

DMF & Brooklyn UMC Honor Community Heroes After Minnesota ICE Operation

Brooklyn Park, MN — April 23, 2026.



The S. T. Nagbe Distant Members Fellowship (DMF) and the Brooklyn United Methodist Church held a joint worship service on Sunday, April 23rd to honor organizations and individuals who provided critical support to immigrant families during the December 2025 Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) operation in Minnesota.

The service brought together clergy, and community leaders, to recognize the extraordinary acts of compassion shown during one of the most difficult moments for immigrant families in the Twin Cities.

A Winter of Fear — and a Community of Courage

In December 2025, during Operation Metro Surge, more than 3,000 federal Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) officers were deployed across Minnesota. As enforcement actions intensified, immigrant families faced a wave of fear, uncertainty, and emotional distress. Many households were left without shelter, food, or access to essential services.

In response, a coalition of churches, community groups, and volunteers mobilized to provide rental assistance, warm meals, medical support, financial aid, and emergency shelter to affected families. Their efforts became a lifeline during a bitter winter season.

Honoring Pastor Shawna Horn

A highlight of Sunday's program was the presentation of Honorary Membership in the Distant Members Fellowship to Pastor Shawna Horn, a United Methodist Elder in Full Connection, whose leadership during the crisis became a symbol of hope.

While federal officers carried out their operation, Pastor Horn implemented what many described as "Heaven's operation." Her work was defined not by enforcement, but by compassion; not by surveillance, but by shepherding; not by intimidation, but by holy intervention.

She accompanied families into courtrooms, offering courage and dignity. She stood watch in the church parking lot to ensure that no fear or threat crossed the threshold of God's house. Her ministry was steady, sacrificial, and deeply Christlike.

A Fellowship's Expression of Gratitude

During the ceremony, DMF leadership praised Pastor Horn's unwavering service. Her honorary membership was conferred by Dartor Bolo, President of the Distant Members Fellowship and with the unanimous blessing of its Officers and Members."

The joint worship service concluded with prayers, music, and expressions of gratitude for all who stood with vulnerable families during the Minnesota ICE operation—demonstrating that even in the coldest winter, compassion can burn like a warm fire in the midst of God's people.