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Mission on Our Doorsteps: A Vision for Immigrant Ministry in the Anglican Church in North America

Among the many needs before us, as local Churches, as Diocesan members of the Anglican Church in North America, as the Church of Jesus Christ, and as a Nation, the importance of a focus on immigration, for which we as Christians have both a responsibility and an opportunity, approaches a top priority.

There are currently more than 43 million immigrants in the United States, and 6.8 million in Canada. By 2023 there will be 51 million immigrants in the US representing 85% of the population growth in our country. Though many of these immigrants already come from Christian backgrounds, those that don't are, according to missiologists, one of the groups most receptive to the gospel. In the US, the fastest growing segment of the Church, across the evangelical spectrum, is the immigrant church. Behind the statistics is a human story of vast proportions. Many are trying to rebuild lives shattered by violence, chaos or extreme poverty. They have chosen our land as their hope.

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The question for us as a Nation, and moreover as the Church is: ***“Do we see Fear and uncertainty, or do we see Mission and opportunity for Evangelism”*** in these statistics. Is this an opportunity for us to Welcome the Stranger with the Love of Christ, or overlook one of the Single Largest Missional Opportunities of our time.

Our report to the Provincial Council will give an overview and update on the activities of the The Immigration Alliance and the Anglican Immigrant Initiative, which is chaired by Bishop Winn Mott.

These statistics and faces and names represent an incredible missional opportunity as well as challenge for us Anglicans. We desire to heed the call to welcome and love the stranger (see, for example, Matthew 25:35 and Leviticus 19:34), a call that resounds throughout the Old and New Testaments as we see the special care of God for the widow, orphan and immigrant.

How can we respond?

Millions of immigrants face a daunting, confusing, expensive, frustrating immigration system. The need for trustworthy legal services has never been greater. Immigrants are often targeted by unauthorized legal practitioners that prey on immigrants' vulnerability. By contrast, churches are a trusted presence in immigrant communities that can, with proper training, help address this shortage of legal services.



THE IMMIGRATION ALLIANCE

MOBILIZING CHURCHES / CULTIVATION RELATIONSHIPS / PROVIDING LEGAL SERVICES

The Immigration Alliance (www.theimmigrationalliance.org), a national, multi-denominational evangelical coalition has arisen to equip churches to meet the practical legal needs of immigrants by starting church-based legal aid sites.

The Anglican Church in North America is proud to be founding partner of The Immigration Alliance, a national collaboration created to help address critical needs facing immigrants in our churches and communities. We are a coalition of 15 evangelical church-based organizations that represent more than 28,500 churches in the U.S.

As members of The Immigration Alliance, we cultivate relationships among immigrants, churches, and denominationally, in order that the Church might become an epicenter of multi-national welcome and community.

As Christians, we believe that - regardless of where we each may stand on the political spectrum - God's heart for the immigrant is clear.

We believe that every person has God-given human dignity and that we have a moral obligation to address the needs of immigrants in our country. And we recognize that immigration presents a God-ordained opportunity to "make disciples of all nations" right within our own country.

The Immigration Alliance helps us make the most of this mission that is already on our doorsteps by addressing one of the most pressing needs of immigrants - providing access to low-cost and high- quality legal services through church-based legal clinics.

No part of the activities of the Immigration Alliance or the Anglican Initiative are for the carrying on of propaganda or otherwise attempting to influence legislation.

The Anglican Immigrant Initiative seeks to bring concrete help in a variety of contexts:

1. In cooperation with the Immigration Alliance **our goal is to start 30 parish-based legal aid clinics for immigrants**, which will help those in need and be a mission beacon shining from Anglican churches. Our hope is that through these centers new immigrant congregations can be planted and many immigrants can integrate into existing congregations.
2. Educate and equip Anglican Church in North America congregations in immigrant ministry
3. Provide assistance, through these legal aid centers, in obtaining the necessary religious worker visas for Anglican communities wishing to bring religious workers from other countries to serve them (for example, bringing Nigerian priests to serve Nigerian congregations here in the US)
4. Provide assistance for Anglican communities wishing to sponsor refugees fleeing from persecution and violence
5. Identify Anglican immigrants and, as good shepherds, connect them with existing congregations or help them organize new congregations.

History:

This initiative was originally launched out of the Caminemos Juntos Latino ministry conference. Currently there is a one legal aid center that has begun (Tree of Life in South Bend Indiana) and several other congregations interested or in the process of beginning centers..

Taskforce Team:

Chair: Bp. Winnfield Mott, Columbus, NM, Diocese of the West (REC)
Mr. Gus Haddad (El Paso, TX, Diocese of the Southwest) Member Board of Directors-The Immigration Alliance
Rev. Jonathan Kindberg (Chicago, IL, Greenhouse, Diocese of the Upper Midwest)
Rev. Kay Adebogun (Regina, SK, Missionary Diocese of the Trinity)
Rev. Paul Aduba (Toledo, OH, Missionary Diocese of the Trinity)
Mr. Jonathan Bruce, JD, (Indianapolis, IN, Missionary Diocese of the Trinity)
Dr. M. Daniel Carroll R (Littleton, CO, PEAR West)
Rev. Heather Ghormley (South Bend, IN, Diocese of the Great Lakes)
Rev. Raphael Villareal (Houston, TX, Diocese of Ft. Worth)
Canon Jon I. Lumanog (Canon to the Archbishop, Anglican Church in North America)

ABOUT THE IMMIGRATION ALLIANCE

Providing High Quality, Low Cost
Legal Services to Immigrants

The Immigration Alliance is a national effort that equips churches to provide critical immigration legal services to under-resourced immigrants.

The Immigration Alliance's affiliated churches provide fair, trustworthy immigration legal counsel to including:

- low-cost legal counseling on immigration-related matters;
- support in determining eligibility for benefits;
- assistance in preparing applications for legal immigration status;
- immigration support to victims of crime and domestic violence; and
- assistance in reuniting families.

These church-based sites go through an accreditation process through the federal Board of Immigration Appeals.

The Immigration Alliance is committed to dramatically multiplying the number of sites across the country providing low-cost, high-quality immigrant legal services over the next three years.

For more information about The Immigration Alliance, please visit:
www.theimmigrationalliance.org



THE IMMIGRATION ALLIANCE
MOBILIZING CHURCHES | CULTIVATING RELATIONSHIPS | PROVIDING LEGAL SERVICES

OUR APPROACH

With more than 22 million foreign-born, non-citizens in the United States – and with only 12,000 private immigration attorneys and 2,800 non-profit immigration legal sites—the need for trustworthy legal services has never been greater.

Immigrants are often targeted by unauthorized legal practitioners that prey on immigrants' vulnerability. By contrast, churches are a trusted presence in immigrant communities that can, with proper training, help address this shortage of legal services.

CREATING A NATIONAL INFRASTRUCTURE OF SUPPORT

The Immigration Alliance provides members with access to best-in-class training to prepare churches to serve immigrants, coordinates and oversees efforts to ensure quality, and shares resources to maximize effectiveness.

PROVIDING FRONT-LINE SERVICES

Church-based legal sites provide a welcoming environment and access to immigration legal services including:

- low-cost legal counsel on immigration-related matters;
- initial screening consultation to determine eligibility for benefits; and
- assistance in preparing applications for immigration legal status.

ACTIVATING LOCAL CHURCHES

The Immigration Alliance has tools that make it easy for churches to:

- get educated on the issue of immigration;
- offer resources to local immigrants; and
- open local legal sites.

No matter where a church is on the continuum, The Immigration Alliance is ready to come alongside you.

ORGANIZATIONAL HISTORY

In 1986, with the passage of the Immigration Reform and Control Act, World Relief developed a coalition that quickly opened 108 church-based sites that served thousands of undocumented immigrants. Taking from that experience, The Immigration Alliance began in early 2013 with the goal of uniting Christian denominations and churches to help serve the legal needs of immigrants. Led by 15 church-based organizations, The Immigration Alliance now represents a movement of 28,500 churches.





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ABOUT THE IMMIGRATION ALLIANCE

The Immigration Alliance is a national, collaborative effort that equips churches across the country to provide critical immigration legal services to under-resourced immigrants. We do this through cultivating relationships among immigrants and churches in order that the Church might become an epicenter of multi-national welcome and community.

The Immigration Alliance's affiliated churches provide fair, trustworthy immigration legal counsel to immigrants including:

- low-cost legal counseling on immigration-related matters;
- support in determining eligibility for benefits;
- assistance in preparing applications for legal immigration status;
- immigration support to victims of crime and domestic violence; and
- assistance in reuniting families.

These church-based sites, as well as their volunteers and staffs, go through a rigorous accreditation process through the federal Board of Immigration Appeals (BIA). An individual does not have to be an attorney in order to practice immigration law, provided they have received accreditation through the BIA.

A coalition of 15 evangelical church-based organization that represent more than 28,500 churches in the United States, The Immigration Alliance is committed to dramatically multiplying the number of sites across the country providing low cost, high quality immigrant legal services over the next three years. By 2017, members of The Immigration Alliance plan to serve at least 1,000,000 immigrants through 1,000 church-based immigrant ministry sites.

OUR APPROACH

While The Immigration Alliance focuses on direct services rather than advocacy, as Christians, we believe that every person has God-given human dignity and that we have a moral obligation to address the needs and circumstances of immigrants in our country. As an organization, we support the work of the Evangelical Immigration Table. The Immigration Alliance lives out these convictions by providing vulnerable and under-resourced immigrants with access to critical legal services through church-based clinics.



THE IMMIGRATION ALLIANCE

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Meeting a Critical Need

With more than 22 million foreign-born, non-citizens in the United States – and with only 12,000 private immigration attorneys and 2,800 non-profit immigration attorneys and accredited staff in the United States – the need for trustworthy legal services has never been greater.

Immigrants are often targeted by unauthorized legal practitioners that prey on immigrants' vulnerability. These "notarios" are known to make sweeping promises and charge excessive prices, but provide little results in return. By contrast, churches are viewed as trustworthy, fair and credible. With training and support through the credentialing process, local churches can help to meet this tangible need in immigrant communities.

While the demand for affordable, authorized legal services in the United States is already significant, it is anticipated to increase dramatically in the coming year. President Obama has pledged to act administratively to change U.S. immigration policy before the end of the year. Such executive action could make several million individuals potentially eligible to apply for benefits (such as Employment Authorization) from U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services. Thousands of additional not-for-profit sites would be necessary to help meet the coinciding need for affordable legal service. Churches are eager to help be a part of this response, meeting a tangible need.

Members of The Immigration Alliance plan to serve at least 1,000,000 immigrants through 1,000 church-based immigrant ministry sites by 2017.

Creating a National Infrastructure Of Support

The Immigration Alliance provides member organizations with access to best-in-class training to prepare churches to serve immigrants, coordinates and oversees efforts to ensure quality and consistency, and shares resources to maximize effectiveness and reach. Staff or volunteers do not need to be lawyers to be trained and credentialed in this work.

Providing Front-line Services

Church-based legal sites provide a welcoming environment and access to immigration legal services including: low-cost legal counsel on immigration-related matters; initial screening consultation to determine eligibility for benefits; and assistance in preparing applications for immigration legal status, including applications and renewals of Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA).



THE IMMIGRATION ALLIANCE
MOBILIZING CHURCHES | CULTIVATING RELATIONSHIPS | PROVIDING LEGAL SERVICES

Activating Local Churches

The need is real, and the mission is at the doorstep of local churches across the country. The Immigration Alliance has tools available that make it easy for churches get educated on the issue of immigration, offer resources to local immigrants, and open local legal sites. No matter where a church is on the continuum, The Immigration Alliance is ready to come alongside you. Churches interested in getting involved can email info@theimmigrationalliance.org to learn more.

FOUNDING MEMBERS

Assemblies of God	The Church of the Nazarene	Great Commission Churches
Anglican Church in North America	Converge Worldwide	Missionary Church
Baptist Convention of New York	The Evangelical Covenant Church	National Association of Evangelicals
Christian & Missionary Alliance	The Foursquare Church	The Wesleyan Church
Christian Community Development Association	Free Methodist Church	World Relief

ORGANIZATIONAL HISTORY

In 1986, with the passage of the Immigration Reform and Control Act, World Relief developed a coalition that quickly opened 108 church-based sites that served thousands of undocumented immigrants. Taking from that experience, the National Association of Evangelicals (NAE) and World Relief formed a similar coalition to launch in 2014.

The Immigration Alliance began in early 2013 with the goal of uniting Christian denominations and churches to help serve the legal needs of immigrants. Led by 15 church-based organizations, The Immigration Alliance now represents a movement of 28,500 churches.

This “Immigration by the Numbers” Fact Sheet was compiled by World Relief’s Matthew Soerens for the purpose of equipping others with essential immigration stats and facts.

32 million: number of immigrants living in the U.S. as of January 2010

10.8 million: number of undocumented immigrants residing in the U.S., as of January 2010

62%: percentage of undocumented immigrants from Mexico

280,000: number of undocumented Filipinos, representing about 1 of every 6 Filipino immigrants in the U.S.

200,000: number of undocumented Indians, representing about 1 out of every 8 Indian immigrants in the U.S.

170,000: number of undocumented South Koreans, representing about 1 out of every 5 South Korean immigrants in the U.S.

61%: percentage of undocumented immigrants who entered U.S. prior to year 2000

9%: percentage of undocumented immigrants who entered between 2005 and 2009

- *Source: U.S. Department of Homeland Security, February 2011, http://www.dhs.gov/xlibrary/assets/statistics/publications/ois_ill_pe_2010.pdf*
- *for total foreign-born population from Philippines: Migration Policy Institute, 2008, <http://www.migrationinformation.org/usfocus/display.cfm?!D=694>*
- *for total foreign-born population from South Korea: Migration Policy Institute, 2009, <http://www.migrationinformation.org/usfocus/display.cfm?!D=716>*
- *for total foreign-born population from India: Migration Policy Institute, 2008, <http://www.migrationinformation.org/usfocus/display.cfm?!D=687>*

40% to 50%: percentage of undocumented immigrants entered with a valid visa, then overstayed or violated the terms of their visa

Source: Pew Hispanic Center, 2006, <http://pewhispanic.org/files/factsheets/19.pdf>

44 out of 46: number of economists surveyed that believe that illegal immigration has been good for the U.S. economy overall

Source: Wall Street Journal, April 13, 2006, <http://online.wsj.com/article/SB114477669441223067.html>

\$12 billion: amount received in 2007 for Social Security contributions from Social Security numbers that did not match names (which are probably almost entirely from undocumented immigrants)

Source: Stephen Goss, Chief Actuary, Social Security Administration, quoted in Washington Post, September 3, 2010, <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2010/09/02/AR2010090202673.html>

75%: percentage of undocumented immigrants are paying payroll taxes, including Social Security, Medicare, and income taxes *Source: Stephen Goss, Chief Actuary, Social Security Administration, quoted in New York Times, April 5, 2005, <http://www.nytimes.com/2005/04/05/business/05immigration.html>*

\$11.2 billion: amount paid in taxes by households headed by undocumented immigrants in 2010 (\$1.2 billion in income tax, \$1.6 billion in property tax, and \$8.4 billion in sales taxes; does not include Social Security or Medicare taxes)

Source: *Institute for Taxation & Economic Policy*, 2011,

http://www.immigrationpolicy.org/sites/default/files/docs/Tax_Contributions_by_Unauthorized_Immigrants_041811.pdf

\$80,000: amount the average immigrant & his or her offspring will pay in taxes over the course of a lifetime beyond the cost of the governmental services & benefits they collect (but this net benefit is somewhat skewed because there is sometimes a net cost to local governments)

Source: *Cato Institute*, 2003, <http://www.cato.org/pubs/handbook/hb108/hb108-63.pdf>

96%: labor participation for undocumented adult males

Source: *Urban Institute*, 2004, <http://www.urban.org/publications/1000587.html>

65%: percentage of Hispanic immigrants who believe that abortion should be illegal, compared to 40% of all non-Hispanic Americans

- Source: *Pew Forum on Religion & Public Life*, 2007, <http://pewhispanic.org/files/reports/75.pdf>

- 5,000: Number of permanent visas available per year for employer-sponsored immigrants other than those classified as highly-skilled

- Source: *Immigration Policy in Focus*, 2005, <http://robparal.com/downloads/nowayin.htm>, explaining *Immigration & Nationality Act*, available in full at

<http://www.uscis.gov/portal/site/uscis/menuitem.f6da51a2342135be7e9d7a10e0dc91a0/?vgnnextoid=f a7e539dc4bed010VgnVCM1000000ecd190aRCRD&vgnnextchannel=fa7e539dc4bed010VgnVCM1000000ecd190aRCRD&CH=act> (particularly §201, §203(b)(3)(B), and of the *Nicaraguan Adjustment and Central American Relief Act*, Public Law 105-100, §202(e)(1), available online at

<http://www.uscis.gov/portal/site/uscis/menuitem.f6da51a2342135be7e9d7a10e0dc91a0/?vgnnextoid=f a7e539dc4bed010VgnVCM1000000ecd190aRCRD&vgnnextchannel=fa7e539dc4bed010VgnVCM1000000ecd190aRCRD&CH=publaw>

5,000: Average number of immigrants—most of whom would be classified as “low-skilled” if they had the same classification system as we do today—who entered through Ellis Island in an average day; at its peak—on April 17, 1907—11,747 immigrants passed through Ellis Island in a single day

Source: *Statue of Liberty-Ellis Island Foundation*, 2007,

http://www.ellisland.org/Eiinfo/Press_Centennialrecord.asp

\$7,500: average cost, as of 2010, to detain a single unauthorized border crosser on the Southern Border (overall expenditures divided by the number of apprehensions), up from \$1,400 per apprehension in 2005 (as a result of increased expenditures on border security and fewer attempted entrants)

Source: *National Immigration Forum*, February 2001,

<http://www.immigrationforum.org/images/uploads/2011/ImmigrationEnforcementOverview.pdf>

\$122: average per day, per detainee expense for Immigration & Customs Enforcement to detain an immigrant, typically in facilities operated by private corporations or local or county jails operating under contract with ICE; “alternatives to detention” such as a GPS-tracked ankle bracelet can cost as little as \$7 per day

Source: Congressional Hearing before the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Homeland Security, March 11, 2011,

http://micevhill.com/attachments/immigration_documents/hosted_documents/112th_congress/TranscriptOfHouseAppropriationsSubcommitteeOnHomelandSecurityHearingOnFY12BudgetRequestForICE.pdf