

2024 Minnesota Conference Immigration Team Report

Throughout Minnesota many UCC congregations are doing immigration work. Some congregations have sponsored refugees, others have accompanied asylum seekers, and some are involved in trying to pass the North Star Act, formerly known as Make Minnesota a Sanctuary State. Thank you to all those congregations involved in this important work that we as a conference support. In 2016 that we passed a resolution resulting in the Minnesota Conference becoming an Immigrant Welcoming Conference.

The work of the immigration team has splintered off to various regions of the state. Nancy Hasset of Union Congregational Church in Elk River continues to lead vigils at the Sherburne County Detention Center and inform people of the facts about detention that are important for us to know. The pandemic made our direct congregational work more difficult. The team lost most members of our due to moves, family issues, etc. However, the work continues to be done by local congregations.

This year an 8th border trip to Arizona took place involving people from Minnesota and North Dakota. Two border report backs were presented; one at Mayflower UCC and one at Congregational Church of Christ in Rochester. Rev. Kevin Brown, Rev. Sheri Nelson from the conference staff and Diane Haines are working at putting together a border trip for the fall of 2024 for young adults from MN congregations.

Plymouth Congregational Church also invited the team to come and discuss what immigration work is being done and how congregations might work together.

A workshop will take place at the annual meeting about the border; truths about the border you rarely see in print. It will be available both Friday and Saturday. Come and learn more.

Diane Haines