Finding Common Ground and Remembering Our Immigrant Heritage

Like our Biblical ancestors, citizens of the United States have a long and storied history that includes migration and immigration. On October 24 from 1-4, Rev. Dr. Dan Gonzalez and Dr. Stephanie Mitchell (link bios to names) will lead us in the work of remembering our immigrant heritage as individuals and a nation. Dr. Mitchell will outline areas where most liberals and conservatives can find agreement on immigration, helping us to build common ground in our purple congregations and communities. Rev. Dr. González Ortega will then lead an activity that helps participants to remember and share their family's story of migration, using those stories to build liturgy for worship.

As you prepare to come, please reflect on your family's story: what is a memorable chapter in your family's story of migration?

Rev. Dan González-Ortega, Ph.D.
Former president of the Theological Community of Mexico, he previously served as a pastor in the Mexican Communion of Reformed and Presbyterian Churches. A member of the Presbytery of Milwaukee (PCUSA), he serves as the presbytery's evangelist and as mission pastor at Parroquia San José (ELCA–PCUSA) in Beloit, Wisconsin.

He is a founding member of Red Crearte, a collaborative network dedicated to developing liturgical resources. He serves as Executive Secretary of the Latin American Community of Ecumenical Theological Education (CETELA), Co-Moderator of the National Hispanic/Latino Presbyterian Caucus, and Continental Director for Justice and Communion of the Alliance of Presbyterian and Reformed Churches of Latin America (AIPRAL).

He teaches theology and biblical studies at several institutions across Latin America and has authored books and articles on a range of topics in biblical interpretation and theology.

He holds two Ph.D. degrees, one with a concentration in Old Testament studies and the other in New Testament studies. He has also undertaken postdoctoral study and research in archaeology and the biblical world.

Dr. Stephanie Mitchell is the coordinator of the Immigration Legal Services Initiative at the Racine Interfaith Coalition in Racine, Wisconsin, a member of Wisconsin's WISDOM network. They have two offices: one in Kenosha and one in Racine. RIC supports six task forces, including Education, Affordable Housing, Criminal Justice, Turn Up the Vote, and the Rights of Nature, in addition to Immigration. When she is not volunteering for RIC, she works at Carthage College, where she is the Valor Distinguished Professor in Humanities and Professor of History. She received her DPhil from the University of Oxford and her MA and BA from the University of Virginia. She teaches courses on the history of Mexico, the Caribbean, Central America, and South America. Her research focuses on women's and gender history in Mexico and Latin America, pan-Americanism, and pan-Hispanism. She directs the transnational collaborative research project "Women's Suffrage in the Americas" as well as two grant-funded projects at Carthage, focusing on vocation and character, respectively. She was the 2026 recipient of the Judy Ewell Prize for best publication in women's and gender history for her article "Out From the Shadows: Gendered Archetypes and the Landscape of History," published in The Women's History Review. Her current book project, Mujeres de la Raza, with the University of New Mexico Press, looks at interactions between the Women's Section of the Spanish Falange and Latin America.