Wisconsin Interfaith Voter Engagement Campaign

Job Description: Local Organizer

Pay: $2000 ($15.00/hr + FICA for 123 hours) Additional hours and remuneration possible, depending on project funding.

Time frame: June – November 2020

About the Campaign: The Wisconsin Interfaith Voter Engagement Campaign is a project of the Wisconsin Council of Churches (WCC) and Wisconsin Faith Voices for Justice (WFVJ) to engage people and communities of faith in nonpartisan election year activities aimed at increasing voter turnout (especially by disenfranchised and traditionally low-turnout populations) and to do so in cooperation and dialogue with members of other faith communities.

The Campaign:

- Connects members of faith communities with local voter turnout organizations, so that they can serve as volunteers for activities such as:
  - helping persons get ID’s needed for voting and registering to vote;
  - canvassing and phone banking;
  - educating voters about registration and voting requirements, early or absentee voting options, elections, polling places, etc.;
  - collecting voter pledges and sending reminders;
  - providing rides to the polls and child care on election dates;
  - organizing candidate forums or election day festivals, organizing educational forums on voting rights and why everyone should vote;

- Supports congregations and their members in organizing voter engagement initiatives that are not already happening in their areas;

- Activates members of faith community to communicate with other members of their congregations and persons in their social networks to share information about voting and get commitments from low-propensity voters to vote in upcoming elections (relational organizing);

- Facilitates collaboration and conversation between members of different faith communities and traditions in these efforts;

- Offers educational presentations on voting and voting-related issues, and collect and share videotaped statements about why our faith traditions impel us to vote and help others to vote or share stories of personal encounters with barriers to voting.

All activities must conform to IRS requirements for 501(c)3 nonpartisan election-related activities.

NOTE: Due to the social distancing required under the current COVID-19 public health emergency, many campaign and volunteer activities are being postponed, modified or replaced by digital and long-distance forms of organizing and education.

Role of the Local Organizer: Local Organizer will oversee activities of volunteers and serve as a resource for their participation with the Wisconsin Interfaith Voter Engagement Campaign in a specific community (county or municipality).
Organizer’s responsibilities include:

- Promoting the Campaign and publicizing local voter engagement activities and events to local congregations and faith groups;
- Recruiting volunteers, especially congregational leaders, for relational organizing in their worshipping communities and other social networks;
- Supporting congregational team formation and activities by:
  - Recruiting congregational leaders who will organize teams within their congregations;
  - Informing congregational teams about the various possible activities that they can decide to do;
  - Helping connect team leaders with each other, especially across faith traditions;
  - Helping connect team leaders with local resources and opportunities for working with organizations doing nonpartisan voter engagement work;
  - Keeping track of team activities and recording events and activities on the Wisconsin Interfaith Voter Engagement Campaign’s calendar;
  - Making sure volunteer groups have the resources and contacts they need for their chosen activities, are complying with IRS regulations, and maximizing opportunities for interfaith conversation and collaboration;
- Reporting to WCC and WFVJ on outcomes of activities by the individual volunteers and teams and evaluating strategies, messages, and best practices;
- Connecting with the other local organizers in other parts of the state on a monthly basis to share best practices, ideas, and information;
- Purchasing supplies or refreshments for events and activities ($500 total; $1000 total in Madison) with prior approval and providing documentation of expenses to WCC or WFVJ in Dane County for reimbursement (if and when in-person activities can be resumed safely).

Qualifications:

- Familiarity with, or ability to quickly learn about:
  - IRS regulations regarding nonpartisan election-related activities;
  - Voting requirements, regulations, and resources, both state and local;
  - Local nonpartisan voter engagement organizations and activities;
  - Relational organizing;
  - On-line platforms such as Zoom and Facebook Live.
- Ability to work independently, without direct supervision
- Familiarity with diverse faith communities and with working in an interfaith setting a plus
- Work some weekends and evenings
- Must have access to local transportation, laptop and cell phone

Working conditions and other details:

- Supervisor – Dr. Peter Bakken, Justice and Witness Coordinator, WCC / Rabbi Bonnie Margulis, Executive Director, WFVJ
- Complete employment paperwork for Wisconsin Council of Churches
• Work from home or other suitable location

To apply:

Send resume, cover letter and three references to Dr Peter Bakken at bakken@wichurches.org, cc Rabbi Bonnie Margulis at wifaithvoices4justice@gmail.com.

Applications from persons belonging to minority or low-voter turnout communities (e.g., Latinx, Asian, Black, youth, and low-income) are strongly encouraged.

About the Campaign lead organizations:

The Wisconsin Council of Churches (WCC) is a network of Christian churches and faith-based organizations committed to working together across our many differences. Exercising holy imagination, we help each other make courageous choices that lead toward peace with justice, the vitality of the church, and the well-being of our neighbors. The Council connects 20 Christian traditions, which have approximately 2,000 congregations and over one million church members in Wisconsin. Join with us as we pray and work together for the unity and renewal of the church and the healing and reconciliation of the world.

Wisconsin Faith Voices for Justice unites progressive people of faith toward creating a state whose people and government address the real needs and raise the dignity of the hungry and poor; care for and heal the sick; and truly listen to the voices of all citizens. Drawing from the wisdom of our faith traditions, we accomplish this through educating our members and the broader community and advocating with our legislators to advance the common good.