



# MFSA IOWA CHAPTER MEMO

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Martin Luther King, Jr. is quoted as saying, “Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter.” This is surely no time to be silent. The Iowa Legislature is in session, and legislators need to hear from you. We are grateful for our Legislative Advocacy Team, who make sure our United Methodist voice is heard at the Capitol, but we can’t just leave it to them. Please take the time to contact your legislators about those issues that matter to you. Your voice matters!

Joy and peace,  
*Eloise*

## **Request:**

If you know you will be “Temporarily Away” during January, February and March, please let us know so that we don’t have to pay extra postage when your SQB is returned. We can omit mailing to you for just those months. **OR**, choose to receive the SQB online and get it wherever you are during those months. Thanks!

## **Save the Date! Saturday, April 24**

MFSA’s Spring Statewide Zoom Gathering will feature **Matt Russell**, Executive Director for Iowa Interfaith Power and Light. Watch for more details in the coming months.

## **Sign Up for Action Alerts:**

The Legislature is now in Session, so it’s time to sign up for Action Alerts from our Advocacy Team. You’ll receive timely information on issues that need a response from the faith community, and specifically those that our Legislative Advocacy Team have identified as concerns to be addressed this Session. To be added to the list, please contact Brian Carter at: [BrianCar@dwx.com](mailto:BrianCar@dwx.com).

## **Join the Team:**

We are looking to add team members and advocates to the **Conference Legislative Advocacy Team**. Team members will meet (virtually or by phone) to discuss key bills and make declarations based on the Social Principles. You may also lobby on behalf of the Iowa UMC by phone and email and help coordinate events, trainings, and speakers. We need folks who can assist with email blasts and social media presence and anyone with a passion for social justice who can bring new ideas to the team! If interested, email: [Advocacy@iaumc.org](mailto:Advocacy@iaumc.org). Affiliation with a UMC is NOT required to be considered.

## **Support the Team!**

With the 2021 Legislature now in session, support for our Legislative Advocacy Team is needed more than ever. Thanks to those of you who have already contributed to that fund. With MFSA’s match, over \$7,000 has been raised, and there is still some match money available. You can send your financial support for the important work of Advocacy by sending a check, made out to MFSA, with Legislative Advocacy Team in the Memo line, to Mike Biklen, 515 East Eleventh St., Muscatine, IA 52761. Or you can donate online, once again designating your contribution to the Legislative Advocacy Team. Thanks!



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## **The Radical Martin Luther King, Jr.:**

Was King a radical? This study says that he was a radical and will give you a new understanding of the complexity of King's thought and writings and how to apply them today. This six-week lecture series on Zoom will be held **Wednesdays, February 3 – March 10, 6:00-7:30 PM**. Course fee is \$75.00, plus the cost of the book, *The Radical King* by Cornell West. For more information and to register contact: [centerforsocialministry@gmail.com](mailto:centerforsocialministry@gmail.com).

## **LGBTQ Older Adult Educational: Elder Abuse:**

Offered by One Iowa and Aging Resources of Central Iowa: **Wednesday, February 3, 4:30-5:30 PM**. Contact: [info@oneiowa.org](mailto:info@oneiowa.org).

## **Join the Book Study:**

Catholic Peace Ministry invites you to a Zoom discussion of *African Americans Against the Bomb: Nuclear Weapons, Colonialism, and the Black Freedom Movement*, by Vincent J. Intondi, on **Monday, February 8 and 15, 6:30 – 8:00 PM**. The book is available at Beaverdale Books. To register, contact Patti McKee at [catholicpeaceministry@gmail.com](mailto:catholicpeaceministry@gmail.com) by **February 3**.

## **Project Iowa Training Program:**

Looking for personal and professional development or a new career? This FREE 8-week online training begins on **February 8<sup>th</sup>**. For more information and to register, go to: [office@projectiowa.org](mailto:office@projectiowa.org)

## **Just Energy for All:**

UMW offers Just Energy for All 101, a three-part webinar series on **February 22, March 8 and 22, 2:00 PM**. More information at: [climatejustice@unitedmethodistwomen.org](mailto:climatejustice@unitedmethodistwomen.org)

## **Applications Open for EYA Internships:**

The Ethnic Young Adult Internship (EYA) program offered by the General Board of Church and Society is now accepting application for the Summer Program, **June 5 – July 31**. The program is for young justice seekers willing to unpack their faith and identity while working with an organization engaged in addressing social injustices. EYAs have the unique opportunity to learn about the role of Church and Society at the United Nations by visiting its UN office, and also visit a UMC historical site. Applications are **due March 1**. Contact Katie Monfortte at: [kmonfortte@umjustice.org](mailto:kmonfortte@umjustice.org), or 202-488-5650.

## **Children of Abraham:**

Next conversation: **Thursday, March 11, 7:00 PM**. Topic: *The Abrahamic Religions*, by Charles Cohen. Book is available at River Lights Bookstore. For Zoom link, contact: [john.eby@loras.edu](mailto:john.eby@loras.edu).

## **Called to Climate Action with Iowa Interfaith Power and Light: Please Sign!**

Iowa Interfaith Power and Light invites all persons of faith and conscience to sign the "2020 Called to Climate Action" statement. IIPPL works on: clean energy, environmental equity, protect water, regenerative farming practices, among others. Sign as a concrete action to help realize these goals. Learn more and sign: [Iowa IPL Uphold and Upheave Statement](#)

**View recurring events and contacts on the MEMO page at [www.mfsaiowa.org](http://www.mfsaiowa.org)**