



MFSA IOWA CHAPTER MEMO

Eloise Cranke, Iowa Chapter Coordinator www.mfsaiowa.org

JANUARY 2012

Love Your Neighbor: The Training: Set for February 25!

This training will now be held on **Saturday, February 25th, 10:00 – 2:30, at Collegiate UMC in Ames.** The training will include skills for organizing and storytelling, as well as information about how participants can help the UMC become a more fully inclusive church which does not discriminate based upon sexual orientation and gender identity. A representative of RMN will lead the training, building on earlier *Called to Witness* and *Believe Out Loud* trainings. It will also include new elements which bridge our theological, political and ideological differences so that we may all reclaim common values and work together to build a more inclusive UMC. You can register for the training at: register@cwames.org. Hope to see you there!

Hawkeye Vision 2012: Caucusing for Working Families:

A political roundtable featuring key Democratic leaders who will offer the progressive viewpoint on the important issues facing working families and the role those issues will play in the 2012 elections will be held on **Tuesday, January 3, 10:00 AM – 1:00 PM in the Iowa State Historical Building, 600 East Locust in Des Moines.** Invited guests include Senator Tom Harkin, State Senator Joe Bolckom and others. Admission is free. For more information, please contact Chris Schwartz at: schwartz2020@gmail.com.

Food Inc. to be Shown:

The documentary, "Food Inc." will be shown at **First UMC, Des Moines, 1001 Pleasant, at 6:30 PM on Friday, January 6th.** The film exposes America's industrialized food system and its effect on our environment, health, economy and workers' rights. Discussion will follow. There will be free popcorn and soda. Come early so you can get your popcorn popped and be ready for the movie at **6:30.**

CCI Rally and Lobby Day:

Iowa Citizens for Community Improvement (ICCI) will hold its "Occupy the Statehouse" rally and lobby day on **Tuesday, January 10, beginning at 9:00 AM at the Statehouse.** This will be a time to counter the corporate agenda and meet with legislators on key issues facing the state.

Cool Congregations Coffee:

Join the conversation about what faith communities in Iowa are doing to care for the earth, and see firsthand what one congregation has done. Bethesda Lutheran Church has recently installed a ground source heat pump system to heat and cool their facility, with a goal of reducing their energy use and costs. The event will be held on **Thursday, January 12, 7:00 – 8:30 PM at Bethesda Lutheran Church, 1517 Northwestern Ave., in Ames.** For more information, please contact Sarah at: coolcongregations@iowaip.org.

Occupy and the Church:

What is the role of the church in the Occupy movement? Occupy has shined a glaring light on the shameful and crippling wealth disparity in this country. This wealth disparity does not stand alone; it creates as well a democracy disparity. What does this have to do with the church? Please join in a discussion of these issues on **Thursday, January 12, at 6:30 PM at Des Moines Valley Friends Meeting House, 4211 Grand Ave. in Des Moines.** Leaders for this discussion are **Jeffrey Weiss**, (Catholic Peace Ministry) and **Kathleen McQuillen**, (American Friends Service Committee).



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Home Rule & Democracy Teach-In:

Learn about the history of HOME RULE, how it can legally act as a challenge to over-reaching Corporate Rule, and how it might help to create a democracy that works for all. Featured speaker is Ben Manski, Attorney and Professor at Madison College. The event is sponsored by Move to Amend and will be held in two locations:

Thursday, Jan. 12, 3:00 – 5:00 PM, Wesley UMC, 800 East 12th, in Des Moines

Friday, January 13th, at 7:30 PM. at The Matyk Building, 1029 3rd St. SE, Cedar Rapids

For more information, please go to: IA.MoveToAmend@gmail.com.

State-Wide UMW Advocacy Day:

All Conference United Methodists are invited to participate in the state-wide United Methodist Women's Advocacy Day training and gathering. It will be held on **Thursday, January 26, from 10:00 AM – 3:00 PM**. The **morning training** will be held at the UMC **Conference Center**, and the **afternoon session** will be at the **Capitol**. The announcement says, "We will learn the basics of how to do legislative advocacy and then put our faith into action by meeting with our state legislators to advocate about current legislation." Please bring a sack lunch. For more information, please contact Judy Kading at: j.kading641@gmail.com.

Be On Our Side:

This is the headline of a billboard that will soon be coming to the Des Moines area. It shows a picture of an Israeli and a Palestinian together, with a subtitle, "We are the side of peace and justice. End U.S. military aid to Israel." The Middle East Peace Education Project Committee of AFSC (of which MFSA is a part) is sponsoring this ad, and is seeking funds to cover the expense. If you would like to contribute, the check should be made out to American Friends Service Committee, with "Billboard Ad" in the memo line. For more information please go to: www.TwoPeoplesOneFuture.org, or contact Kathleen McQuillen at: Kmcquillen@afsc.org.

MFSA Now Receives PayPal!

You can now renew your membership, contribute to the Organizer Fund and/or support the Iowa Chapter of MFSA online through PayPal. Click on the DONATE button on our website, <http://mfsaiowa.org> to log in to your PayPal account and follow the directions to make a donation. Email Mike Biklen at donations@mfsaiowa.org if you have questions

Young Adult MFSA on Face Book:

Are you a young adult, or do you know a young adult who would be interested in the work of MFSA? Check out MFSA's Young Adult Face Book Page at Iowa MFSA YAs. For more information, please contact Josh Steward at: revjosh@hotmail.com.

Helping Hands 2012 Wall Calendar:

"Reaching Out in Compassion" is the theme of a 2012 Wall Calendar that **features 12 local agencies that assist central Iowans**, from help with food, shelter and other assistance, to offering opportunities for renewal. The Center for Social Ministry (CSM) has created this calendar as a way to highlight some of the many services available in the community, and as a reminder of the opportunities for anyone to get involved. **Cost of the calendar is \$15**, with quantity discounts available (plus shipping and handling, if applicable). To order one or more calendars, contact CSM at 515-782-3054, or at: centerforsocialministry@gmail.com. Calendars can also be purchased at Beavertdale Books, 2629 Beaver Ave. in Des Moines.



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The Justice Conference:

The second annual JUSTICE CONFERENCE will take place on **February 24-25, 2012**, at the **Oregon Convention Center** (Portland). This international gathering is for advocates, activists, artists, professors, pastors, lay people, students, and all who are passionate about connecting issues of faith and social justice to transform our communities and world. The diverse array of speakers includes Walter Brueggemann, Francis Chan, Mirolslav Volf, Richard Twiss, Maddy Delone, Shane Claiborne, and other renowned leaders as well as a variety of musicians and other break-out trainers with expertise on many issues facing the world today. To register and/or learn more about "The Justice Conference 2012," visit <http://thejusticeconference.com/>.

Looking Ahead:

Save these dates:

Children of Abraham Dialogue: **Sunday, February 12, 2:00 – 4:00 PM at Coe College**

Spring Statewide Gathering: **Saturday, April 14, 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM**. The topic will be "Economic and Social Justice Issues Facing the Iowa Annual Conference and General Conference." Watch for details in coming months.

Interested in a More Active Role?

MFSA is always seeking to renew and expand our leadership pool, but we don't always know who would like to be more involved. If you have an interest in serving in a more active role at some time, please let me know (ecranke@mchsi.com) and we may call on you for assistance or leadership in the future.

Mall-Walking for Peace:

Every other Sunday you are invited to join others walking for peace at **Lindale Mall in Cedar Rapids**. Many participants will wear anti-war T-shirts (eg., "Out of Iraq and Afghanistan Now"), though this is not required. For more information, please contact Dorothy Higdon at: dndhigdon@earthlink.net.

Please Send Information:

We want to publicize **events around the state** that might be of interest to MFSA folk. Please send information about events in your area by the last week of each month for the next month's E-Mail Memo. You can contact me at: ecranke@mchsi.com

Questions about Membership?

Contact Mike Biklen at 515 East Eleventh St., Muscatine, IA 52761, or by phone at: 563-263-1439, or by e-mail at: wmbiklen@juno.com. Contributions can also be sent to Mike.

A REMINDER: When corresponding with me, please use this address:

ecranke@mchsi.com. If you simply respond to the Memo address, I probably won't see your message in a timely way, as I use that address only to send this Memo, and rarely check it.