



MFSA IOWA CHAPTER MEMO

Eloise Cranke, Iowa Chapter Coordinator www.mfsaiowa.org

FEBRUARY 2019

MFSA Spring Statewide Gathering:

MFSA's Spring Statewide Gathering will be held on **Saturday, April 27, 2019 at 9:45 AM, at St. Mark's UMC**, 2675 E. Washington Street, in **Iowa City**. The program will be information and conversation about the decisions made at the February 2019 General Conference on a Way Forward. It will be led and guided by **Rev. Sean McRoberts and Rev. Katie Dawson**. Lunch will be provided for a freewill contribution, and a short business meeting will follow. Please put it on your calendars, bring a friend, and join us!

Gatherings Pre and Post General Conference, 2019:

Feelings are running both deep and high as the General Conference of 2019 approaches. At a time so critical for our UMC, there is a need to come together as a community of faith to share feelings, hopes, dreams and fears. **Scott and Collette Lothe** will host such Gathering at their home on **Friday, February 22nd, at 7:00 PM**. Their address is: 1008 West Main Street, in **Marshalltown**. Billed as "**A lament for our church on the eve of General Conference**," the evening will feature music by **Richard Bruxvoort Colligan**. There will be a free will offering for him and he will have some of his records available for sale. Light refreshments will be provided, so it will be helpful (though not required) for folks to RSVP to Scott (scott.hopeumc@adiis.net) or to Eloise (ecranke@mchsi.com).

Celebration or Lament:

Folks are invited to gather for celebration or lament following the Conference, on **Friday, March 1st at the Royal Mile**, 210 4th Street, in **Des Moines**. No program is planned. This will simply be a time to be together to share food, drink, thoughts and feelings.

Seeking Delegates for General Conference 2020

MFSA carries out its work for justice at the local, state, national, and global levels, and in our denomination as well. While the 2019 General Conference in St. Louis requires our immediate attention and organizing efforts, we must also prepare for the 2020 General Conference in Minneapolis. To that end, MFSA is seeking lay and clergy delegates who will advance our mission and our goals.

The mission of MFSA is "to mobilize, lead and sustain a progressive United Methodist movement, energizing people to be agents of God's justice, peace and reconciliation." Our goals include justice within the UMC (especially for LGBTQ people, women, and people of color), establishing peace among the nations and in society, defending civil liberties and ending discrimination, and ending poverty through such strategies as advocating for reproductive rights and a living wage.

If you are willing to support these priorities as a General Conference delegate, please let us know so we can coordinate our efforts. Candidates may prepare a short statement about why the 2020 General Conference is important to you and your personal goals for justice, peace, and reconciliation. You can then send this statement along with your contact information to Eloise Cranke (ecranke@mchsi.com).

Becoming American:

A documentary film and discussion series on our immigration experience will be held on **Mondays at 6:00 PM February 4, 11, 18, 25, March 4 and 11, at Franklin Avenue Library**, 5000 Franklin Avenue, in **Des Moines**. **Kevin Gannon**, Ph.D Professor of History at Grand View University will serve as scholar/moderator for the series.



MFSA IOWA CHAPTER MEMO

Eloise Cranke, Iowa Chapter Coordinator www.mfsaiowa.org

Climate Revival Conference:

This Conference will feature **Jim Antal**, author of *Climate Church*, *Climate World*. It will be held on **Saturday, February 9, 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM, at Plymouth Congregational UCC**, 4126 Ingersoll Ave., in **Des Moines**. The event is free, with lunch provided for a free will offering. Registration is requested so there is an accurate lunch count. **Bring your own coffee cup and water bottle**. You can register at: <https://iowaip.org/act/register-events/> Antal's book is available from Beaverdale Books, or you can contact Amy Elbert: Elbert.amylou@gmail.com to learn how to get a book from Plymouth. For more information, call Carolyn at: 515-779-1680.

Mission Trip to Mongolia:

First UMC in Des Moines is sponsoring a two-week mission trip to Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, **June 16-29**. On the return to the States there will be a two night, one day stay in Istanbul, Turkey. There will be work for medical personnel, teachers, and those familiar with construction. Approximate cost from Los Angeles is \$2,860. This does not include airfare to and from LA, hotel in LA if needed, vaccinations and work materials, or meals, transportation and tours in Istanbul. If interested, contact Christine Anders at: Christine@dmfirstchurch.org. **A \$500 deposit and completed application are due February 15th**.

Lobby Days at the Capitol:

Monday, February 4: Immigration Advocacy, 9:30 – 4:30

Tuesday, February 5: AMOS Advocacy on Mental Health issues

Tuesday, February 5: Iowa Environmental Council Legislative Day, 9:30 – 11:30

Tuesday, February 19: Food and Farm Lobby Day, 10:00 – 3:00

Thursday, February 21: Factory Farm Moratorium Lobby Day, 9:30 – 3:30

Thursday, March 21: Environmental Lobby Day

Alternative Discussion Group:

The group will meet on **Tuesday, February 5th, 7:00 – 9:00 PM** in the **dining room at the Hy-Vee on 32nd** (at the intersection of 32nd Street NE & Oakland Road NE) in **Cedar Rapids**. They will discuss their new book, *Eight Years We Were in Power*, by Ta-Nehisi Coates, Chapter Two.

Children of Abraham Book Discussion Group:

A five session book discussion group will be held on **Saturdays, at 10:00 AM, February 9, 23, March 9, 30 and April 13, at Temple Beth-El, 475 W. Locust, in Dubuque**. The book to be discussed is *The Sabbath*, by *Abraham Joshua Heschel*. The book offers profound insight and wisdom on our manner of living in the world. For more information, please contact Father Dustin Lyon at:

dustin.lyon@gmail.com

Occupation of the American Mind: Israel's Public Relations War in the US:

This powerful film will be shown on **Wednesday, February 13th, at 6:30 PM**, at **NW Community Center**, 5110 Franklin Ave., in **Des Moines**. The event is sponsored by MEPEC (Middle East Peace Education Coalition). In no other country in the world do its political, religious, ethnic, racial and cultural, ideological, technical, military and financial factors collude so powerfully as here. Discussion will follow the showing of the film.

War Abolition 101:

This is a six week online course, **beginning February 18th**, providing participants an opportunity to learn from, dialogue with, and strategize for change with **World BEYOND War** experts, peer activists and change makers from around the world. Cost is \$100.00. For more information, please go to: <https://worldbeyondwar.org>. Click on Videos.



MFSA IOWA CHAPTER MEMO

Eloise Cranke, Iowa Chapter Coordinator www.mfsaiowa.org

Children of Abraham Conversations:

Children of Abraham Conversations will be held on **Thursday, February 21st, at 7:00 PM**, at the University of Dubuque, Hadley Auditorium, Tech Center, **in Dubuque**. The topic is "The Arts." For more information, please go to: www.cofabraham.org.

Strong Feisty Women Powering Change:

The Des Moines Branch of Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF) is announcing its 9th Strong Feisty Women Award Night on **Friday, February 22, 5:00 – 9:00 PM**. It will be held at **First Unitarian Church**, 2800 Bell Avenue, in **Des Moines**. "Strong, Feisty Women Powering Change" is this year's theme. Honorees are Eloise Cranke, Marti Anderson and Cathy Glasson. Tickets are available for \$40 at Eventbrite.com, or by sending \$40 to Linda Lemons, 4641 Lockner Dr., Urbandale, IA 50322.

Talk About Racism:

Robin DiAngelo, author of *White Fragility* and *Is Everyone Really Equal*, will speak on **Tuesday, February 26, at 7:00 PM in the Great Hall of ISU' Memorial Union**, 2229 Lincoln Way in **Ames**. DiAngelo has facilitated trainings on racial and social justice issues for more than 20 years, and coined the term "white fragility" in 2011.

Save the Date:

April 13-14: Truth-Telling Along Iowa's Freedom Trail

SQB Online!

Would you like to receive the SQB online? As you may know, the SQB is published three times a year, plus the Annual Conference Edition. It is sent by regular mail to those who've requested it, but an electronic option is now available. If you are interested in receiving it this way, please send me a note or [an email](mailto:ecranke@mchsi.com) (ecranke@mchsi.com) and I'll put your name on a list we're developing. Thanks!

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@hotmail.com. Contributions can also be sent to Mike or made via Paypal, linked on our homepage.