

Our Neighbors, Ourselves

*Episcopal Church Ministries
with Migrating People in the
First Year of Trump's
Second Term, Results from
an International Survey*

EPISCOPAL MIGRATION MINISTRIES &
STANDING COMMISSION ON WORLD MISSION
JULY 2026



General Convention Resolution 2024-D037

Assess Intersections of Ministry with Migration

Celebrate that immigrants are part of every community and congregation

Acknowledge that immigration and the lives of immigrants are intimately linked with diverse phenomena that are the focus of Ministries of The Episcopal Church, including but not limited to creation care, racial justice, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, economic justice, healthcare, social justice, and evangelism

Encourage all Ministries and organizations of The Episcopal Church ... to assess how issues of migration intersect with these ministries, using a survey developed by Episcopal Migration Ministries in collaboration with Episcopal Migration Response Network

Completed surveys be compiled and sent to the Standing Commission on World Mission, who will then review and analyze the data with Episcopal Migration Ministries, which will then share the findings ... for reflection and further action and report back to the 82nd General Convention.

Methodology

Survey design: Episcopal Migration Ministries (EMM) with the Episcopal Migration Response Network's D037 Working Group

Online data collection: November 22, 2025 to January 2, 2026; released with a survey about Sustainable Development Goals

Participation: 170 people in 73 dioceses (69% of Episcopal Church dioceses), within all provinces of The Episcopal Church, in English and Spanish

Analysis: Microsoft CoPilot and qualitative analysis techniques

Reporting: EMM and the Standing Commission on World Mission

Survey focus

Respondents were asked whether recent **immigrants were beneficiaries** of their ministries in various program areas, and whether **immigrants provided services** in those domains

Survey definition: *An immigrant is “a person born in a country other than the one in which they currently reside. This includes individuals without legal authorization to be in the country and who may or may not be in the process to regularize their status (e.g., undocumented individuals); those with legal authorization to be or remain in the country, including refugees, asylees, permanent residents, naturalized citizens; and individuals on student visas. The definition excludes tourists and others not seeking to reside in the country permanently.”*

Rationale: Sometimes, “immigrant” refers to the descendants of people who moved to a given country hundreds of years ago. The definition above was crafted for the survey in order to reflect the intention of Resolution D037 and the “immigration enforcement actions” of the second Trump Administration.

Findings

No representative sample was drawn, and therefore the results provided here cannot be considered representative of The Episcopal Church as a whole, although they enrich our understanding of the manner in which ministries of the Church work in solidarity with immigrants

The survey provides validation for a central claim of Resolution D037: That immigrants are part of who and what we are as a church

Quote: “Immigration and the lives of immigrants are intimately linked with diverse phenomena that are the focus of Ministries of The Episcopal Church, including but not limited to creation care, racial justice, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, economic justice, healthcare, social justice, and evangelism”

Immigrants are not “them,” they are part of “us”

Findings

At least 44% of survey respondents said that immigrants were beneficiaries of the ministries they were reporting on

At least 30% of respondents said that immigrants provided services in these ministries

This was true of all ministry areas the survey asked about:

Addressing immediate physical needs

Advocacy on behalf of specific impacted individual or family

Creation care

Demonstrations

Education

Immigrant-specific ministries

LGBTQ+ community support

Medical and/or mental health care

Pastoral support for those impacted by immigration enforcement

Pastoral support to those suffering physical or moral injury on account of their profession

Public policy advocacy

Racial justice

Relationships with congregations or dioceses in other countries

Spiritual formation

Worship

Findings

The report includes written responses that give eloquent expression to respondents' thoughts, hopes, and motivations

The following themes emerged:

Putting Christian values into practice

Changing the narrative

Alternate voices

Providing survival support

Fear and anxiety

Concern for those who serve

Helping members of particular vulnerable groups

Countering abuses

Immigrants as leaders and congregants

Strengthening ministries and discerning next steps

Partnership and community engagement

Everyone can play a role

Findings

Putting Christian values into practice

“As people of God, we are called to raise our voices against the unjust persecution of immigrants. The trauma and fear that current policies have brought upon our communities are unbearable – an affront to human dignity, a sin, and a deep source of pain for the Church and all God’s people.”

Changing the narrative

“Our first priority is to repeat that immigrants are vital to the health of our community, and are valued. Those of us who are able are doing what can be done to stand as an ally, and in opposition to the language and actions that minimize the dignity of every human being.”

Providing survival support

“This is a ministry in which we help people who usually lack the resources to navigate a system that is structured to capture, jail, and deport them. There are times when we may share a victory... Our faith helps us weather the storm. Each time we help our immigrant brothers and sisters, we are personifying the Good Samaritan.”

Findings

Fear and anxiety

“We are doing our best to make the community invisible ... by offering to shop, do laundry, bystander training... We are also working to get phone cards and advocate for persons who have been arrested.”

“We have a generation of children who have been traumatized.”

Concern for those who serve

“Much of our peace and justice work is carried out by individuals who do not share their names, who ‘keep their heads down’ to operate under the radar in our small rural community.”

Strengthening ministries and discerning next steps

“What we lack in money, we have in gumption and faith.”

Everyone can play a role

“No matter your age or income level or skillset, there is a way for everyone in the Church to help and support migrants.”

Findings

Alternate voices

“This country was developed by legal immigrants. Those who come here illegally are breaking our laws and are criminals... As moral citizens of the USA, we feel we should support our ICE agents and those attempting to take the violent criminals off the streets and send them back to their own countries.”

“Our congregation is not terribly interested in helping immigrants... There’s a lot of prejudice against illegal immigrants in the congregation, who believe that immigrants who come here illegally are getting what they deserve. Trying to explain what is going on to them is being dismissed as nothing more than doctored video.”

About 4% of respondents voiced or reported on support for the kinds of immigration enforcement actions that have marked the Trump Administration’s second term, or said that their congregations were not interested in migration ministry

Thank you

Hundreds of Episcopalians and friends have worked to make this report possible:

- Those who worked on Resolution D037
- Decision-makers at General Convention 2024
- Members of the Episcopal Migration Response Network D037 Working Group
- Members of the Standing Commission on World Mission, especially its Migration Working Group
- Episcopal Migration Ministries staff
- ... and everyone who completed the survey