

Now In Our Name (NION)

ANNUAL REPORT 2021

Originally called Not In Our Name, this group was formed in 2019 to bring awareness to the federal government's immigration policies that were separating families at the border. With the change in leadership at the White House at the beginning of 2021, we changed to Now In Our Name in support of positive policy changes.

We kicked the year off by co-sponsoring a three-part webinar series with the Wisconsin Conference Immigration Working Group. These webinars (held in February, March, and April) included stories from activists working at the border and policy updates from UCC national staff. Another webinar was held in September and again included policy updates from national UCC staff, and also provided information on current congregation-based immigrant/refugee support activities in Tomah and in Winona MN.

For our August meeting Judy Emmrich invited former students of hers to tell us about their immigration experiences. One family (from Ivory Coast) has since moved to Utah. The other (from Gambia) is still in the Madison area. We assisted them with clothing and childcare while they moved into a new apartment and continue to assist one of the family members in navigating our healthcare system.

In late September Judy connected us with another student, a young woman from Nicaragua with a 6-year-old child and another due early October. She is currently staying in a shelter in Sun Prairie. So far we have provided her and her children with goods and gift cards. We hope to continue supporting her through her asylum application process.

Our meetings are routinely held the third Thursday of the month at 6:30 pm on Zoom. Please feel free to join us!