

Resolution #8 – Establishing A Walking Together Diocesan Ministry

1 Resolution Title: Establishing A Walking Together Diocesan Ministry

2 RESOLVED that the 206th Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Maine (EDOM) requests that
3 the bishop's office establish a diocesan ministry, "Walking Together: A Faithful Response to
4 Those Made Vulnerable in Uncertain Times," dedicated to walking with immigrants, LGBTQ+
5 siblings, and others; and be it further

6 RESOLVED that this ministry will be grounded in the call of the prophet Micah, "to act justly, to
7 love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God" (Micah 6:8), and will carry out its mission
8 through prayer, relationship building, advocacy, education, and service; and be it further

9 RESOLVED that the 206th EDOM Convention encourage its congregations to participate in
10 Walking Together by engaging in intentional prayer, fostering relationships with immigrant and
11 LGBTQ+ communities, advocating for justice, providing educational opportunities, and offering
12 tangible acts of service; and be it further

13 RESOLVED that diocesan leadership support this ministry by providing resources, naming a
14 coordinator, and fostering partnerships with community organizations; and be it further

15 RESOLVED that progress on the work of Walking Together be reported annually to Diocesan
16 Convention, with recommendations for growth and continued faithfulness in ministry.

Brief Explanation:

The ministry of “Walking Together: A Faithful Response to Those Made Vulnerable in Uncertain Times” arises from our baptismal covenant to seek and serve Christ in all persons, and to strive for justice and peace among all people.

We recognize that immigrants, LGBTQ+ siblings, the unhoused, and other vulnerable communities who often live with fear, uncertainty, and discrimination. As followers of Jesus, we are called to walk not alone but together, heeding the words of the African proverb: “If you want to walk fast, walk alone. If you want to walk far, walk with others.”

The prophet Micah reminds us of God’s expectation: “to act justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God” (Micah 6:8). Walking Together embodies this call by grounding its work in:

Prayer: holding one another before God, and shaping worship that affirms the dignity and gifts of immigrants and LGBTQ+ communities.

Relationship Building: fostering bonds of trust and solidarity with immigrant and LGBTQ+ neighbors, as well as with congregations and community partners.

Advocacy: speaking with and alongside marginalized communities to uphold their dignity in the public square.

Education: equipping congregations with resources and learning opportunities that expand understanding and compassion.

Service: accompanying our neighbors with tangible acts of love, welcome, and support.

By establishing Walking Together as a diocesan ministry, the Episcopal Diocese of Maine proclaims our commitment to walk faithfully with those on the margins, to strengthen our witness of love and justice, and to build a community where no one is left to walk alone.

Supporting website links (if any): NA

Submitting individual or organization: St. Luke's Cathedral

Contact person: Angel McCorkle

Email address: angelmccorkle0@gmail.com

Phone number: 787-463-2960

Submission Questionnaire

Do you have an individual or organization co-sponsoring this resolution? Yes

Co-sponsoring individual or organization: Greater Portland Area Episcopal Churches

Does this resolution have any budgetary impacts to the Episcopal Diocese of Maine (EDOM) Annual Budget? Yes

What are the one-time implementation costs to the diocesan budget? Please explain: We will be requesting resources to establish the Walking Together ministry as an ongoing diocesan ministry. It will provide support and solidarity for all churches in the diocese to actively participate on behalf of our immigrant and LGBTQ+ brothers, sisters, and siblings who are being wrongfully profiled, and who risk detention, deportation, and family separation.

This ministry was previously formed in response to resolutions passed by the 79th General Convention of the Episcopal Church and modeled after a similar ministry of the Washington National Cathedral in support of immigrants and calling for meaningful reform of U.S. immigration law, policy, and practice.

Please explain the financial impact to the diocesan budget expressed in annual terms. Will there be a recurring annual cost to continue the program? We hope for a similar, if not slightly larger, allocation in the years ahead to establish “Walking Together” as a firmly established diocesan ministry.

Apart from financial impact to the diocese, would implementing this resolution have any financial impact to our congregations? No

Have you consulted with the diocesan finance committee regarding this resolution? No

Does the action proposed by this resolution fall under the charge of an established diocesan committee, commission, council, or ministry? Yes

Please name the committee: Diocesan Convention

Have you communicated your proposed resolution to that group? No

Who will be responsible to present and address questions regarding the resolution at town halls and at the convention? Linda Carleton

Email address: lindacarleton01@gmail.com

Phone number: 207-504-4628

Assuming passage, who is responsible for completing the action being resolved by this resolution? “Walking Together” ministry leadership

If the resolution is adopted, how long do you plan on the action(s) being in effect? Ongoing

Reporting on an adopted resolution's progress is required at the 2025 Convention. Who will be responsible for performing this task? Sam Allen

If you have documents that support your resolution, please attach them here: NA