



Gifts from congregations like ours to OCWM Basic Support make it possible for the Wisconsin Conference to support and strengthen local churches. The Conference primarily does this by providing resources and guidance. But the Conference also connects us to the wider church, including our international partners.

The Wisconsin Conference engages in a partnership with the Evangelical Church of the Union in Germany and the Reform Church of Honduras. This 30-year-old partnership builds on the history of our many Evangelical and Reform congregations, but also points to a future of international learning, cooperation, and witness for all our churches.

Representatives from our German and Honduran partners joined people from across the conference to reflect on the biblical concept of migration. Each partner shared what they experience in their own country:

- Our Honduran partners described how violence, gangs, and economic struggles cause both emigration as people leave the country and transmigration as people move north

through Honduras. These movements stress and destabilize communities.

- Germany offered a generous welcome to Ukrainian refugees but remains more stringent with Syrians – a double-standard and injustice that our German partners speak out against.
- Our Wisconsin participants shared concerns about the U.S. Southern border and our history of subjugating those of African descent and indigenous people.

Through conversation, prayer, and biblical reflection participants learned from one another. The event inspired Rev. Gail Irwin, “I was surprised by the joy, resourcefulness and courage the Honduran church leaders are bringing to their ministries, even under difficult circumstances,” said the Rev. Gail Irwin. Mary Gross found herself mediating on the comment that “God's love knows no borders.” The observation prompted her to see our biblical stories in the larger context of human migration.

OCWM Basic Support connects us with a world beyond our local community. Your gifts strengthen relationships with people and places



throughout the world, helping us live into the biblical motto of the United Church of Christ: “That they may all be one.”