



Iowa Chapter MFSA 2014 AWARDS

Saturday, June 7

5:00 p.m.

**Veterans Memorial Hall
Rooms 314-316**

RACISM & THE CHURCH

Hilary O. Shelton

**NAACP Washington Bureau Director/
Senior Vice President for Advocacy**

MFSA proudly presents the 2014 Social Action Awards before Mr. Shelton's address

**CAUCUS with MFSA Iowa Chapter on Friday, June 6 at 7:00 PM and
after evening sessions at Chet Guinn's Fire Station (details back page)**

IMAGINE:



Join the March for Peace & Social Justice

Imagine Bridges, Not Walls

Monday, June 9 - 12:10 PM

Sponsors: Iowa Chapter MFSA · Conference Board of Church and Society ·
Conference Board of Global Ministries · Iowa United Methodist Women ·
Commission on the Status and Role of Women ·
Commission on Christian Unity and Interreligious Concerns · Do No Harm

A Call to DO JUSTICE for Immigrants

by the Rev. Brian Carter

Two million undocumented immigrants have been deported since 2009. Families have been broken apart. Children who are American citizens are separated from their parents.

There remain 11 million undocumented immigrants living in the United States. Half of those have lived in the US from 14 to 24 years. (Passel, Jeffrey S., Randolph Capps, and Michael E. Fix. 2004. *Undocumented Immigrants: Facts and Figures. Urban Institute Fact Sheet.* Urban Institute: Washington, DC. January 12.)

Our General Conference has passed Resolution 5081 declaring our current immigration system broken, and calling on United Methodists to advocate for the passage of a comprehensive immigration reform bill. We were challenged and encouraged when Bishop Trimble took part in civil disobedience on Feb. 17 and was arrested as he prayerfully called upon President Obama to end all deportations until comprehensive immigration reform is passed.

Bishop Trimble wrote “we are called...to welcome the stranger and not simply applaud justice, but **do justice**, love mercy and walk humbly with our God.”



Bishop Trimble and the cabinet joined Brian Carter, Pastor Alejandro Alfaro-Santiz and others for a vigil in January, 2014.

It is time for all to:

1. Reach out to our immigrant brothers and sisters and build relationships so we will be able to understand and witness more effectively.
2. Contact your local sheriff's offices to encourage them to reject voluntary collaboration between Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and the Sheriff's Department. (see MFSA table)
3. Call the Immigration officials to stop a Des Moines immigrant's deportation. Constantino Morales is currently in deportation proceedings. (see MFSA table)
4. Join in prayer at Representative Latham's Des Moines office on Tuesdays at 12:15 to seek comprehensive immigration reform and to remember those who are suffering. (Or begin your own prayer witness at your representative's office.)
5. Call the White House (202-456-1111) and ask President Obama to stop the deportations.
6. Support an Iowa bill for “Temporary Visitor's Iowa Driver's Licenses.” Contact Governor Branstad and your own state representative and state senator to support licenses. (MFSA table has info on why law enforcement officers support this action.)
7. Prayerfully consider ways to make public witness including possible civil disobedience to support immigration reform.
8. Pray for, thank, and join those who are doing the above, including Bishop Trimble and the Cabinet who have attended the vigil at Rep. Latham's office.

It is time to DO Justice.

Brian Carter retired from full-time appointment in 2013 and now serves as leader of the five-member legislative Advocacy Team for the Iowa Annual Conference.

Holy Conferencing: Imagining Bridge, Not Walls

by the Rev. Josh Steward

Our Iowa Annual Conference has a history of practicing what we have called “Holy Conferencing”. In the past, when we were still using legislative sections, they sometimes would meet in a circle and pass around a stick. Only the one holding the stick could talk. It was an effort to promote civil, respectful, and attentive listening so that each speaker was truly heard, and hopefully understood. Not that many years ago, we had an Annual Conference where three microphones were set up to discuss our church's position on homosexuality. Each speaker got the same amount of time and was not interrupted. Depending on how you felt about the issue, you spoke from a certain microphone, pro, con, or otherwise inclined. I was proud of our Conference in those moments for trying to get beyond entrenched opinion and really listen to its members, and more importantly, to the Holy Spirit.

These practices come from our founder John Wesley himself. In his sermon, “The First-fruits of the Spirit”, he talks about holy conversation, saying:

“They who 'walk after the Spirit’ are...led into all holiness of conversation. Their speech is 'always in grace, seasoned with salt', with the love and fear of God. 'No corrupt communication comes out of their mouth, but (only) that which is good... which is 'meet to minister grace to the hearers'. And herein likewise do they exercise themselves day and night, to do only the things which please God; in all their outward behaviour to follow him 'who left us an example that we might tread in his steps'; in all their intercourse with their neighbour, to walk in justice, mercy, and truth; and 'whatsoever they do,' ...to 'do all to the glory of God.'”

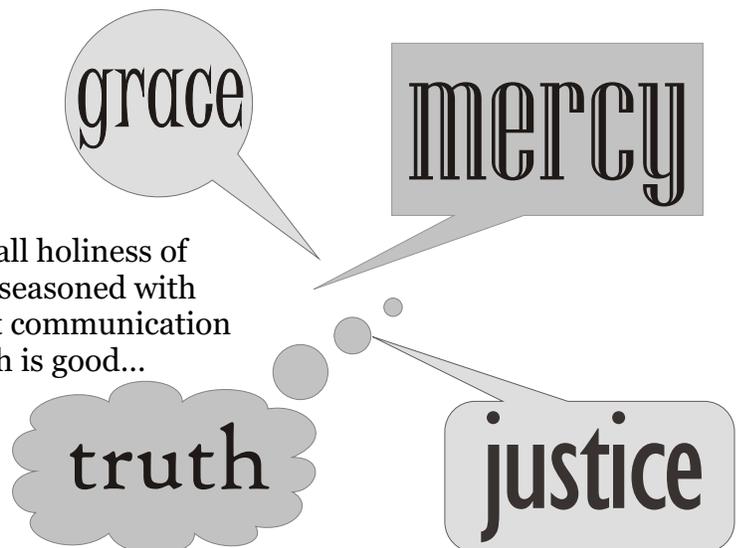
Whenever we converse about difficult subjects, we might ask:

1. Is our speech always in grace?
2. Does only good come from our mouths?
3. Do we speak with the intent of ministering with grace to each other?
4. Do we walk in justice, mercy and truth with our neighbor?

In the months to come, the Iowa Methodist Federation for Social Action will be exploring how to have holy conversations with each other and with other United Methodists in Iowa.

Will you pray with us?
Will you join us?

Josh Steward is pastor of Sheridan Park UMC and MFSA Iowa Chapter SQB editor.





2014 MFSA Social Action Award Jim Thomas

Nominated by Jean Swenson

Jim Thomas, a member of Walnut Hills United Methodist Church, Urbandale, is hereby nominated for the Iowa MFSA Social Action Award. Jim has made significant contributions to the work of social justice in our church, and works tirelessly in the community to make justice a reality for *all* people.

Jim has been a member of Walnut Hills' Social Justice Committee for years. That committee brings justice issues to the attention of the congregation and offers us service opportunities around these issues. Jim also teaches sessions of our adult Sunday school class. Last year he led classes on Immigration, which included a panel discussion with documented and undocumented immigrants, helping us to understand the obstacles and challenges they face. This year, his classes focused on racism, food insecurity and childhood poverty. He ended each class session with, "Now, what are we going to do about it?"

Rather than waiting for the group to act, Jim "practices what he preaches." He has had several letters to the editor published in *The Des Moines Register* dealing with childhood poverty, early education, and other matters of justice. He is a regular volunteer for Justice for Our Neighbors, working in the area of client intake. He frequently practices conversational English with immigrants wanting to improve their language skills. He

volunteers at a homeless shelter, often taking his eight-year-old granddaughter with him so that she, too, can experience service. He volunteers to serve the CFUM meal at Trinity United Methodist Church each month, he drives the van for the Interfaith Hospitality Network/Family Promise, he drives the van for the Blood Center of Iowa, and he volunteers for Habitat for Humanity. He was the first person from our church to volunteer to help with the Imagine No Malaria pancake breakfast. Jim does all of this while he continues to be an adjunct professor of psychology at Des Moines Area Community College.

Jim is a member of the Conference Board of Church & Society. He has served on the Hispanic Ministries Committee and the Immigration Task Force. He also provides more common service to the local church by ushering each Sunday and being a mail courier. He is one of seven members serving on Walnut Hills' Revitalization Team.

Jim is not a young man! He could easily sit back and say, "it's someone else's turn," but because he does all of this, and he does it with such enthusiasm, he inspires the rest of us to think and to "do!" He exemplifies servanthood. He is committed to a more just world for all of us.

"Jim inspires...he exemplifies servanthood...he is committed to a more just world for all."

2014 MFSA Social Action Award**Lucille Wilson**

Nominated by Hugh Stone

Lucille Wilson is a recipient of the 2014 MFSA Social Action Award. Lucille has served on the Des Moines Area Hunger Hike Board for more than 28 years as secretary and treasurer. She has faithfully guided the process of setting up the hike and all the materials needed to promote it as well as collecting and distributing funds. She has been the glue that has held the Hunger Hike together for many years. She has now given up her position on the Board. We will miss her very much.

Lucille's passion for justice extends to her local church, Wesley UMC, where she is a great interpreter and promoter of mission in her local church. She writes a substantive monthly column on many different mission projects from Des Moines to Iowa, nationally and beyond, showing concern and compassion for her neighbor no matter how near or far they may be. She keeps the WESLEY UMC folks apprised of how their special offerings are used along with the 10% of their giving that goes automatically into their special

mission fund. Almost needless to say, thanks to people like Lucille, Wesley is a third mile giving congregation.

Upon hearing about the award, Lucille said "there's no time for 'resting on one's laurels' -- if there are laurels to be had." She's had a number of occasions recently to reflect on where she came from. Lucille was a Depression-era child on a small farm in eastern Polk County, later returning to the Greater Des Moines area from the hills of southern Iowa, where she says she "knew the struggles of poverty first-hand." Along the way, she learned valuable lessons: "to acknowledge that we ARE our brother's keeper, that even one person's efforts can make a difference, that as professing Christians we have an obligation to God's other children. In accepting the award I will be doing so on behalf of many people who have helped me learn these lessons." We thank Lucille for her lifetime of dedicated service to God's Kingdom.

"Even one person's efforts can make a difference"

**"Walking with Palestinian Christians
for Holy Justice and Peace"**First ever United Methodist Churchwide
Conference on Israel/Palestine**August 7-8, 2014****Ginghamburg Church, Tipp City, Ohio**Information available
at the MFSA display table

RACISM & THE CHURCH

Hilary O. Shelton presently serves as the Director to the NAACP's Washington Bureau / Senior Vice President for Advocacy and Policy. The Washington Bureau is the Federal legislative and national public policy division of the over 500,000-member national civil rights organization. In this capacity, Hilary is responsible for advocating the federal public policy issue agenda of the oldest, largest, and most widely recognized civil rights organization in the United States to the U.S. Government. Hilary's government affairs portfolio includes crucial issues such as affirmative action, equal employment protection, access to quality education, stopping gun violence, ending racial profiling, abolition of the death penalty, access to comprehensive healthcare, voting rights protection, federal sentencing reform and a host of civil rights enforcement, expansion and protection issues.

Hilary's prior service includes Federal Liaison/Assistant Director to the Government Affairs Department of The United Negro College Fund (UNCF) and the Federal Policy Program Director to the United Methodist Church's General Board of Church & Society. For the GBCS, Hilary advocated for the national and international UMC public policy agenda affecting a wide range of civil rights and civil liberties issues including preserving equal opportunity programs such as affirmative action, securing equal high quality public education for all Americans, guaranteeing greater access to higher education and strengthening our nation's historically Black colleges and universities, abolition of the death penalty, reforming the criminal justice system, voting rights protection and expansion, gun control and a host of other social justice policy concerns.

Hilary serves on a number of national boards of directors including, The Leadership Conference on Civil Rights, The Center for Democratic Renewal, the

Hilary O. Shelton **NAACP Washington Bureau Director/ Senior Vice President for Advocacy**

Coalition to Stop Gun Violence, and the Congressional Black Caucus Institute among many others.

Playing an integral role in the crafting and final passage of such crucial federal legislation as the Civil Rights Act of 1991, Hilary was also instrumental in ushering through to passage, The Civil Rights Restoration Act, The Violence Against Women Act and many other crucial laws and policy measures.

Mr. Shelton is the proud recipient of the National NAACP Medgar W. Evers Award for Excellence, the highest honor bestowed upon a national professional staff member of the NAACP for Outstanding Service, Sincere Dedication and Commitment to the Mission of the NAACP, the American Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee's Excellence in Advocacy Award, the Religious Action Center's Civil Rights Leadership Award in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., the Religious Action Center awards the Civil Rights Leadership Award to outstanding leaders in the black and Jewish communities, 2006 NCADP 30th Anniversary Award as well as the Congressional Black Caucus' Chairman's Award In Recognition and Appreciation for Dedication, Leadership and Commitment to Advancing the Cause of Civil Rights for All Americans.

Born in St. Louis, Missouri, to a family of 6 brothers and sisters, Hilary holds degrees in political science, communications, and legal studies from Howard University in Washington, D.C., the University of Missouri in St. Louis, and Northeastern University in Boston, Massachusetts, respectively.

Hilary presently lives in Washington, D.C., with his wife Paula Young Shelton and their three sons, masters Caleb Wesley, Aaron Joshua, and Noah Ottis Young Shelton.



“Do No Harm” at Annual Conference

Do No Harm will have blue armbands available at the MFSA table, the robing area and entries for those who wish to wear them during ordination. The armbands are a reminder that even as we celebrate the gift of ordination and all those who are being ordained, we recognize and stand in solidarity with those who are unable to be ordained under the current polity of our church because of their sexual orientation.

Informal Do No Harm gatherings will take place during Annual Conference. To Learn more about these opportunities, visit the Do No Harm display at the MFSA table.

Robyn Henderson-Espinoza, North Central Regional Organizer for Reconciling Ministries, will be with us during Annual Conference. She looks forward to meeting people and organizing a training in Iowa for those interested in working with the Reconciling process for congregations.



Justice for Our Neighbors Luncheon Saturday, June 7 - Noon

Iowa Justice For Our Neighbors & Mission Education Standing Committees
invite you to the Iowa JFON Luncheon

Saturday, June 7 - Noon

Trinity United Methodist Church

1548 8th Street, Des Moines, Iowa 50314

Guest Speaker: Charissa Shawcross

North Central Jurisdiction Mission Interpreter



Rev. Kathleen Clark will be honored as she retires from her work with Mission Personnel on the General Board of Global Ministries and for her work with JFON

Reservations: email requests to: dorknight1@cs.com

Meal prepared by Las Americas - Cost: \$10.00

www.iajfon.org

MFSA IOWA CHAPTER 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.



MFSA Display Table

Look for our distinctive MFSA banner to locate our display table at Annual Conference. MFSA brochures, membership materials and other resources will be available. **Rita Carter manages the table; contact her to volunteer.**

MFSA IOWA MEMBERSHIP

We celebrate faithful members of Iowa Chapter MFSA. Current membership stands at 176. To check your membership status, contact Mike Biklen, Membership Secretary, at 563-299-7347 or e-mail wmbiklen@hotmail.com.

Member form/donations can be sent to Mike at: 515 E. Eleventh Street Muscatine, IA 52761-3920 or use the PayPal link on www.mfsaiowa.org.

Website, Facebook & Links

Links can be found on our website to national MFSA resources, events, vigils and gatherings, archives and more at www.mfsaiowa.org. Join our Facebook group to receive notices and posts from MFSA friends.

Sharing News & Email Updates

Friends, we would like to publicize **events around the state** that might be of interest to MFSA folk. Please send information by the last week of each month for inclusion in the next month's E-Mail Memo to **MFSA Iowa Chapter coordinator Eloise Cranke**.

Also, [please email address changes to: ecranke@mchsi.com](mailto:ecranke@mchsi.com).

CAUCUS with MFSA Iowa Chapter at Chet Guinn's Old Fire Station #4

Pre-Conference Caucus: Friday, June 6 at 7:00 PM

Following evening sessions on June 7 & 8

1041 8th St., Des Moines, IA 50314 (Corner of 8th & Day - west of Holiday Inn)

The Pre-Conference Caucus allows a time for fellowship and to look at the issues that will be coming. On Saturday and Sunday we'll caucus at the close of the session.

Come to discuss and strategize, see old friends, make new ones, and enjoy snacks!

Persons needing a ride should meet at the MFSA display table immediately following the close of the evening session.

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Join the March for Peace & Social Justice Imagine Bridges, Not Walls

Monday, June 9 at 12:10

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**Walk from HyVee Hall (south door) to
Hansen Triangle for a brief prayer service**