



Resolution on the Refugee and Migrant Crisis

To the congregations of the Convocation of Episcopal Churches in Europe

Whereas Europe has always been a refuge for migrants fleeing wars and economic hardship, today's unprecedented influx of millions calls for an unprecedented response. The Gospel tells us to care for the least and the lost (Matthew 25:31-45), and Holy Scripture reminds us that we were once strangers too (Ex. 22:21; Dt. 10:19). Moreover, we have vowed each of us to seek and serve Jesus in our neighbor (BCP 305). In a recent statement, Presiding Bishop Katharine Jefferts Schori wrote, "We cannot ignore the massive human suffering in Europe, Africa, and the Middle East, nor in Asia and the Americas. We are our brothers' and sisters' keepers, and our lives are bound up with theirs. The churchwide ministry of Episcopalians has included refugee resettlement since the refugee crisis of World War II."

The Convocation of Episcopal Churches of Europe has long been on the front line of the Episcopal Church's mission with refugees and migrants from the Middle East and Africa, reflected in our Vision 2012 Commitment to Ministry beyond our walls.

Therefore, meeting in Clermont-Ferrand, France, we, the Council of Advice and your Bishop in charge, passed the following resolution:

Be it hereby

Resolved that the Convocation's congregations engage in a period of renewed commitment to the call to welcome the stranger, culminating in a rededication on Pentecost Sunday, May 15, 2016, to our shared and individual refugee and migrant ministries. This will include:

- 1.) establishing or enhancing opportunities for use of time, talent & treasure at a parish level, including consultation with local ecumenical and interfaith organizations;
- 2.) investing time for formation of our members in understanding migration issues and meeting needs as God gives us the means;
- 3.) making this Convocation Mission Sunday a special collection of materials and funds to symbolize our renewed commitment; and
- 4.) officially acknowledging now the individual congregation's willingness to hear and respond to God's call.

Unanimously approved, the Council of Advice and the Bishop in charge of the Convocation of Episcopal Churches in Europe, on September 12, 2015.