

2017 Resolution on Sanctuary Synod

WHEREAS, Holy Scripture repeatedly calls us to welcome the stranger (cf. Leviticus 19:33—34; Matthew 25:31—46), and that this welcome is one of the core values of our faith; AND

WHEREAS, the Southwest California Synod is home to many immigrants and refugees; AND

WHEREAS, Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service (LIRS) “has welcomed more than 379,000 refugees to the United States through the initiative of Lutheran congregations... and Lutheran churches remain our vital partners as we continue to welcome newcomers,” AND

WHEREAS, “sanctuary means providing moral, spiritual, psychological, financial, legal and sometimes physical accompaniment and support for undocumented immigrants facing possible detention or deportation,” AND

WHEREAS, our sisters and brothers in the Episcopal Diocese of Los Angeles, with whom we are called to be in common mission, became a “Sanctuary Diocese” by the action of their Diocesan Convention in December 2016, and with whom we are ecumenical partners in Interfaith Refugee and Immigration Services (IRIS); AND

WHEREAS, the City and County of Los Angeles are places of sanctuary; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Southwest California Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America be declared a Sanctuary Synod; AND

RESOLVED, that the congregations of our Synod will commit to pray for refugees and immigrants among us and will strive to be places of radical welcome, refuge, and protection; AND

RESOLVED, that rostered ministers and members of our churches should seek to embody a prophetic witness and articulate a vision of God's justice;
AND

RESOLVED, that we will work to protect the dignity, safety, and basic human needs of all immigrants and refugees among us, even by resisting policies that seek to turn away and harm the stranger.

Southwest California Synod Sacred Solidarity and Sanctuary Task Force,

Pastor Cesar Arroyo

Pastor James E. Boline, St. Paul's (Santa Monica)

Pastor Joseph Castañeda Carrera, ADORE (Hollywood)

Pastor Stephanie Jaeger, St. Matthew's (North Hollywood)

Vicar Kristian C. Kohler, St. Paul's (Santa Monica)

Dominic Savino

Pastor Tracy Williams

Additional signatures,

Deacon Barbara P. Hoffman, St. Paul's (Santa Monica)

Sean D'Evelyn (Congregation Council President), St. Paul's (Santa Monica)

Pastor Eric C. Shafer, Mt. Olive (Santa Monica)

Vicar Sharon M. Ruff Richter, Mt. Olive (Santa Monica)

Pastor Caleb Crainer, St. Andrew's (West Los Angeles)

Pastor Peg-Schultz-Akerson, Lutheran Church of the Master (West Los Angeles)

Pastor Matt Keadle, St. Mark's (Los Angeles)

Pastor Ellen C. Jennrich, Grace (Culver City)

Pastor Scott Bartlett, Bethel (Los Angeles)

Pamela Martin, Trinity (Pasadena)

Sharon Heck, St. Mark's (Hacienda Heights)

Kenneth Roehrs, Lutheran Church of the Master (West Los Angeles)

Lillian Simons, First (Glendale)

Linda Koci-Brondolello, Hill Ave Grace (Pasadena)

Karla Lysdal-Moffitt, Holy Trinity (Thousand Oaks)

Dixie Hanson, Holy Trinity (Thousand Oaks)

Pastor Steve Herder, Ascension (Thousand Oaks)

Jane Affonso, First Lutheran, (Torrance)

John Halbert, Hope Lutheran (Hollywood)

Alexia Salvatierra