



We're living in uncommon times. Together we work for **Common Ground**

- Common Challenges
- Common Hopes
- Common Community
- Common Factors
- Common Decency
- Common Understanding
- Common Passion
- Common Friends
- Common Interest
- Common Good
- Common Knowledge
- Common Sense
- Common Cause
- Common Vision
- Common Action
- Common Rights
- Common Resistance
- Common Expression
- Common Mission
- Common Effort
- Common Use
- Common Prayer
- Common Law
- Common Thought
- Common Destination
- Common Tools
- Common Intelligence
- Common Defense
- Common Path
- Common Occurrence
- Common Denominator
- Common Accord
- Common Opinion





Uncommon times call for Common Ground.

Look around. We're living in uncommon times. History is being made in front of our eyes. Notice we said, "being made" and not "unfolding." That's because, while we may feel at the mercy of things we cannot control, some of us choose not to sit on the sidelines. Since our founding in 2008, Common Ground has been fighting for the kind of change we can make when we come together for common good.

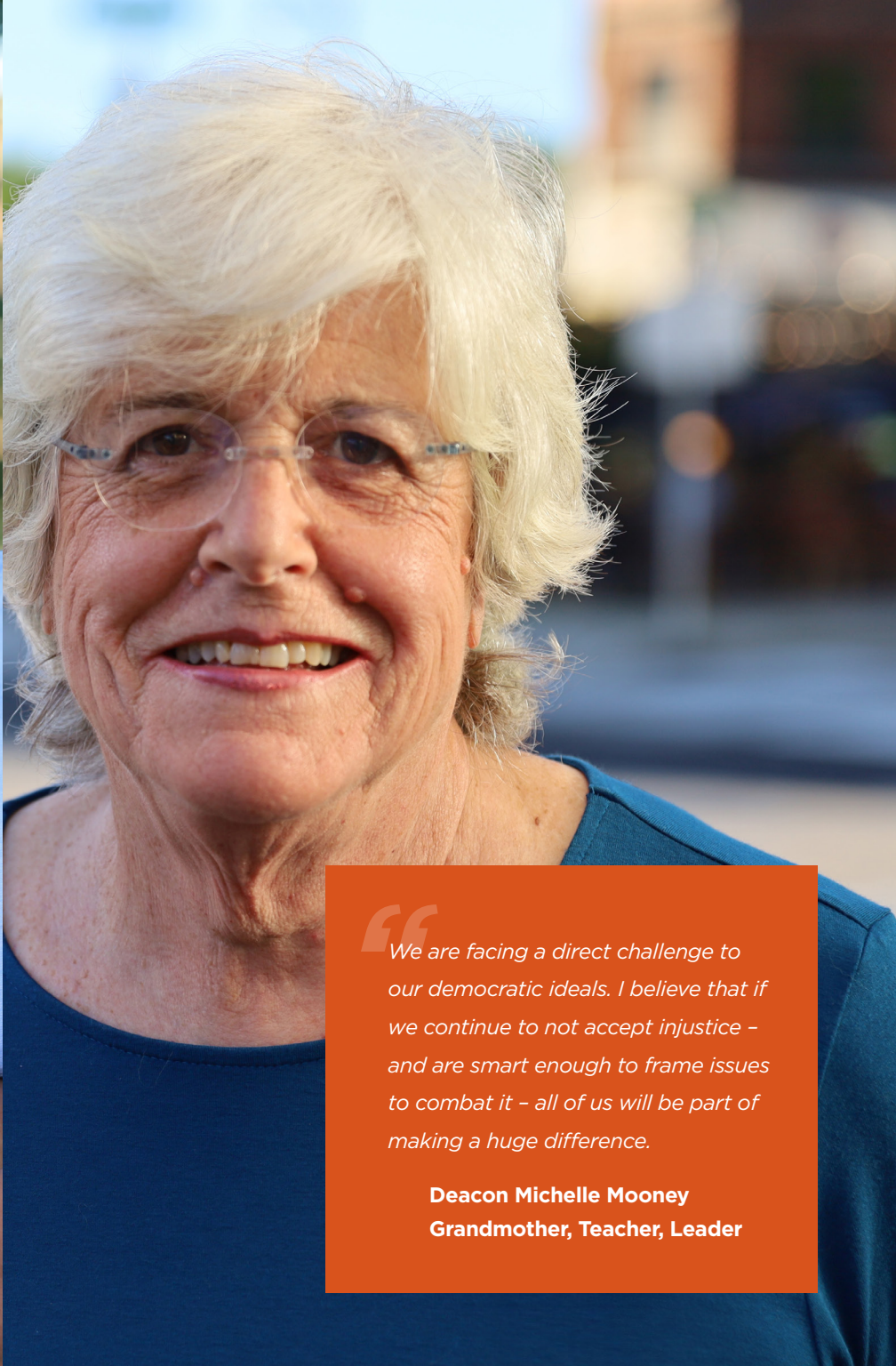
Mire a su alrededor. Estamos viviendo en tiempos extraños. La historia está escrita frente a nuestros ojos. Observa que dijimos "está escrito" y no "eventos en desarrollo". Eso es porque aunque nos sentimos a la merced de cosas que no podemos controlar, algunos de nosotros decidimos no quedarnos al margen. Desde nuestro establecimiento en 2008, Common Ground ha estado luchando por los tipos de cambios que podemos hacer cuando nos unimos por el bien común.



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We are living in a time of profound change and self-reflection. We are no longer able to provide excuses for why people have been treated unfairly, and are forced to re-examine our practices as a society.

John Eshun
Organizer, Advocate, Leader



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We are facing a direct challenge to our democratic ideals. I believe that if we continue to not accept injustice – and are smart enough to frame issues to combat it – all of us will be part of making a huge difference.

Deacon Michelle Mooney
Grandmother, Teacher, Leader



The public is being pushed into a perception of 'survival mode' where we must compete against each other in order to survive - tricked into forgetting that these are the times when we need to work together.

Francisco J. Enriquez
Doctor, Father, Leader

COMMON UNITY

It's what the Common Ground community is all about.

More than any other year, 2020 has been one where lines were drawn in the sand. Color lines. Police lines. Property lines. Voter lines. Unemployment lines. Party lines. The line of decency. Lines that are cracked wide open.

At Common Ground, we reach over those lines. We know how to start conversations to reveal issues that we can solve together - and we do the work. We activate everyday leaders like John, Michelle, and Francisco and unite behind the power of the people to create change.

com·mu·ni·ty | \kə-'myü-nə-tē
(noun)

: people living in a particular area who share **common** concerns and act in **unity**.

ISSUE CAMPAIGNS

COMMON RIGHT:

Get Out the Vote with Common Ground

It's about power. As one of the nation's most important swing states, Wisconsin has considerable power in the 2020 Presidential race. As its largest city, Milwaukee has power in Wisconsin — and with 38 institutions and ten thousand members, Common Ground has power in Milwaukee. Our nonpartisan voter turnout campaign is aimed at making sure everyone understands the importance of voting and has what they need to vote. Confusing rules and strict requirements make it difficult for many Wisconsinites to vote. We aim to make it easy to vote by helping people navigate the rules and requirements. We have trained leaders in our member institutions to reach out to the people in their social networks, looking for those who need encouragement or assistance registering, requesting an absentee ballot or voting. Donning personal protective gear, we deep canvass neighborhoods, reaching voters and learning about their concerns. We fight alongside the people targeted for voter suppression to ensure that these communities have a voice in this historic moment. By turning community hubs into voter registration centers, we give essential workers like nurses, barbers, professors, business owners and more the ability to help their patients, students and customers vote. Together, we commit to helping 13,000 people vote in the November 3 election.

COMMON CARING:

Community Health Partners

The COVID-19 pandemic has exposed and exacerbated systemic disparities in Milwaukee. Although over 70% of Milwaukee's COVID-19 related deaths have come from Black and Latinx communities, these groups often lack access to the resources that allow patients to heal safely and fully. Aiming to address this inequality, Common Ground has partnered with the Milwaukee Public Health Department, The Greater Milwaukee Foundation, and the American Health Education Center Milwaukee chapter. We have organized over 20 retired and current health professionals who volunteer to perform daily follow up phone calls with patients who have tested positive for COVID-19 but do not require hospitalization. Our trained volunteers help patients monitor their heart rate and blood oxygen level during this critical healing period. These volunteers also ask patients if they need support in other ways, ensuring that no one who is suffering from this virus will lack food, housing, or access to childcare. 18 additional doctor volunteers staff a hotline for patients so they can be swiftly helped if their symptoms worsen. We are looking to expand this program, doing our part to protect those who are most affected by this pandemic.

COMMON LEARNING:

Education Campaign

From transforming tutoring programs to repairing recreational facilities, Common Ground has worked on improving education for all Milwaukee students for years. With COVID-19 upending K-12 education, we are more resolved than ever to ensure that our schools are places where all children can succeed. In response to our leaders' concerns that not all students were supported at the beginning of this health crisis, we have pushed for schools to engage every student in online learning. In conversations with School

Board Members, Superintendent Posley, MTEA, and the Wisconsin Superintendent of Public Instruction we advocated for a system-wide online learning plan and for every Milwaukee Public Schools student to receive a chromebook and WIFI access. This work is imperative to ensure that all students have access to remote learning and the tools they need to succeed, both in this difficult time and after. Our education team is working to identify important issues in the Milwaukee education system and strategies for addressing them, fighting for racial justice and equity in our schools.

COMMON JUSTICE:

Common Ground Combats Racial Profiling

When two Waukesha County Sheriff's deputies racially profiled and mistreated Reverend Demetrius Williams and Reverend John Patterson – two Common Ground leaders returning home from a fishing trip – they did not anticipate the fight support they would get from Common Ground. As Reverend Williams and Reverend Patterson proceed with their court case against these officers, Common Ground is using its political and organizational muscle to fight alongside our leaders in defense of their constitutional rights and for permanent changes in Waukesha's Sheriff's department. We have arranged press conferences, resourced lawyers, and reached out to others who have been impacted by police profiling in Waukesha County. When this case was first heard by a judge this past June, over 100 of our members joined the virtual court session and the

attempt by the Waukesha Sheriff's Department to have the case thrown out was dismissed. Common Ground will continue to mobilize as the case progresses, continuing to stand with Reverends Williams and Patterson, shining a light on practices that harm the Black community, and affecting real change in policing.

COMMON PLAY SPACE:

Washington High School Home Field Advantage

As our Milwaukee Rising project draws to its triumphant conclusion, Common Ground can take pride in the work we have done to revitalize housing in Sherman Park. Even so, we know that a neighborhood is more than a collection of homes – and we know that there is still work to be done. Washington High School's outdoor athletic facilities are a community resource in serious disrepair. Our vision is to create a beautiful state-of-the-art community recreation space by replacing potholes with an artificial turf field, trading an asphalt track for one that allows athletes to use track shoes, and seeing the installation of two basketball half-courts. These facilities will provide a place for community members to exercise, for the youth of Sherman Park to play, and for the athletes of Washington High School to train and compete. Common Ground has raised nearly \$600,000 of our million dollar goal, and we have secured an agreement from the Milwaukee Public School district to match that million dollars.



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Jamie & Ron Zingler
in memory of Harry Moseley

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Gabriela Dieguez



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Maria Torres



Fr. Jose Gonzalez



Jonathan Gundlach



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Franz Meyer



**Deacon Michelle
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Gwen Mosier



Jim Wesp

MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS

40/40

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 Bethel-Bethany United Church of Christ
 Bradford Memorial African Methodist Episcopal Church
 Capitol Drive Lutheran Church (ELCA)
 Common Ground Healthcare Cooperative
 Community Baptist Church
 Congregation Emanu-El B'Ne Jeshurun
 East Siders for Common Ground
 Ellison Chapel African Methodist Episcopal Church
 First Unitarian Society of Milwaukee
 Gesu Catholic Parish
 Heritage Presbyterian Church
 Immanuel Presbyterian Church
 Invisible Reality Ministries
 Islamic Society of Milwaukee
 Jerusalem Empowered African Methodist Episcopal Church
 Lamb of God Missionary Baptist Church

Longitude Labs
 Marquette University for Common Ground
 Mercy Housing Lakefront
 Mount Mary University
 Mt. Calvary Lutheran Church (LCMS)
 St Catherine's Catholic Parish
 St. John Paul II Catholic Parish
 St. Mark African Methodist Episcopal Church
 St. Mark's Episcopal Church
 St. Martin of Tours Catholic Parish
 St. Paul's Episcopal Church
 South Side Caucus
 Sherman Park Action Network (SPAN)
 Tabernacle Community Baptist Church
 The James Company
 Tippecanoe Presbyterian Church
 Village Church (ELCA)
 Washington County for Common Ground
 Wauwatosa Presbyterian Church

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The Common Ground team thanks the following organizations for their contributions toward the production costs of our Annual Report. We are grateful for their support and their continued positive impact within our greater community. Please support them whenever you can.



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 Common Ground
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 Delta Dental
 Episcopal Diocese of Milwaukee

Greater Together
 Invisible Reality Ministries
 Center for Community
 Transformation
 The James Company
 Outpost Natural Foods
 Self-Help Federal Credit Union

SOUTHEASTERN WISCONSIN



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