

**HOW TO WRITE A RESOLUTION FOR CONVENTION**  
*Compiled by the Rev. Christopher Hofer and the Rev. Rob Picken  
and updated by The Rev. Karen Davis-Lawson*

**WHAT IS A RESOLUTION?**

A resolution is a proposal for the taking of a specific action by the Episcopal Diocese of Long Island (the “Diocese”), put in form for debate, amendment, clarification, and eventual vote. After it is assigned to the appropriate committee for review and consideration, it will be formally discussed at the Convention.

**WHO CAN WRITE A RESOLUTION FOR DIOCESAN CONVENTION?**

Any voting delegate to the Convention may write a resolution concerning the mission and ministry of the Diocese.

**HOW DO I WRITE A RESOLUTION?**

Resolutions should be submitted in proper format as outlined below, containing only those specific statements upon which the Convention will vote. Resolutions should be written clearly, concisely and in gender-neutral, inclusive style.

**FORMAT OF A RESOLUTION**

**Title**

***Whereas...***

*(Provides background, basic facts and the reason for the resolution. Each statement should be stated in a new “whereas” paragraph.)*

***Therefore be it Resolved, that the XXX Convention of the Diocese of Long Island...***

*(State what action you wish to occur. Please confine your motions to things that can be accomplished by the Diocese.)*

***Be it further resolved that...***

*(Your resolution may require more than one distinct action. Please state each step in a new “resolve” paragraph.)*

***Submitted by or signed...***

*(List all signatories who are sponsoring the resolution as recommended previously. Those signing a resolution should be prepared to discuss the motion if called on.)*

## **SPEAKING ON A RESOLUTION**

- 1) Name
- 2) Parish
- 3) I rise to speak FOR or AGAINST this resolution (the proponent of a resolution customarily speaks in favor if it on the floor of Convention)
- 4) One to two paragraph explanation of why
- 5) That is why I ask the delegates to vote FOR or AGAINST this resolution

## **SAMPLE RESOLUTIONS**

### **Actual Resolution Adopted from the Diocesan Convention 2008**

#### **Resolution #5**

#### **For the Establishment of Regular Reporting on the Status of Diocesan Youth Ministries at Diocesan Convention by the Diocesan Youth Coordinator**

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Committee on Dispatch consider regularly providing time on the Convention agenda for a presentation by the office of the Diocesan Youth Coordinator on the status of youth ministries in the diocese.

***Explanation:*** *The youth of the Diocese of Long Island are full and integral members of the Body of Christ by virtue of their baptism. Missing an opportunity to regularly foster and honor their participation risks losing this valuable resource, beloved brothers and sisters, and the hope of the church's future. A regular report would focus our attention on any needs or concerns, as well as progress and accomplishments of our youth, providing clergy and youth leaders tools and direction for creating opportunities for spiritual growth and development.*

*Respectfully submitted,  
(The Rev.) Owen C. Thompson  
(The Very Rev.) Richard E. Simpson  
(The Rev.) Brian D. Blayer*

**Actual Resolution Adopted  
By the Diocesan Convention in 2021**

**Resolution 2020-R4 as Approved  
Engaging in Immigration Detention Ministry**

**Whereas** in over 200 ICE (Immigration and Customs Enforcement) detention facilities across the country, most operated for profit (including those managed by municipalities), immigrants are detained in prisons rife with well-documented human rights abuses. Adults and children suffer separation from their families and communities of support indefinitely as their cases proceed through the immigration court system or as they await deportation; they are not in detention to serve sentences for a crime. Families in the United States with a loved one in detention often face financial crises, homelessness, and trauma. The daily average population in ICE facilities in 2019 was over 50,000 persons; and .

**Whereas** human rights abuses in detention, documented by Episcopalians, the media, and advocates across the country, include: lack of access to legal support and medical care; medical neglect and abuse (including lack of testing/treatment/protection for COVID-19); inedible and unhealthy food; extended separation from children, family, and friends; use of solitary confinement for punishment and illness; work programs that pay \$1-\$4 per day; transport in shackles; and forced reliance on expensive commissary purchases to provide for basic needs and to communicate with loved ones. As a whole, the system reflects past structured oppression of people of color in the United States: and

**Whereas** immigration detention facilities are often located in remote rural communities, far from communities of support, and where few comparable job opportunities exist for local workers. Whistleblowers have described unsafe working conditions, especially during the coronavirus pandemic. Workers in this system may also suffer moral injury. Communities become dependent on revenue from these facilities, which disincentivizes scrutiny and accountability; and

**Whereas** God has blessed the Episcopal Church with varied gifts, such as hospitality, prophetic action, compassion, teaching, exhortation, and generosity. Connected and woven together, with support from Episcopal Migration Ministries, these gifts can strengthen and expand a web of support for all harmed by the immigration detention system. The Episcopal Church is well-equipped to create dignified alternatives to detention (e.g. sponsorship of asylum seekers, community-based case management programs, and bond funds) and ministries that repair harm and facilitate reconciliation.

**Therefore be it Resolved that** this 154<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Long Island lament the inhumanity of the mostly for-profit immigration detention system in the United States and the suffering it inflicts on God's beloved children and local communities; and

**Be it further resolved that** this 154<sup>th</sup> Convention acknowledge that Episcopalians, the larger body of Christ, and our communities are harmed by this inhumane system; and

**Be it further resolved that** we as a Diocese will prayerfully explore local opportunities for ministries of healing, justice, and reconciliation with individuals and families directly harmed by the immigrant detention system, including workers, with the goal of developing dignified alternatives to detention that reflect Jesus' command to love our neighbors; and

**Be it further resolved that** the Diocese of Long Island will amplify and support Episcopal Migration Ministries' work to connect and equip Episcopal partners who, working together with national and local partners, can strengthen and expand a web of support for detained and formerly detained immigrants and their loved ones, and suffering workers.

Submitted by:

Br. Christopher McNabb, CFC Priest in Charge, St. Francis Episcopal Church (North Bellmore)  
The Reverend John Shirley, Rector, St. Mary's Episcopal Church