

ACROSS BORDERS, AROUND TABLES, ALONG THE JOURNEY

by Rev. Sheri Fry, Journey with Migrants, The Presbytery of Denver

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One of the gifts of being part of the Presbytery of Denver is the reminder that we do not do ministry alone. Our congregations are connected to one another, to our communities, and to partners whose ministries help us see more clearly what it means to follow Jesus in our time and place.

Two important expressions of that connection are our relationship with **Frontera de Cristo** and the Denver Presbytery's **Journey with Migrants Mission Partnership**.

Frontera de Cristo is a Presbyterian border ministry serving in the sister communities of Douglas, Arizona, and Agua Prieta, Sonora, Mexico. Our relationship with Frontera de Cristo reminds us that migration is not simply a political issue, a headline, or a debate. Migration is about people—people with names, families, stories, hopes, fears, gifts, and an inherent God-given dignity.

In 2019, the Presbytery of Denver deepened this relationship when a delegation of 15 participants traveled to Frontera de Cristo for a four-day border immersion experience. The purpose was to gain a deeper understanding of the spiritual, political, and economic connections that reach across borders. It was a wonderful opportunity to spend time together, share meals, listen to stories, and experience life in the borderlands firsthand. Those days reminded us that understanding often begins not with statistics or headlines, but by sitting at a table together, listening to one another, and experiencing a place and its people.

That same conviction is at the heart of Journey with Migrants.

Chartered by the Presbytery of Denver in 2015, first as the Immigration Task Force and now as the **Journey with Migrants Mission Partnership**, this ministry seeks to live out a Matthew 25 response alongside migrants and immigrants throughout our Presbytery.

Its mission is wonderfully concrete: feeding, welcoming, clothing, sheltering, and visiting, while also advocating for immigration justice locally, nationally, and globally. Today, eight congregations participate in this shared ministry.

There is something powerful about congregations choosing to do this work together. Each church brings different gifts, relationships, resources, and experiences to the table. Together, we are able to respond in ways that would be far more difficult for any one congregation alone.

And perhaps the name of this ministry says it best: **Journey with Migrants**. We are not called simply to provide something *for* people. We are invited to walk alongside one another—to listen, learn, build relationships, share our lives, and discover where God is already at work among us.

I was reminded of this at our recent Journey with Migrants fundraiser dinner in August 2026. It was wonderful to look around the room and see people from different congregations and communities gathered around this shared commitment. The evening was certainly about raising

financial support, but it was about much more than money. It was about strengthening relationships and reminding ourselves why this ministry matters. **Our keynote speaker, Rev. Mark Adams of Frontera de Cristo**, helped us connect what we are experiencing here in Denver with the larger realities of migration at the U.S.-Mexico border and beyond. That connection matters.

The border is connected to Denver. Agua Prieta is connected to our congregations. The people who arrive in our communities carry stories that began long before they reached Colorado. And through relationships such as Frontera de Cristo and Journey with Migrants, we begin to understand that we are part of those stories as well.

In a time when immigration conversations can quickly become polarized, these ministries invite the church to begin somewhere different: with relationship.

Matthew 25 does not ask us first to determine whether someone is deserving. Jesus simply says, *I was hungry and you gave me food. I was a stranger and you welcomed me. I needed clothes and you clothed me. I was sick and you visited me.*

Frontera de Cristo and Journey with Migrants give the Presbytery of Denver tangible ways to live those words. We may not be able to resolve all the complexities surrounding migration and immigration. But we can decide how we will walk through them. We can feed. We can welcome. We can clothe. We can shelter. We can visit. We can advocate. And most importantly, we can journey together. □



Celebrating the raising of \$42,000 to support and accompany new immigrants in the greater Denver area