Biography of Dr. Robert (Robin) Lane Hoover

     Dr. Robin Hoover is a native of Big Spring, Texas, the son of two public servants.  He attended Texas Christian University for both undergraduate and graduate work.  TCU conferred the Bachelor's Degree in Religion and Journalism ('74) and the Master of Divinity with an emphasis in social ethics in ('79).  Texas Tech conferred the Ph.D. in Political Science in the sub-discipline of Religion and Politics (’98).  His dissertation focused on politics of religious denominations that work in human migration.

     Dr. Hoover served six Disciples congregations in Texas as pastor more than 33 years, retiring at the end of 2013.  Additional employment has been in the areas of sales, journalism, nursing service, photography, commercial construction and more.  In each of his pastorates, Hoover had the occasion to lead the congregation in major facilities construction projects.  Both pastoral work and preaching have been recognized by peers as substantial and professional.  Hoover is well read in Neo-Orthodox, Systematic, Liberation, Empire, and Postmodern theologies.  Tying those perspectives to matters of public policy, social science, and ethics, Hoover provided his congregations with rolling commentary on community life and access to the public debates of the day. Hoover served the larger expressions of the church and engaged in ecumenical and inter-faith activities.

      His passion has been to create specialized nonprofit organizations to accomplish both congregational and community goals.  These included the construction of a beach park for Brazoria County, Texas; establishment of a volunteer chaplaincy for "Brazosport", Texas; the  incorporation and development of Westaid in Fort Worth; development of a senior citizens center at Arlington Heights Christian Church; creation of a food ministry known as Disciples Beans for the Hi-Plains Area of the Christian Church; incorporation and expansion of Southwest Good Samaritan Ministries at Los Fresnos, Texas; and most notably, the founding of Humane Borders, Inc., a faith-based nonprofit organization with a mission to take death out of the immigration equation.  The Robin Hoover Collection and the Humane Borders Collection are housed in the University of Arizona Special Collections Library and contain over 2500 print articles, hundreds of video clips and feature documentary films, awards and recognitions, and other organizational documents.

      Since 1986, work has focused on serving as an advocate for migrating peoples whether they be refugees, seekers of political asylum, victims seeking the protection of the Violence Against Women Act, or the undocumented migrants dying in large numbers along the United States border with Mexico.  He has met and served migrating people from all over the world and often provided personal and pastoral care and religious service to these persons.  His work has brought significant media, academic, and international recognition by political leaders.  He is the only non-Mexican to receive the prestigious National Human Rights Award of Mexico, conferred in 2006.  He is sought after as a guest lecturer and keynote speaker for university events and programs.