

ANNUAL REPORT

2017-18





May 23, 2018

Dear Friends,

Wisconsin Faith Voices for Justice's annual celebration is always an opportunity for me to reflect on the year past, our accomplishments and challenges, and to look to the coming year with anticipation.

As an all-volunteer organization, we could not have accomplished what we have without the help and support of many friends, volunteers, and allies. We most especially want to thank:

Our wonderful **Board of Directors!** (find the list on p.8)

Kara Neitzel who interned with us this year. Kara's work focused on building the Dignity at Work Coalition's Speakers Bureau, which will enable the Coalition to spread our work across the state. Kara also worked on the Dignity at Work website (www.dignityatworkcoalition.org), and staffed Coalition meetings, as well as several of our interfaith events.

Matthew Westfox for help in fundraising and a myriad of other supporting tasks.

Denny Rosenthal for bookkeeping and financial management.

Within these pages you will get a feel for the many ways we reach out to our faith communities, to educate them on the issues we face, to give them the tools they need to be advocates in the public square, and to build community among faith groups. **We are deeply grateful to our many volunteers who help make this happen, and we invite you all to join us in this work!**

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bonnie".

Rabbi Bonnie Margulis
President of the Board

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

ECONOMIC JUSTICE



The Dignity at Work Coalition engages in collective advocacy for policies that promote sustainable work that allows for sustaining families. Wisconsin Faith Voices for Justice and Worker Justice Wisconsin are the backbone organizations that supports this work, along with the member organizations on our Steering Committee – 4-C, 9to5 Wisconsin, Dane County NAACP, the Wisconsin Alliance for Women’s Health, the Wisconsin Coalition for Retirement Security, and the Wisconsin Council of Churches.

Our accomplishments include:

- **Opposition to ‘welfare reform’ bills:** This past legislative session saw a package of so-called ‘welfare reform’ bills introduced, which impose serious barriers to accessing needed social safety net programs. The Dignity at Work Coalition held a press conference to raise awareness of the dangers of these bills, and provided testimony to the Senate and Assembly Committees on Public Benefits, Licensing and State-Federal Relations from policy experts, leaders of the faith community, and people with lived experience.
- **Visioning:** The Steering Committee has created a vision for the future of our state which will guide us as we move forward to make the most of our collective impact as a Coalition.
- **Speakers Bureau:** To promote our issues and policy priorities and inspire the public toward activism, we have created a Speakers Bureau, which will bring experts from our organizations and people most impacted by our issues to speak to congregations, civic organizations, college campuses, and other venues. We appreciate the support of the South West Conference of the United Church of Christ for this important work.

For more information, including the current full list of member organizations, see www.dignityatworkcoalition.org. Also like us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/dignityatworkcoalitionwisconsin. To join the Coalition email dignityatworkcoalition@gmail.com.

Interfaith Community Building Coalition

We are grateful to the following volunteers who helped organize events throughout the year: Mary Strait, Jonathan Biatch, Elizabeth Ringle, Marian Ehrenberg, Elif Gunal, Laiman Mai, Jessica Ozalp, Angie Dickenson, Karen King, Joan Duerst, Lillian Abrams, Sadat Abiri, Tony Garcia, Janice Sheppard,

Interfaith Ramadan Break-the-Fast 2017



Iftar 2017 planning committee - Mary Strait, Jonathan Biatch, Bonnie Margulis, Elizabeth Ringle, Marian Ehrenberg, Elif Gunal, Laiman Mai, Jessica Ozalp, Angie Dickenson, Karen King, Joan Duerst



Iftar 2017 - making new friends!

Praising the Divine Together: Music, Food, and Fellowship



Students from the Madinah Academy



Rabbi Jonathan Biatch chants Torah



Latonya Maymon shares Gospel music with us – So beautiful!



Madinah Academy students chant Quran and sing songs in English, Arabic, and Urdu



Experiencing a Jewish holiday, sharing a meal together, and making new friends!



Rev. Katya Ouchakof and Rev. Kristin Gorton



Dawn and Art Shegonee and granddaughter Sedona Dawn prepare to dance



Rabb Jonathan Biatch and Sadat Abiri



Rev. David Hart

We are grateful to the co-sponsors of our Interfaith March for Peace and Justice for their support:

The Baha'i Community of Madison
Board of Christian Outreach, Lake Edge
UCC
Boys and Girls Club of Dane County
Call for Peace Drum and Dance Company
Catholic Multicultural Center
Centro Hispano of Dane County
Dane Sanctuary Coalition
Family Farm Defenders
The Farley Center for Peace, Justice, and
Sustainability
First Unitarian Society MOSES Ministry
Team
Gray Panthers
Industrial Workers of the World
Jewish Congregations for Social Justice
Madinah Academy of Madison
Madison Christian Community

Madison Friends Meeting
Madison-Area Urban Ministry
MOSES (Madison Organizing in Strength,
Equality, and Solidarity)
NAACP of Dane County
Peregrine Forum of Wisconsin
St. Mark's Lutheran Church
Social Action Committee of Prairie UU
Society
South Central Federation of Labor, AFL-
CIO
Temple Beth El
Unity of Madison
Wisconsin Council of Churches
Wisconsin Faith Voices for Justice
Wisconsin Green Muslims
Wisconsin Interfaith Power and Light
Wisconsin Poor People's Campaign

And many thanks to the Interfaith March steering committee: Vicki Berenson, Tim Cordon, Michael Rehak, Steve Maurice, Barb Kehrein



Announcing our Coalition



Voces de la Frontera Executive
Director Christine Neuman Ortiz



No Place for Hate in the Dairy State



Voces de la Frontera protest at the capitol



DACA Day of Action at Centro Hispano

Member Congregations and Organizations

Centro Hispano of Madison

Voces de la Frontera

Beth Israel Center

Congregation Shaarei Shamayim*

First Baptist Church

First Congregational United Church of Christ

First Unitarian Society*

James Reeb Unitarian Universalist Congregation*

Lake Edge Lutheran Church

Madison Christian Community*:

Advent Lutheran Church

Community of Hope UCC

Madison Mennonite Congregation*

Orchard Ridge United Church of Christ*

Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ

Family Farm Defenders

Prairie Unitarian Universalist Society

Presbyterian House – UW Madison

Teaching Assistants' Association
Temple Beth El
Wisconsin Faith Voices for Justice
Wisconsin Network for Peace and Justice
Women's International League for Peace and Freedom –
Madison
Worker Justice Wisconsin

*denotes host sites

Dane Sanctuary Coalition Steering Committee: Winton Boyd, Ellen Lindgren, Dorit Bergen, Sergio Gonzalez, Leila Pine, Leslie Schenk, Centro Hispano and Voces de la Frontera



Forward Together Wisconsin is a state-wide, intentionally inclusive and diverse moral movement that brings together a broad coalition of individuals and organizations led by faith, philosophy, personal conviction or experience. We are committed to work through nonviolent action for the implementation of sound and ethical public policies and laws at every level which will benefit all of the residents of our state.

Our goal is to build collective power in order to affirm the humanity of every person, uphold the stewardship of the natural resources that sustain us, and preserve the moral foundations of our society. Our ten-year Strategic Plan, which was developed this year, will help guide us as we reach out to new organizations and activists, implement a Get Out the Vote campaign, and continue to lift up all the good work for social justice being done around our state. Read more about FTW, including the platform, at www.forwardtogetherwisconsin.org;

Forward Together Wisconsin Steering Committee: Vicki Berenson, Tim Cordon, Selma Aly, Eugene Crisler, Barbara Kehrein, Art and Dawn Shegonee

COALITIONS

Wisconsin Faith Voices for Justice works very closely with faith communities, social service organizations, and advocacy organizations. We are indebted to all our partners for their generosity in sharing resources, materials, information, and opportunities to raise the religious voice in the public square.

- Medicaid Matters – advocacy for health care reform; preserving BadgerCare; opposing attempts to overturn and undermine the Affordable Care Act

- Public Benefits Coalition – working together to preserve the social safety net, including access to affordable housing, child care, health care, transportation, education, and nutrition
- Transit Riders Coalition – advocating for public transportation in rural and urban areas
- Forward Together Wisconsin/Building Unity/Wisconsin Poor People’s Campaign – building our collective power for social justice across the state

BRINGING OUR WORK TO THE COMMUNITY

A central aspect of our mission is to educate our communities about the intersection of faith and public life; to lift up the issues that face our state and country; and to provide tools to empower people to take action. In addition to the above, we have engaged our congregations and the public in the following ways:

- Participation in Madison’s annual Pride Parade
- Tabling at a Youth Activist Fair for high school students across the country
- Working with sister organizations 9to5, The Hunger Task Force, and End Domestic Abuse Wisconsin, we helped organize a town hall on Paid Family Leave and a training on advocacy for the social safety net, both events held in Delafield.
- Speaking on faith and public life at UW Madison’s Center for Religion and the Global Citizen event.

WISCONSIN FAITH VOICES FOR JUSTICE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Vicki Berenson
Society of Friends
Madison
Quaker

Rabbi Marc Berkson
Congregation Emanu-El B'ne Jeshurun
Milwaukee
Reform Judaism

Linda Ketcham
Madison-Area Urban Ministry
Madison
United Church of Christ

*Dr. Debra Majeed
Beloit College
Dept. of Philosophy and Religion

Muslim

Rabbi Bonnie Margulis
Wisconsin Faith Voices for Justice
Madison
Reform Judaism

*Janan Najeeb
Executive Director
Milwaukee Muslim Women’s Coalition

Muslim

Mary Nervig, LCSW
Madison
ELCA

Reverend Michael Rehak

The Institute for Congregational Identity
Cambridge
ELCA

Reverend Larry Sexe
Deerfield Lutheran Church
Deerfield
ELCA

Reverend Oscar Rozo
St. Mark's Episcopal Church in Beaver
Dam, and
Comunidad de Todos los Santos in
Watertown
Episcopal

Reverend Nick Utphall
Advent Lutheran Church
Madison
ELCA

**Denotes new members*

MEMBER CONGREGATIONS AND ORGANIZATIONS

Organizational members are listed in order of joining, with the most recent members last.

Madison-Area Urban Ministry
Wisconsin Friends Action Network
(Quakers)
FUMC and Society Mission Team
Temple Beth El
Beth Israel Center
Lake Edge Lutheran Church
Still Point Zen Center
North Central Wisconsin Worship Group
(Society of Friends)
Lake Edge United Church of Christ's
Mission Team

Snowflower Sangha
Board of Church & Society, United
Methodist Church, WI
First Unitarian Society Social Justice
Ministries
Advent Lutheran Church
Memorial United Church of Christ,
Fitchburg
Middleton Community United Church of
Christ Faith in Action Team
Madison Friends Meeting

MEMBERSHIP SUPPORT

Funding for Wisconsin Faith Voices for Justice comes solely through membership dues and the generosity of our supporters. Your dues and contributions go toward the support of all our programs – for web and listserv hosting; materials for workshops and events; for outreach and publicity materials; for food at events; and for travel around the state. We continue to expand our membership donor base and are exploring grant options from local and statewide foundations and other funding sources.

Our annual dues structure is:

Congregation/Organization \$100

Over 200 members

Congregations/Organizations	\$ 50
Under 200 members	

Individuals are encouraged to contribute whatever you can!

*In cases of financial hardship, pay what you can, but please pay something.

All contributions and dues payments are much appreciated. We are 501c3 non-profit organization and all contributions are tax-deductible. Donations can be made on our website – www.wisconsinfaithvoicesforjustice.org, or by check payable to Wisconsin Faith Voices for Justice and sent to:

WFVJ
c/o Madison Christian Community
7118 Old Sauk Road
Madison, WI 53717

Please join us on Facebook at:
www.facebook.com/WisconsinFaithVoicesForJustice

Visit our website:
www.wisconsinfaithvoicesforjustice.org

Follow us on Twitter:
[@WIfaithvoices](https://twitter.com/WIfaithvoices)