

OUR FOCUS AREAS (as 2021 unfolded)



- COVID-19 ministry info & vaccine community outreach
- Polarization, Extremism, and Clergy Care
- Fostering collaboration in racial equity work by religious advocates statewide through Taking a Faithful Stance for Racial Equity & Faithful Action for a Healthy WI

<p>On January 6, 2021 we organized a Zoom prayer vigil and held sacred space for two hours while violence was underway in our nation's capitol. We followed this with four themed mornings of interfaith prayer for our nation, <i>Praying through the Presidential Inauguration</i>.</p>	 <p>The Council is known nationwide for its COVID guidance for churches. In 2021 we released <i>Holding Our Plans Loosely: Returning to Church 2.0</i> and <i>With One Body and One Spirit: Returning to Church 3.0</i>, with supplements grounded in sound theology and science.</p>	<p>Since the beginning of the pandemic, we've facilitated:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 20+ COVID Webinars • 18 guidance documents • Clergy support gatherings • 700+ persons being vaccinated directly through a WCC-coordinated clinic • 2 clergy wellness surveys
<p>Our Advocacy Alert with the single largest response in 2021 resulted in 528 messages being sent to Wisconsin legislators! Faithful people spoke up to ensure the continuation of hunger assistance to Wisconsin residents during the worst of the COVID pandemic.</p>		<p>By fostering coalition-based work on racial justice, the WCC was able to support the turnout of hundreds of faith-based advocates around the state in support of embattled educators and a week of Teach the Truth WI activities.</p>

 <p>Statewide Ecumenical Service - Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, Interfaith Evensong for Peace, <i>For A New Creation</i> Podcast Series and Retreat-in-A-Box for Faith Leaders</p>	 <p>New Partnership with Clergy Emergency League</p>
--	---

<p>Our Community Health Program launched in 2021!</p>  <p>We have been awarded \$1.55 Million by the State of WI Department of Health Services, which allows us to continue COVID Vaccine Outreach efforts through mid-2024. We are sharing a portion of this funding with partners who directly serve marginalized and underserved communities.</p>	 <p>As 13,000 Afghan refugees began arriving at Fort McCoy in fall 2021, the WCC worked on identifying gaps in communication and coordination among responding agencies.</p> <p>In December, a new Volunteer Coordinator for Refugee Relief & Resettlement will begin working with a wide range of partners to provide surge support to an overwhelmed system.</p> <p>We expect this work to continue for 1-2 years. It will streamline pathways for involvement by volunteers, help churches more clearly identify how to sponsor families for resettlement and what is needed to do so, and connect experienced churches and leaders with those who are new to this work. We look forward to partnering with resettlement agencies.</p> <p>The WCC is preparing resources for interested members of our network to be more welcoming communities. During 2021 we researched and gathered materials for a 2nd edition of <i>Becoming Welcoming Communities</i>, our study-action guide on immigration, which should be released in early 2022.</p>
--	--

2022 will see a continuation of our COVID work, the second year of our Lilly Endowment-funded **Awaken Dane** initiative for church renewal, and increased activity in the **Wisconsin Interfaith Voter Engagement Campaign (WIVEC)**, particularly in what is expected to be a polarized and potentially violent election cycle. A new project for clergy coaching and congregational conversations will launch. Our **Community Investment Program** offers opportunities to support underbanked communities. Drop an email (wccoc@wichurches.org), check out our main website at wichurches.org or our social media (Twitter, Instagram, YouTube & Facebook) if you're interested in learning more!