

Immanuel United Church of Christ Uses SHIFT Conversation To Inspire Community Event

Immanuel UCC in Kaukauna was early in an interim period when the SHIFT initiative was launched. They had reviewed their history and character and were sensing renewed energy to connect with their neighborhood. When the SHIFT videos arrived, they decided to organize two congregational gatherings to view and discuss them.

After these two conversations, a smaller group met to sift down ideas that would combine something they did well with an outreach to the neighbors. They finally settled on hosting a free community meal. The local police were invited to bring their canine officer by for a visit. Food was donated and flyers were distributed. Members walked the neighborhood knocking on doors to let people know they were welcome.



The night of the event, they fed close to 100 people, with leftovers shared with a local men's shelter. Families brought their children to meet the police dog and have a free, healthy meal after school and work. A member of another church even dropped by to see if she could help! We are already feeling that the Spirit moved us in the right direction, engaging more with our neighbors. The rumor is out that another free community dinner will be happening this winter.

If you would like to share your congregation's Shift Story with others, send an email to resourcecenter@wcucc.org.