

**Heidi Careaga** is a native of Guatemala. Heidi knows firsthand about the struggles of being in a foreign land and how God has shown her that loving the stranger is what God commands her to do, as others have shown God's love towards her.

Heidi focuses on Social Justice and advocacy concerning immigration issues and empowering women of all ages, facilitating, providing a listening ear, and providing tools for growth. Heidi also serves as the District Administrator in the Wisconsin Conference. She says, "I love my ministry in the Conference. Being a District administrator allows me to do ministry with all the clergy and lay people by assisting them and providing a listening ear".

Heidi has served alongside her husband, Rev. Carlos, an Elder in the UMC, for over twenty-five years. Heidi and her husband have a daughter, Deidre, 19, a college student, and a son, Ewan, 16, in 10th grade. Heidi loves spending quality time with her family, which gives her a sense of wholeness because she says, "I could not do what I do without them."

Heidi has served with United Women in Faith at the local church, district, and conference levels. Heidi is the National Board of Directors' Finance Chair, representing the Wisconsin Conference and North Central Jurisdiction. Heidi has just been consecrated Deaconess at the recent General conference in April.

Heidi acknowledges that all of this would not be possible without God's help and with all the women in Heidi's path who believed in her, inspired her, mentored her, supported her emotionally and financially, and walked alongside her to become the woman that she has become and continues to be.