

December 31, 2011

Dear Editor:

The current political exploitation of religion to win votes reveals a shallow and dangerous abuse of “faith.” Pious faces staring into a camera with a background of stars and stripes needs to be recognized as an all too effective propaganda device—not unlike that used by the Third Reich to win the support of German churches. Incredibly, a civilized, “Christian” Germany acquiesced in believing that its destiny was to dominate the world with military power and hatred of Jews, labor leaders and homosexuals.

Religion is not irrelevant to political decision making. However, it should never be in denial that a common Creator calls us to live together in harmony, a belief at the heart of all major religions.

Empire ambitions, military supremacy, hatred of Muslims, immigrants, etc., are danger signals.

It will be a great day when national leaders conclude their speeches with the prayer: “God bless America and God bless all nations and all peoples of our beautiful planet earth!”

This is not sentimental, wishful thinking. It is a cosmic demand required for the human family’s survival.

Sincerely,

The Executive Committee of the Iowa Chapter, Methodist Federation for Social Action
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Then the Lord said, “See, I am setting a plumb line in the midst of my people . . .” (Amos 7:8b, NRSV)

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

The Iowa Chapter of the National MFSA, an affiliate organization of the Iowa Conference of the United Methodist Church, seeks to move the church to be an inclusive, justice seeking, and risk taking Body of Christ in the world. In the Wesleyan tradition, MFSA seeks to transform the social order until it resembles the reign of God announced by the prophets and Jesus, where justice rolls down like waters and righteousness like an everflowing stream.

The Methodist Federation for Social Action mobilizes clergy and laity to take action on issues of peace, poverty and people’s rights within the church, the nation and the world.