RESOLUTION TO BE PRESENTED AT THE 189TH CONVENTION

Sponsor: The Vestry of St. Thomas Church, Birmingham, AL

Topic: Urging the Diocese of Alabama and its member parishes to recommit to actions and ministries that welcome migrants, immigrants, and refugees to the State of Alabama.

1 Be it resolved that the 189th convention reaffirms the commitment of the 186th Convention of Diocese of Alabama to support the efforts of parishes and other community organizations that offer hospitality and resources to migrants, immigrants and refugees in the State of Alabama.

2

Background:
In the years that have passed since the adoption of Resolution 5 at the 186th Convention, several model programs offering hospitality to displaced persons have begun to emerge throughout the diocese. These include the worshipping community “Todos Santos” (Montgomery), active support of refugee needs by Epiphany (Guntersville), the work of the Interfaith Mission service (Huntsville) and numerous “Beans and Rice” and “Laundry Love” programs that now form part of the outreach of many parishes. However, limits placed on funding to Episcopal organizations like Episcopal Migration Ministries has forced the closing of 12 of its former 26 diocesan resettlement affiliates. In addition, according to Executive Order 13888, the Governor of each State must now “opt in” with the U.S. Department of State to allow refugee resettlement in that State. These factors lead us to urge the Diocese of Alabama to renew its commitment to refugees and displaced persons in accordance with the promises that each of us made in our own baptismal covenant.

Approved by the Vestry of St. Thomas, Birmingham
January 13, 2020