

2024 NION Report

For a number of reasons, NION (“Now In Our Name”—our Immigration Justice and Solidarity Ministry) was in a bit of a hiatus for most of 2024. We focused on completing our journey of accompanying Tcheki Voltaire and Jeffrey Gineau and family as they continued their process of making Madison their home and becoming completely self-sufficient financially. This process has been completed, and this was a very significant accomplishment for our congregation and for Tcheki and Jeffrey that has evolved over the past 2 plus years.

We give thanks for the leadership that Judy and Mark Emmerich provided for NION, but they have moved from McFarland and are no longer leading NION. There was no one ready and called to step into leading NION after Mark and Judy’s departure, and that’s the primary reason we have been dormant the second half of 2024.

Pastor Bryan is going to issue an invitation to anyone in our congregation who feels called to focus on the issue of immigration to identify themselves and to see if we can reinvigorate NION either under the same name or a new configuration. 2025 is certain to impact immigrants in our midst in very significant ways and we will likely have opportunities to respond faithfully as advocates for justice and compassionate solidarity. We will see if there is a response to Pastor Bryan’s invitation, and either regroup, or accept that we do not have the nucleus of people called to this work to continue NION at this point. If we do not, we will give thanks for what NION has accomplished and officially bring this ministry to a close.