



MFSA IOWA CHAPTER MEMO

Maria Van Der Maaten, Iowa Chapter Coordinator www.mfsaiowa.org

MAY 2022 MEMO

Hello everyone! MFSA Iowa has a lot of plans in progress for the upcoming Annual Conference—please mark June 4 on your calendar and join us for the Peace and Justice Rally, the annual Awards Banquet, and the opportunity to be together and celebrate our commitment and work for social justice together! In the meantime, there is a lot happening this month too. As always, if you have any updates I can include mid-month or in upcoming memos, send them to me at maria@mfsaiowa.org.

Peace, Maria

One Iowa Call for Applications: 2022 LGBTQ Leadership Institute (deadline May 1) The LGBTQ Leadership Institute equips members with the tools they need to plan and reach their individualized leadership goals, emphasizing starting businesses, leading nonprofits, and connecting communities. Applications are due **May 1st**. [Apply here](#).

Demilitarizing the Budget: Important Even in Times of War (virtual)

As the war in Ukraine adds to the many violent conflicts around the world, governments are responding by increasing military budgets, sending weapons to allies, and calling for escalatory measures against other nations. In 2021, the world spent over \$2 trillion on militaries, and if we don't join together, this number will only get worse. Join AFSC on **Tuesday, May 3 at 6pm CDT** to learn why the United States' obscene spending on weapons and war isn't actually keeping us safe, how the budget and appropriations process works, and how you can get involved in the call to move money out of militarism and into our communities! [Register here](#).

Human Rights in the Philippines (virtual)

[Book of Resolutions #6118](#) *"The United Methodist Church continues to be alarmed by and concerned about the unabated and egregious violations of human rights in the Philippines..."* GBCS is co-sponsoring a [Just Peace Vigil](#) (click hyperlink to register) at **7pm CDT on Wednesday, May 4** with the International Coalition for Human Rights in the Philippines, the National Association of Filipino American United Methodists, and others.

Faith Talks: 2022 Mission Studies on Luke 13 (virtual)

United Women in Faith invites you to join Faith Talks on **Thursday, May 5, at 1 pm CDT**, as they explore the Gospel of Luke with the principal authors of the 2022 Mission studies. Participants include: Candace Simpson, author of the 2022 adult mission study, *Who Can We Be Together?*; Kenya Cummings, author of the 2022 youth study *Community in the Midst of Challenging Times*; and Ilka Vega, author of the 2022 children's study *Our Growing Tree: From Self-Love to the Beloved Community and All of God's Creation*. [Register here](#).

vox populi: the voice of the people (in-person and virtual)

The Des Moines Diversity Chorus' spring concert, vox populi: the voice of the people, centers around impactful words and stories through time. Featuring the Diversity Chorus, guest spoken word artists, and community soloists at Grace UMC on **Monday, May 9 at 7pm**. Join us via Facebook Live or in person (masks recommended).



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#KNOWJUSTICE: The Collective Exhibit (in-person and virtual)

ArtForce Iowa is proud to present [#KNOWJUSTICE](#): The Collective, our seventh annual art exhibit. The Collective seeks to bring people together to show the strength and beauty of authentic and intentional unity. At a time like this when the world feels pulled apart, we believe coming together is the greatest step towards changing the world to be a more kind and loving place where everyone flourishes. Open your eyes and hearts to the stories of central lowans. Their stories are about hope and discovery, love and friendship, courage, and redemption. Their stories are about finding each other in the midst of chaos and creating something worth fighting for.

Join us on **Friday, May 6th** at Mainframe Studios, 900 Keo Way, RM#339, Des Moines, IA 50309 from **5 to 8 p.m.** for our first in-person exhibit since 2019. We can't wait to see you! If you can't join us in-person, we will have our exhibit available virtually as well. Stay tuned for the link.

MMIR Awareness in the Great Plains (in-person)

Great Plains Action Society and Urban Native Center invite you to join them on **Thursday, May 12th** for a day of raising awareness of the public health crisis known as [#MMIW](#) [#MMIR](#) (Missing & Murdered Indigenous Women; Relatives). According to the National Institute of Justice Report, four out of five Native women will have experienced violence throughout her life. Two-spirits are often subject to harmful patriarchal standards which can lead to depression, sexual assault, and harassment. Children are often targeted through social media and online gaming by sex/human traffickers. This day will be a day to raise awareness and planning so that we can collectively combat [#MMIW](#) [#MMIR](#) together. MARCH WILL BEGIN AT **1PM CDT** AT THE SIOUX CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT. After that we will march to the courthouse. The march will end at the Sioux City Public Museum. Later that evening, there will be another event from **6PM-8PM** at the Sioux City Public Museum where we will have guest speakers. Agenda forthcoming.

"The Present" Academy Award-nominated film showing (in-person)

May 15, 2022 marks the 74th anniversary of the Palestinian Nakba (catastrophe)-the day when Palestinians were driven from their homes to make way for the creation of the state of Israel. The Middle East Peace Education Coalition (MEPEC) is delighted to invite you to our first Palestinian support event as we come out of covid isolation. Please join us for the showing of a special film, "The Present" on **May 15 at 7pm** at the Des Moines Valley Friends Meeting (4211 Grand Ave., Des Moines). This is the story of a father and his daughter's journey in the West Bank to buy a gift for his wife/her mother. This Palestinian made, Academy Award nominated, film is 25 minutes long. The film then will be followed by community time for discussion and refreshments.

Save the Date! Saturday, June 4: MFSA Iowa Peace and Justice Rally (12pm), Annual Awards Banquet (dinner at 5:30pm, keynote Rekha Basu at 6pm). More details coming soon!

SQB Online! The Spring issue of the SQB is online! If you prefer to receive a hard copy, please send me a note at maria@mfsaiowa.org.