

## Social Justice Committee Report for 2019 CUUF Annual Meeting

From: Mary Rehwald, committee chair

Date: April 19, 2019

For several years, the CUUF Social Justice Committee has helped serve community dinners at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church in Ashland, which is now for sale, so the dinners ended. This year, the Social Justice Committee has established a Social Justice Border Group that has met five or six times. The group meetings are held once a month after our regular Sunday services. If you are interested, the next meeting will be at 12:15 p.m. on Sunday, May 5, at the Presbyterian Congregational Church in Ashland. Our minister, Rev. David Saetre and Pastor Jim Deters of the Presbyterian Congregational Church have both been meeting with this group. Its mission is to develop a program (or several programs) that would help the migrants at the southern border of the United States.

### **Report from our last meeting on April 7**

After consulting with Charlene D'Cruz, who is an immigration attorney that lives in the Chequamegon Bay area, the group discussed several scenarios. These were summed up at the end of the meeting:

1. **Set up a community teach-in event** in the Presbyterian Congregational Church soon. The questions to consider include: What is the crisis? What do we need to know? What can we do?
2. **Sponsor a migrant family**, which includes laying much groundwork in schools. Other things to consider include English-as-a-foreign-language instruction, housing options, jobs, and sponsorship.
3. **Provide volunteer help to existing organizations on the border** by driving there as a caravan. Ask what they need. One such organization is Angry Tias & Abuelas of Rio Grande Valley. (Tias means aunts and abuelas means grandmothers.)
4. **Fundraise** to help one or more aid programs on the border. Ecumenical groups need money to provide shelter, food, supplies, and transportation to migrants.
5. **Be an active advocate** by writing letters to elected representatives and asking for more humane treatment of immigrants. Also ask them for more thoughtful programs to replace our failing immigration system.
6. **Invite other pastors to join the group**, including Teena Racheli of United Methodist Church of Washburn and Nancy Hanson of Messiah Lutheran Church in Washburn.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Rehwald