

New Business #1

RESOLUTION TOPIC:

Supporting Undocumented Persons Among Us

What is the financial impact of this resolution on the budget of our Synod?

There will be no direct impact on the budget of the Synod.

What are the sources of income anticipated to accomplish the resolution's purpose?

The seminar will need to be funded through private donations from individuals and/or churches.

What are the personnel implications within our Synod or Churchwide?

The Bishop and staff members will probably want to participate in the seminar as they are available.

Who will be responsible for implementation of the resolution?

The Public Witness Team; Pastor Chuck Hubbard, chairperson

How does this resolution enhance the mission of the Church and our Synod?

It contributes to our support of some of the most vulnerable people in our society: refugees, asylees, and immigrants who are in the United States without officially recognized legal status.

THE RESOLUTION:

Resolution on Supporting Undocumented Persons among Us

WHEREAS, Holy Scripture teaches us to "love God . . . and love neighbor as self" (Luke 10:27);

WHEREAS, care for the unknown neighbor is repeatedly emphasized in injunctions directed to Israel to respect and provide justice for "the widow, the orphan, and alien among you" (Deuteronomy 10:18);

WHEREAS, we hold that all people should be treated with dignity and respect as befitting those who are created in the image of God (Genesis 1:27); and

WHEREAS it necessarily follows that such dignity and respect must be accorded migrants, immigrants, refugees and asylees whether documented or otherwise; therefore, be it

RESOLVED that the Public Witness Team of the NT-NL Synod, **working together with the Latino Conference**, be asked **to provide education** on the struggles of undocumented people and others affected by immigration policy, and **training on** how to minister to and advocate for them.

RESOLVED the **2017** Northern Texas-Northern Louisiana Synod **in Assembly** encourage and support churches in becoming "solidarity" congregations that seek **choose** to do the following:

(a) ensure that the due process rights of undocumented individuals targeted by US authorities for deportation are respected,

(b) ensure that when an individual is apprehended by authorities as much light as possible is brought to bear on the situation by participating in such things as the Rapid Response Network of Faith in Texas and by being a faithful witness to the entire process,

- (c) provide support to family members of an undocumented individual who may be apprehended and deported or who has been apprehended and deported by US authorities,
- (d) work cooperatively with community organizations such as Faith in Texas in attempting to provide similar support to such individuals, and
- (e) provide as many resources as possible to other congregations engaging in the same work; and be it further

RESOLVED that the 2017 Northern Texas-Northern Louisiana Synod in Assembly also encourage and support churches congregations that choose to become sanctuary congregations. ~~meaning that in addition to functioning as a solidarity church described above, such faith communities are also willing to provide refuge as a sensitive location for someone who may be at risk for deportation; and finally be it~~

PRESENTER OF THE RESOLUTION:

The Rev. Charles Hubbard; Co-sponsors: David Buland, Criss Forshay, Ann Hafften, Mederick H. Rodgers, Sandra Walker, Sabrina Walker, Laura Hunt, Gail Johnson, Tyna Oslie, Sarah Skinner, Len Avecilla, Lissy Bethmann, Jorge A. Martinez, Carol Otterstad, Berta McLemore, Jorge A. Martinez, the Rev. Edy Santos, the Rev. Suzanne Guinn, the Rev. Janice Heidlberger, the Rev. Doris Dupree Harris, the Rev. Franz Schemmel

CONGREGATION:

Gloria Dei Lutheran Church

LOCATION:

Garland, TX

Recommendation of the committee for Reference & Counsel;

That this resolution be adopted as amended.