

GUIDELINES FOR MFSA SOCIAL ACTION AWARD

Purpose of the Award:

The title of the award is, "Iowa MFSA Social Action Award." It seeks to recognize persons who have made significant contributions to the work of social justice in the church and/or in the community. While recognizing the importance of charitable and relief work, the focus of this award is more on justice and addressing the larger systemic causes of injustice. That could be done by using a variety of means and actions, including, but not limited to advocacy, prophetic preaching, organizing and participating in protests, writing letters to editors or government officials, educating and raising awareness on issues, speaking prophetically to the UMC. [It should be noted that social activists are very often the ones most deeply engaged in relief and charitable work as well.] The Rev. Brenda Kneece of South Carolina sums it up, "The role of charity is to eliminate need. The role of justice is to eliminate the need for charity."

Number of Awards to Be Given:

One or two awards will be given each year, unless extraordinary circumstances indicate a reason to give an additional award.

Eligibility:

The award is usually given to an individual. However, if circumstances warrant it, the Award could be given to a church or group. United Methodists will be given primary consideration, but non-UM's are not ruled out. MFSA is concerned about social justice wherever it is found. Both members and non-members of MFSA are eligible. Preference will be given to persons who haven't been in the "spotlight," but who have been faithful workers for justice.

Timeline:

Suggestions should be sent to Eloise Cranke (ecranke@mchsi.com, or by mail to 2222 East 41st St., Des Moines, IA 50317) by December 31st. They should include a brief paragraph telling why the person fits the guidelines and should receive the award. The Executive Committee will review the suggestions and select the recipient(s) at its spring meeting. The Award will be given at the annual banquet/event held during Annual Conference.