

**2022 Annual Report from WDC Immigration Task Group** (Kathy Neufeld Dunn, Karin Kaufman Wall, Kendra Davila, Pat Cameron, Raylene Hinz-Penner) for the WDC Assembly, July 29-31.

The purpose of the Task Group is to coordinate a network of WDC congregations involved or interested in ministries related to immigrants and refugees. We serve to connect and inform WDC congregations, posting information about legislative developments, conferences, direct actions, speakers, etc. The main annual networking meeting has not resumed in a face-to-face format since pandemic closures.

The Task Group has worked in 2022 to coordinate the efforts of area WDC churches for the resettlement of a large influx of Afghan refugee families to Wichita, KS, working with the IRC (Immigration Rescue Committee) in Wichita in need of both supplies and volunteers to help move families from temporary motel residency into apartments and homes, help with transportation, jobs, language, etc. In February WDC churches in the Newton, KS, area hosted a cleaning supplies drive with collection points at WDC offices and Shalom Mennonite in Newton, KS. Individuals and groups in the area have helped with transportation and the actual work of helping to set up living quarters for Afghan families with IRC furniture donations.

Our annual Zoom networking meeting of WDC churches interested in immigration and refugee work on April 21, 2022 was recorded and a link provided for later use in WDC churches. Thirty-one members of WDC churches participated in the Zoom meeting. Members of various churches reported on their work. Charity Stowell, Harrisburg, VA, MCC Newcomer Connections Coordinator described MCC's goals to connect to organizations serving refugees/asylum seekers; to connect congregations; to build a network of welcoming Anabaptist communities and announced an upcoming May webinar on addressing the trauma of migration.

Jen Rafter, Development Coordinator for International Rescue Committee (IRC) in Wichita described the services IRC offers, especially the resettlement process and needs for volunteers. Because of the staffing cuts under the previous administration and the new influx of Afghan refugees, she made clear that their work would be impossible without the help of area churches.

Sandra Martinez, WDC associate conference minister in Texas, reported on the immigrant/resettlement work in Texas, highlighting especially the work of the San Antonio Mennonite Church in their hospitality ministries and invited WDC congregations to seek out the report San Antonio will be giving at the WDC Assembly in July at Camp Copass. The WDC Immigration Task Group would welcome a liaison as a part of our group from Texas, especially San Antonio, to keep the other WDC churches informed of needs or volunteer opportunities. The WDC Task Group will schedule reports from recent MCC borderlands tours participants to inform and update WDC churches after the WDC Assembly in July.

Raylene Hinz-Penner, BCMC, North Newton