

## Resolution

### Episcopal Migration Ministries

*Resolved*, That this 149<sup>th</sup> Convention of the Diocese of Easton, meeting on February 24-25, 2017, in Cambridge, MD, gives thanks for the work of Episcopal Migration Ministries (EMM), sponsored by the Episcopal Church, in resettling refugees from foreign lands; and be it further

*Resolved*, That our Bishop be encouraged to convey this Convention's gratitude to the Rt. Rev. Greg Rickel, Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Olympia (the western portion of the State of Washington), for the work of that Diocese over the past thirty-six years in sponsoring refugees in collaboration with Episcopal Migration Ministries and for their vigorous legal defense of two legal, Seattle residents adversely affected by the recent Executive Order issued by the President of the United States (Case 2:17-cv-00178 in the United States District Court, Western District of Washington at Seattle; filed on February 7, 2017); and be it further

*Resolved*, That this Convention commend the Executive Council of the Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society for authorizing on February 8, 2017, an immediate, emergency grant of \$500,000 to support EMM in this difficult and challenging time in an effort to safeguard the vital nationwide network of 31 affiliates (such as the Diocese of Olympia); and be it further

*Resolved*, That the Secretary of this Convention be directed to mail by no later than April 1, 2017, a copy of this resolution to the Hon. Andy Harris, MD, Representative of the First Congressional District in Maryland, 1533 Longworth HOB, Washington, DC 20515.

### **Explanation**

The Episcopal Church has served immigrants new to the U.S. since the late 1800s, when the Church opened port chaplaincies to minister to sojourners on both coasts. The Church has been a vocal advocate on behalf of refugees since WWII, when Episcopal parishes and dioceses spoke out on behalf of Jewish refugees and others displaced by Nazi aggression. Out of this effort, the Presiding Bishop's Fund for World Relief was born, the forerunner organization to Episcopal Relief & Development and Episcopal Migration Ministries.

Individual and parish donations provided steamship passage to Central European refugees in the period leading up to the outbreak of war, marking the Church's first resettlement ministry in 1939. This ministry resumed after fighting ended in 1945 and has continued in multiple forms to the present day. The Church has formally assisted refugees through the U.S. Resettlement Program since the passage of the Refugee Act in 1980. Since 1988, EMM and its network of affiliate partners have aided and welcomed more than 50,000 refugees in partnership with dioceses, churches, community institutions and volunteers.

**Submitted by:** The Rev. Nathaniel W. Pierce

**Financial impact:** Less than \$1.00