

## **Energizer Sessions:**

### **1. Disagreeing Productively: Reviving Civility in a Presidential Election Year**

**Rev Brian Cope, Congregational Church of Algonquin, United Church of Christ**

We are entering a time when politics will once again dominate our media, conversations, and, in some cases, relationships. The church is not spared the anger and division in our wider society. This energizer will help us to learn how to respectfully disagree both as individuals and congregations and be agents of peace in our communities.

### **2. Domestic Violence in Our Congregations and Communities**

**Alisa Neri, LCSW, Clinical Director of Mutual Ground, Inc., a not-for-profit agency serving victims of domestic and sexual violence in Southern Kane & Kendall Counties.**

Alisa's work spans 30 years including emergency and transitional shelters, and a public interest law firm in California and Illinois. She taught courses for 10 years at California State University on Intimate Partner Violence and Serving the Homeless Population. Her degrees are in Sociology and Child Development, and her MSW from University of Southern California.

### **3. Exploring Single-use Plastics Alternatives**

**Don and Barb Schmidt, and George Roby have studied Climate Change issues for over 20 years and do all we can to avoid the use of single use plastics.**

How did we fall into using so much plastic? You will have an opportunity to discuss what you are doing to reduce the use in your church and personal life, and hear ideas about what other congregations are doing. Included are suggestions for advocating for broader change through legislation and other approaches.

### **4. Stopping Family Separation**

**Led by Rev. Sara Wohlleb, a Program Director at the Interfaith Community for Detained Immigrants. Sara coordinates the Unaccompanied Children's Interfaith Ministry, a spiritual care program for migrant youth in Chicago.**

Every congregation, large or small, can help stop separation of migrant children from their families. This energizer will provide concrete ideas for your congregation's engagement, including Christmas cards for migrant youth; policy change opportunities; and the chance to actually keep families together through your sponsorship.

### **5. Pre-Trial Incarceration — Why So Many Are Incarcerated Without Trial**

**Rev. Harriet Dart and Ruby Pinto, "Illinois End Bail Bond Coalition"**

There are 92 different jails throughout Illinois' 102 counties – where some 250,000 persons “do time” each year. 90% are there without being convicted of a crime, because a judge has assigned a bail-bond they cannot afford. This is Pretrial Incarceration and it is a violation of Illinois Law. Impoverished people are disproportionately affected and can be jailed for days, weeks, months, and even years before trial. In this Energizer session, we will hear what we can do to bring an end to this practice.