

## **Now In Our Name (NION)**

### **2022 Annual Report**

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.

On March 26 we hosted Reverend Doug Pagitt, executive director of Vote Common Good. Rev. Pagitt talked about his organization, which works with people of faith to make “the common good” their voting criteria. The organization also trains and supports progressive political candidates to connect with Evangelical and Catholic voters. He went on to talk about the 3,200-mile bike ride he led from California to Florida to see first-hand the impact of our country's immigration policies on people who live, work and serve along the border. He shared stories and interviews from the bike ride to support immigration reform.

At our June meeting we were pleased to have Madeline Uraneck tell us about Open Doors for Refugees, an all-volunteer organization based in Madison whose mission is to help refugees make a home in the Madison area.

In September we participated in a web event sponsored by the Wisconsin Conference UCC Immigration Working Group. The event highlighted congregations around the state who are actively involved in immigration justice work.

On October 25 we collaborated with the MUCC Racial Justice group to again host Rev. Pagitt, this time for a program about Confronting Christian Nationalism.

In November we completed work for a scholarship program with Madison College Foundation. Led by Judy Emmrich, Joan Jacobsen and Lori Stoneking, the program will support immigrants who are in an ESL (English as a Second Language) program and seeking to enroll in a short-term diploma or certificate program at Madison College. We plan to award the first scholarship for the term starting in January 2023.

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