



# MFSA IOWA CHAPTER MEMO

Eloise Cranke, Iowa Chapter Coordinator [www.mfsaiowa.org](http://www.mfsaiowa.org)

JANUARY, 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.** Please put it on your calendars and watch for more details in the coming months.

## **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](mailto:ecranke@mchsi.com)).

## **Iowa United Methodist Advocacy Day:**

Iowa UM Advocacy Day will be held on **Monday, January 28<sup>th</sup>.** It will begin at **9:15 AM through a light lunch at Wesley UMC, 800 E. 12<sup>th</sup> Street in Des Moines.** Morning sessions will feature panel or speakers (including legislators) on Mental Health in Iowa, Gun Amendment to Iowa Constitution, and Restoring Felon Voting Rights. There will be lobbying tips and practice prior to traveling (shuttles) to the Capitol for afternoon meetings and visits with legislators. Closing will be at the Capitol at **3:00-3:30 PM** in Legislative Dining Room on the ground floor.

## **Addressing Suicide in our Communities and Congregations:**

HOPEwalk Cedar Rapids presents a Conference on this topic on **Monday, January 7<sup>th</sup>, 8:30 AM – 5:00 PM, at the Whipple Auditorium, Cedar Rapids Library, 450 5<sup>th</sup> Ave. SE in Cedar Rapids.** This is a Collaborative Conference for Behavioral Health Providers and Clergy. Speakers include **Dr. Melinda Moore, Rabbi Daniel Roberts, Drew Martel.** Cost is \$20.00. For more information or to register, please go to: <https://bit.ly/2D2wc2L>.

## **Alternative Discussion Group:**

The group will meet on **Tuesday, January 15<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 – 9:00 PM** in the **dining room at the Hy-Vee on 32<sup>nd</sup>** (at the intersection of 32<sup>nd</sup> Street NE & Oakland Road NE) in **Cedar Rapids.** They will discuss their new book, *The World and Me*, by Ta-Nehisi, Chapter One.



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## **What's Killing Our Children? What Can We Do?**

Catholic Peace Ministry is sponsoring this event, which will be held on **Thursday, January 17<sup>th</sup>, at 7:00 PM, in the Lyceum Student Center at Grand View University, E. 14<sup>th</sup> and Morton, in Des Moines.** Speakers will discuss racial profiling in Iowa, detention of children on the US-Mexico border, detention of Palestinian children by the Israeli government, and killing and starvation of children in Yemen and Afghanistan. There will also be music and spoken word/poetry, as well as action steps to help resolve these issues. MFSA is a co-sponsor of this event. It is free and open to the public.

## **Stop Human Trafficking:**

As a part of National Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention Month, Ss. John and Paul Catholic Church will host an evening conversation about the urgent issue of human trafficking happening right here in Iowa and the Des Moines metro area. Speakers include **Kellie Markey**, Founder and Director of Dorothy's House, and **Mary Kate Leister**, VOCA Specialist at Teens Against Human Trafficking. The event will be held on **Monday, January 21<sup>st</sup>, at 6:30 PM, at Ss. John & Paul Parish Hall, 1401 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue South, in Altoona.** The evening is free and open to the public.

## **Exploring Migration: A Faith Journey:**

This program will be offered by The Center for Social Ministry, inviting participants to look at some of the central questions related to migrations in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, through the lens of our Christian faith. This 8-session module will be held at **St. Mark's Episcopal Church, 3120 E. 24<sup>th</sup> Street, in Des Moines.** The program will begin on **Thursday, January 24<sup>th</sup>, 9:00 – 11:00 AM.** For more information please contact: [centerforsocialministry.com](http://centerforsocialministry.com)

## **Re-Creating Our Relationships on and with Turtle Island—The Continent:**

This is an opportunity to engage in interfaith reconciliation work with Native American teachers. The program is offered by Sinsinawa, and will be held on **January 25-27, at Sinsinawa Mound, WI.** **Sisters Priscilla and Eva Solomon** will present a reflective weekend workshop for those seeking to understand the impact of colonization for native and non-native peoples on this continent and to explore spiritual paths for a future of healing and reconciliation. Cost is \$180 for a private room and \$104 for commuters. Scholarships are available. **Deadline** for registration is **January 18<sup>th</sup>.** For more information, please contact [eric.anglada@gmail.com](mailto:eric.anglada@gmail.com).

## **Children of Abraham Conversations:**

The January Conversation is "Forgiveness." It will be held on **Thursday, January 31<sup>st</sup>, at 7:00 PM at St. Anthony's Church, 870 St. Ambrose Street, in Dubuque.** For more information, please contact John at: [john.eby@loras.edu](mailto:john.eby@loras.edu).

## **Winter 2019 JustFaith Sessions:**

The Center for Social Ministry is offering three stand-alone eight-week JustFaith sessions this winter. This program will help you explore today's issues through the lens of your faith and formulate a personal/group response. The topics are: "Living Compassionately: Caring for the Poor;" "Living Justly: Caring for Each Other;" and "Living Simply: Caring for the Earth." Cost of each session is \$80.00. Scholarships are available for those who qualify. To learn the dates and locations of these sessions, and/or to register, please call 515-782-3054, or email: [centerforsocialministry@gmail.com](mailto:centerforsocialministry@gmail.com)

## **Climate Revival Conference:**

This Conference will feature **Jim Antal**, author of *Climate Church, Climate World*. It will be held on **Saturday, February 9, at Plymouth Congregational UCC, 4126 Ingersoll Ave., in Des Moines.**



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## **SQB Online!**

MFSA is now moving toward providing the SQB online. However, you may still choose to have it mailed to you, if that is your preference. As you may know, the SQB is published three times a year, plus the Annual Conference Edition. Please send me a note or [an email \(ecranke@mchsi.com\)](mailto:ecranke@mchsi.com) if you want to receive it by mail.

## **Save the Date:**

**March 30:** Bishop Dingman Peace Award Celebration

**Connect with National and Global MFSA!** Sign up now at [http://mfsaweb.org/?page\\_id=212](http://mfsaweb.org/?page_id=212).

## **MFSA IOWA CHAPTER NOTES:**

MFSA has established a **Memorial Fund** for gifts that are given from time to time in memory of a person who has died. These funds will be used as appropriate in support of progressive causes that promote peace and justice. Gifts can be sent to MFSA, in care of Mike Biklen (address below), with a designation in the Memo line, "Memorial Fund."

**Check out MFSA Iowa Chapter updates at our website** [www.mfsaiowa.org](http://www.mfsaiowa.org).

## **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](mailto:ecranke@mchsi.com)

## **Questions about Membership?**

Contact Mike Biklen at 515 East Eleventh St., Muscatine, IA 52761, by phone at: 563-263-1439 or by e-mail at: [wmbiklen@hotmail.com](mailto:wmbiklen@hotmail.com). Contributions can also be sent to Mike or made via PayPal on the MFSA Iowa website.