fashion; reunification without undue delay of families separated by migration; effective, proportional and humane enforcement of national borders and immigration policies; the right of due process for immigrants; and policies which address the root causes of migration.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the 192<sup>nd</sup> Annual Convention of the Diocese of North Carolina believes that any governmental action which unduly emphasizes enforcement as the primary response to immigrants entering this country or which criminalizes persons providing humanitarian assistance to migrants does not accord with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. In addition, we encourage the state and local governments of North Carolina to provide for fair treatment and protection of our state's immigrant population.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that this Convention encourage wide participation by our congregations and institutions in educational events and forums to learn about the plight and gifts of immigrants, to develop relationships with them, to listen to people's experiences of enforcement and its impact on their lives and their families, to learn about the root causes of migration, and to discuss long-term solutions to the immigration crisis.

**Background**

**This background paper is compiled from material from the North Carolina Council of Churches, from the Diocese of California and from our own Chartered Committee on Hispanic Ministry**

As people of faith and conscience, we recognize that while the issue of immigration is complex, we have a biblical mandate to welcome the stranger and offer hospitality and justice to the migrant and refugee, regardless of legal status. We remember the words of Leviticus 19:33-34 when God tells the Israelites,

*“Do not mistreat foreigners living in your land, but treat them just as you treat your own citizens. Love foreigners as you love yourselves, because you were foreigners one time in Egypt.”*

As nearly all citizens in the United States today are descended from immigrants from other nations, we are reminded to offer support to newer immigrants who contribute to our economy and culture but who suffer discrimination, abuse, and hardship as a result of their status as undocumented residents.

We also recognize that countries have a duty to protect their borders. Previous resolutions, and statements by the Episcopal Church acknowledge that countries have the right to manage their borders, ports of entry and the workplace. However, enforcement must be proportional and humane. In addition, enforcement must be accompanied by other provisions which alleviate the suffering that enforcement causes to families already in this country. Currently enforcement is being taken to new and harsh extremes while other component of immigration reform are stalled.

Our country's current immigration system is broken. The number of undocumented persons living in the United States has tripled since 1990 from 4 to 12 million, with 300,000 to 500,000 new arrivals each year. During that same time period, more than 2,700 migrants have died in the deserts of the American Southwest. North Carolina has experienced the fastest growth rate of Latinos in the nation, many of whom are undocumented. Out of the top 30 counties in the United States that have experienced the most rapid growth, five exist in North Carolina: Wake, Mecklenburg, Forsyth, Guilford, and Durham. All five of these counties are in the Diocese of North Carolina.

Congressional debate on immigration reform has often focused on piecemeal, enforcement-only policies that ignore the root causes of migration, keep families separated, and contribute to human suffering. The current political debate also has spawned an increase in anti-immigrant emotion and alarming rhetoric.

It is important that we respond to the immigration crisis by offering advocacy and welcome in the face of rising anti-immigrant sentiment. We look to our scripture and faith traditions which call us to welcome the stranger, promote hospitality, and seek justice. Congregations should call for legislative reforms which are fair, humane, and address the root causes of migration.

Many denominations and religious groups, including member bodies of the North Carolina Council of Churches, have issued statements and resolutions calling for a comprehensive immigration reform that includes the following components:

- The status of undocumented persons currently living in the U.S. must be addressed. Undocumented workers and their families must have reasonable access to paths for permanent residency. Immigration proposals which ignore or criminalize the 12 million undocumented persons in our midst do not account for the reality that these people are here as part of the work force. Treating them as criminals only drives them further underground. Bringing them out of the shadows is a better solution.

- Immigration reform must be through employment and family-based programs that allow workers and their families to enter the U.S. in a safe, legal, orderly, and humane manner. Workers' rights must be recognized and should include basic rights to organize and collectively bargain, safe travel between the U.S. and homelands, and achievable paths to residency. Immigration reform should bring a greater share of the immigration flow through legal channels in response to recognized U.S. labor needs.
- Family unity and reunification should be given paramount importance. Our current laws are out-of-date. The wait times for close family members to reunite have stretched into many years, leaving families needlessly separated and often attempting illegal and dangerous ways to enter the United States. More legal channels should be available for those coming here to join close family members without undue delay.
- Although the U.S. has the right to control its borders, border enforcement alone should not be the basis for a solution to the immigration crisis, and border enforcement policies must be proportional and humane.
- Fundamental U.S. principles of legal due process should be granted to all persons.
- Comprehensive immigration reform must also address root causes for migration to the United States from other countries. This means promoting national policies that support fair trade, sustainable economic development in home countries, and protection of low-skilled workers and those fleeing persecution and violence.

### **Radical Hospitality and a Mission-minded Diocese**

North Carolina and our diocese in particular is clearly dealing with what is becoming a major shift in the population; which of course creates a ripple effect in urban issues, language barriers, education needs, violence, spiritual needs, and more. If our hope is to be a relevant and mission minded Diocese to our region in North Carolina, then it becomes necessary that we consider some long term goals as it relates to Hispanic Ministry, equipping and training our ordained leaders, and creating models that are relevant to our unique contexts, including ecumenical and interfaith partnerships. There are many, many churches in our Diocese that have indicated a desire do Hispanic Ministry, the Charter Committee on Hispanic Ministry does not have the time or resources to meet this huge need throughout our Diocese. While our diocese continues to pursue the means of better serving the pastoral and sacramental needs of our newest neighbors, we must also better understand the issues of immigration and support public policy changes that address these complexities comprehensively.

Further background

**(General Convention) Resolution A017 – PASSED IN 2006**

**Title: Fundamental Immigration Principles**

**Topic: Immigration**

**Committee: 09. National and International Concerns**

**House of Initial Action: Bishops**

**Proposer: Anglican and Inter. Peace w/Just.**

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Resolved, the House of Deputies concurring, the 75<sup>th</sup> General Convention of the Episcopal Church receive “The Alien Among You” in the Blue Book Report of the Standing Commission on Anglican and International Peace with Justice Concerns; and, while recognizing the duty and right of a sovereign nation to protect and defend its borders, adopt the following fundamental principles included in “The Alien Among You” as the policy of the Episcopal Church.

1. Undocumented aliens should have reasonable opportunity to pursue permanent residency.
2. Legal workers should be allowed to enter the United States to respond to recognized labor force needs.
3. Close family members should be allowed to reunite without undue delay with individuals lawfully present in the United States.
4. Fundamental U.S. principles of legal due process should be granted all persons.
5. Enforcement of national borders and immigration policies should be proportional and humane.

And be it further

Resolved, that the 75<sup>th</sup> General Convention of the Episcopal Church deplores any action by the Government of the United States which unduly emphasizes enforcement, including militarization of the border between the United States and Mexico, as the primary response to immigrants entering the United States to work, and be it further

Resolved, that the Episcopal Church undertake a campaign to educate Episcopalians as to the plight of refugees, immigrants, and migrants, which will include information about the root causes of migration, and be it further

Resolved, that this campaign calls the church to commit to welcoming strangers as a matter of Christian responsibility, to advocate for their wellbeing and protection and to urge its members to resist legislation and actions which violate our fundamental beliefs as Christians, including the criminalization of persons providing humanitarian assistance to migrants.

## Report of the Committee on Faith and Morals

### ON THE INCLUSION OF ALL PERSONS REGARDLESS OF SEXUAL ORIENTATION AS FULL AND EQUAL PARTICIPANTS IN THE LIFE OF CHRIST'S CHURCH.

Resolved by the 192<sup>nd</sup> Annual Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of North Carolina, that the Diocese continue to demonstrate its commitment to radical hospitality and, that in accordance with the House of Bishops' Statement, Fall 2007, we "proclaim the Gospel that in Christ all God's children, including gay and lesbian persons, are full and equal participants in the life of Christ's Church" by:

- 1) Urging the Archbishop of Canterbury to extend to the duly elected and consecrated Bishop of New Hampshire an invitation to full participation in the Lambeth Conference of 2008;
- 2) Encouraging our Deputies to the 2009 General Convention to ensure compliance with Title III. Canon I. Section 2, which supports the full and equal participation of all persons regardless of sexual orientation in all aspects of the Church's ministries, lay and ordained;
- 3) Encouraging the General Convention to call for the development of public liturgies for the blessing of same sex unions.