

## **Province V Migration Ministry Meeting Minutes**

November 11, 2022

In attendance: Lesley MacKellar, Jack Lloyd, Carol Elvery, the Rev. Fatima Yakubu-Madus, Silvia Huth, Fran Board, Heather Barta

Opening prayer: Jack

Introductions/activity reports

Meetings in 2023 will be held bi-monthly on Tuesdays at 8 p.m.

Silvia: Traveled to El Paso, TX the week of 10/23/22 to assist with the migrant shelter operated by Rio Grande Border Ministries (RGBM) which offers short-term shelter and services (approx. 48 hours) to people released by CBP. They can get a few meals, change of clothes, take a shower and have access to the internet to plan their next steps. Run by Ana Reza, Bridge Chaplain for the Diocese of the Rio Grande. Also traveled into Juarez, MX and witnessed Venezuelans camping at the offices of refugee services for the state of Chihuahua. Due to change in US policy they could no longer enter the US at the land border but did not trust the Mexican shelter system. Met with CBP in both El Paso and Marfa TX.

Lesley: [Welcome Baskets](#) (new 501c3) - Serves greater Indianapolis area and welcomes newly arrived refugees and immigrants; will have basket themed for Thanksgiving dinner; have done some fundraising; starting to look at grants; may be able to take idea to other areas.

Fran: Starting to see some movement in her parish; one of her fellow church members attended an EMM meeting and another member wants to get outreach committee involved with Neighbor to Neighbor.

Carol: Learned at EMM meeting that Neighbor to Neighbor staff are not paid out of the regular church budget. Attended an advocacy training seminar through EMM but there were no other people from Wisconsin in attendance so nothing has come of it in the state of Wisconsin.

Fatima: Attended webinar with ERD and EMM: how to support an asylee through Neighbor to Neighbor. Fatima brought the program to the 9 ecumenical churches that are part of the food pantry she heads and the Rev. Chris McNabb met with them to discuss the possibility of participating in Neighbor to Neighbor.

Jack:

- Chicago diocese's efforts to help bussed-in migrants from Texas; mostly from Venezuela but influx has subsided with the change in US policy allowing Title 42 to apply to Venezuelans. 90 immigrants arrived at a hotel near Jack's church which created packaged meals for them
- Sanctuary task force meeting with Paula E. Clark, new Chicago bishop; seems very willing to elevate the importance of migration issues
- Province V resolution opposing detention and surveillance to be considered at Chicago diocese convention on Saturday; it will be voting on the original stronger resolution instead of the weakened resolution passed by General Convention
- "Migration with Dignity Framework" under discussion at EMM network; it addresses "what are we for" instead of "what we are against."
  - Fatima suggested the catch phrase "We are for supporting the stranger"

- Court Watch - an interfaith Chicago group that has volunteers go into courts to support immigrants; was part of another group but is looking for a new sponsoring organization.
  - Fatima spoke about a pre-Covid interfaith network from Indianapolis that has attended immigration hearings in support of parish members and has been successful in supporting the immigrants by their presence and positive testimony resulting in granting of release of immigrants

Thank you Heather Barta for updating the Migration Ministry web page.

Reminder - please consider attending:

- Monthly Zoom EMM Asylum and Detention Ministry meetings (No meeting in December, starts up again in January)
- January 11, 2023 is Anti-Human trafficking day and the Province V Anti-trafficking network is having a prayer service.

Please donate if you can to help meet the needs of the asylum seekers currently being bused to Chicago by the governors of Texas and

Arizona. <https://icdi.app.neoncrm.com/np/clients/icdi/donation.jsp?campaign=70&>