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Dear Friends,

It is with mixed emotions that I write this letter to announce that my time as Executive Director of Wisconsin Faith Voices for Justice will come to an end on June 21. When I helped organize clergy and faith leaders' response to Governor Walker's Act 10 and his first state budget proposal, I had no idea that I was embarking on a journey that would lead to the creation of Wisconsin Faith Voices for Justice.

Over these last 13 years, we have grown from an ad hoc loose organization called Concerned Religious Leaders of Wisconsin, with no budget and an all-volunteer steering committee, to an independent non-profit organization with over 1300 members and supporters, a growing budget, and an agenda that includes workers rights, immigration justice, voting rights, anti-racism, LGBTQ+ rights, affordable housing, health equity, and building bridges among faiths.

I have been deeply blessed in the amazing people that I have been privileged to work with. Our board members, past and present, are incredibly dedicated and passionate advocates for justice. The steering committee and advocacy and communications committee and individual volunteers of the Dane Sanctuary Coalition has been tireless in working to provide direct services for our immigrant siblings and advocacy and education for immigrant rights and justice. Amazing volunteers have thrown themselves into organizing our annual iftar, our Sacred Site Visits, and our Interfaith Intersections. I am grateful to those who have joined together to create our annual Pride and Transgender Day of Remembrance services. The steering committee of the Dignity at Work Coalition have been tremendous partners and advocates for workers rights. Our interfaith clergy councils have been a wonderful place to make connections, to learn from each other, and to raise up ideas for new programs and projects that we have worked on together.

While I am the only full-time employee, over the years I have had the joy of working with tremendous people who have joined us as interns, development directors and associates, our Regional Director in Milwaukee, our webmaster and graphic designer, organizers for the Wisconsin Interfaith Voter Engagement Coalition, and tech support.

In addition to the tremendous work of our volunteers, I have also been blessed in my organizational partners, the Wisconsin Council of Churches, WISDOM, MICAH, the Interfaith Conference of Greater Milwaukee, Worker Justice Wisconsin, Kids Forward, all the member organizations of the Wisconsin Voting Rights Coalition, Fair Wisconsin, and so many more.

I am grateful to all of you, for your support, for your advocacy, for your commitment to working across faiths, and for your passion for justice. I know that the work of Wisconsin Faith Voices for Justice will continue without me, because all of you are the true backbone of our organization. The board is incredibly dedicated and committed to the work. I look forward to the opportunity to say good bye in person over the next two months and at our Annual Celebration on June 10.

I cannot thank you all enough for the last thirteen years. It has been an incredible, gratifying, sometimes difficult, but always inspiring journey!

Bonnie