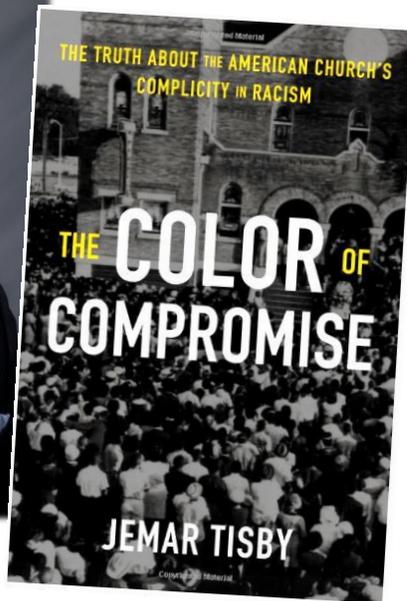


MFSA Iowa Awards Event
Saturday, June 8 – 5:00PM
Hy-Vee Hall – Iowa Events Center

**ROOMS
104-105**

Keynote Address
“For Such a Time as This”
Rev. Abraham Funchess

Building upon a recent community-wide book study in the Cedar Valley metroplex of Jemar Tisby’s *The Color of Compromise*, Funchess explores the oxymoronic connection between the church and American racism today and throughout American history. Recapturing conversation from the book study and reflection of the ways Christians of the past have reinforced theories of racial superiority and inferiority, Funchess aims to inspire us to engage in bold, deliberate actions to construct communities of justice and equity for all.



Pastor Funchess is Recipient of the Iowa Annual Conference Bishop James Samuel Thomas Leadership Award and the 2015 State of Iowa Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Achievement Award

Reverend Abraham L. Funchess, Jr., is the oldest of three children of Abraham and Bernice Funchess in St. Matthews, South Carolina. Funchess attended Hampton University in Hampton, VA, and majored in Sociology with a minor in Psychology, receiving upon graduation the W.E.B. DuBois Award for Scholarship and Activism from the department of Sociology, in recognition of his leadership in both the faith and academic arenas. He completed a Certified Public Management Course in 2010 through the College of Business and Public Administration, at Drake University in Des Moines.

Funchess has served as an Executive Director of Christian Community Development in Waterloo, as Pastor of the Second Baptist Church in Ottumwa and as an Adjunct Professor at Hawkeye Community College in Waterloo. In 2003, Funchess was appointed to Jubilee United Methodist Church in Waterloo, where he still serves. Funchess has also served as Division Administrator of the Iowa Commission on the Status of African Americans within the Iowa Department of Human Rights under Governors Tom Vilsack (Feb 2006) and Chet Culver (2007-2010).

Funchess was appointed in 2010 to the position of Human Rights Director for the city of Waterloo. It was here that Funchess received the “Building Unity and Developing Understanding” Award from the City of Waterloo Commission on Human Rights in 2008.

Funchess is married to Veronica McGee and they have one son, Solomon Diara Akello.

“Rise!” Children’s Book Published
Funchess' first children's book, “Rise!” is the first of a three-book installment for youth in conjunction with BaHar Publishing.

Our Movement Forward

by the Rev. Sean McRoberts

The Our Movement Forward Summit, held in Minneapolis on May 18th, was a gathering of over 300 people envisioning a new, liberationist expression of United Methodism.

The gathering centered the wisdom and leadership of People of Color + Queer + Trans People (POC + Q + T). It examined the ways that we might work together both within and beyond the UMC to establish justice and draw the center to the margins where we will encounter Jesus.

One fruit of the summit was the Our Movement Forward proclamation, which is now available at umcsetfree.org. It was written from the collaborative efforts of those in Minneapolis this weekend.

Individuals and organizations are encouraged to sign on to the proclamation as to share it with their networks.

Portions of the Our Movement Forward were livestreamed and can be viewed at the UM-Forward Facebook page
<https://www.facebook.com/umethodistsfor/>



MFSA Statement of Endorsement on IAM United in Love Coalition Delegates

by the Rev. Dave Shogren, SQB Editor

The Methodist Federation for Social Action (MFSA) stands deeply opposed to the Traditional Plan as adopted at Special Conference 2019. We support the Iowa Annual Conference (IAC) resolution which seeks to reverse and mitigate the hurt and pain of all persons committed to social justice, especially as directed toward those of the LGBTQAI community of beloved children of God. In the same way we support the election of persons to the 2020 General Conference demonstrating gifts and graces to stand and deliver justice, confront evil and live out the authentic compassion of Jesus and love of God in difficult, even hateful situations.

To that end, MFSA affirms the proactive initiative witness arising out of our common concern for the soul of our church as individuals from inside and outside MFSA came together this spring to form a

coalition focused on vetting and electing the best candidates possible from inside and outside MFSA. MFSA is confident these persons will further our collective vision and hope for the more just and compassionate United Methodist Church of the future. MFSA is likewise confident in MFSA members offering their candidacies and standing for election. We thank them all, but urge all justice and inclusive minded members of the IAC to vote for the first group of 12 laypersons and 12 clergy persons listed on the next page on at least the first several ballots.

Thank you for your faith in the God of justice and inclusive love. May the Holy Spirit show us all a new and better way forward.

See page 3





**IAM United in Love Coalition
Recommends Delegates to 2020 Conferences**

Coalition: Tyler Schwaller, Erica L Shannon Stueve, Alejandro Alfaro Sanitz, Irene DeMaris, Anna Blaedel, LaTonya Calderon, Lindsay Drake, Ryan Russell, Sean McRoberts, and Wil Ranney (convener).

Tyler Schwaller wrote the following to explain considerations that guided the coalition’s work:

Building a just, inclusive church that lives out the gospel requires energies and efforts in many directions.

While elections may not be the ideal avenue toward just relations, the fact is that the policies of the church are set by delegates elected to General Conference. And so, if we truly lament decades of anti-LGBTQIA+ policies and practices, and if we wish to commit ourselves to inclusion that breaks forth into liberation, how we vote matters.

Thankfully, there are many Iowa United Methodists who believe in the full affirmation and inclusion of LGBTQIA+ persons, while also striving for racial justice, gender justice, economic justice, environmental justice—in short, the gospel of liberation.

In order to amplify these voices and commitments, a coalition of justice-seeking Iowa United Methodists, organized as IAM United in Love, has vetted candidates according to the following priorities:

- Willingness to stand against harmful discrimination and injustice with integrity
- Candidates who are POC + Q + T (Person of Color + Queer + Transgender)—i.e, those most affected by
- discriminatory policies and practices
- General concern for diversity of experience, constituency, and age

Recognizing that we have many great candidates, we encourage you to lift up especially the slate shown here. As voting proceeds, pay attention to the inclusion-minded candidates who are doing well, and direct your votes toward them. By doing so, we can elect a delegation oriented toward justice and liberation.

FIRST BALLOT SLATE

	Clergy	Laity
1	218 Tyler Schwaller	410 Catherine Rorhet
2	237 Alejandro Alfaro-Santiz	440 Lindsay Drake
3	234 Katie Dawson	431 Erica Shannon Stueve
4	208 Sean McRoberts	401 John Rothlisberger
5	239 LaTonya Calderon	413 Lynn Calvert
6	203 Nathaniel Nims	438 Rachel Hollingsworth
7	216 Joshua Steward	406 Alexe Johnson
8	206 Chad Jennings	434 James Baty
9	225 Andrea Kraushaar	439 Michael Serface
10	235 Melissa Warren	441 Nitza Dovenspike
11	214 Frederick Lewis	420 Angela Hansen-Abbas
12	223 Lanette Plambeck	414 Sally Hoelscher
↓ FOR CONSIDERATION AFTER THE FIRST BALLOT		
	228 Matt German	442 Lisa Steel
	201 Amy Johnson	430 Rebecca Nims
	224 Scott Kober	437 Anne Marie Webb
	210 Alexis Johnson	433 Kathi Mitchell
	204 Barrie Tritle	432 Calvin Nicklay
	220 William Ranney	403 Patrick Mulloy
	209 Paul Burrow	445 Kae Tritle
	2HC John Wesley’s Ghost	405 Prudence Klinger
	2LV G Whitefield’s Ghost	427 Kay Graber
	21A Anna H Shaw’s Ghost	422 Bobby Jo Paige

Instructions

1. Share this slate!

2. During the First Ballot, please vote for the top 12 people in this slate in the order printed.

This only works if we can get a large block of people voting for the same candidates.

3. The results from the First Ballot will reveal the where our endorsed candidates rank amongst all voters. Using those results, reorder your slate using the endorsed candidates found on this sheet. Visit <http://IAMUnitedInLove.org> to get the official up-dated slate after each ballot.

2019 MFSA SOCIAL ACTION AWARDS

Kathi Mitchell - Nominated by Jean Swenson

Kathi Mitchell has worked tirelessly for justice in Northeast Iowa and beyond.

Kathi transported immigrants to hearings in Omaha after the Postville raid and has continued this service throughout the years. Currently frequent trips to the Guatemalan Consulate in Chicago have been needed with our newest group of immigrants, leaving at 2:00 a.m. and returning at 9:00 or 10:00 p.m. (if lucky!) Kathi was instrumental in setting up a JFON Clinic in Decorah in 2014, where she now serves as its co-coordinator. She has been a board member of Iowa JFON since 2013. Kathi co-founded an ecumenical, now 501C3 group, "Path to Citizenship" which manages the quarterly Decorah JFON Clinic. She participated in two Volunteer in Mission (VIM) teams at the US-Mexican border. Kathi is the legal guardian of two teenage immigrant boys, who are proud holders of green cards, now ready to become citizens, and one who sadly has been greatly delayed in the process by our current administration.

Each year, Kathi coordinates with the Northeast Iowa Peace and Justice Center and the Oneota Food Co-op an "Empty Bowls" event in Decorah, where moneys raised (has been up to \$10,000) are divided between the Decorah food pantry and other local, state, and worldwide agencies who work to alleviate hunger. She also serves on the steering committee for the twice-monthly Decorah Community Meal, prepares a Vegetarian/Gluten Free Dish to serve 35-40 for each meal, and co-coordinates the Community Thanksgiving meal, which served over 400 people (205 home deliveries and 200 in-house) in 2018!

Kathi caters food for fundraisers and other progressive causes, including the Iowa Conference Legislative Advocacy Day in 2018. She has served on several boards and committees in the Iowa Annual Conference and on the District Level. She served one term as Social Action Coordinator for Iowa United Methodist Women, and is currently a member of the Bishop's Mental Health Task Force. She was responsible for the well-attended statewide "Mental Health First Aid" trainings in 2018 and eight more scheduled through mid-June 2019.

Kathi's career path as social worker, and now educational support professional at Crossroads Academy, the local attendance center for students with behavioral disabilities, suggests Kathi's commitment to social justice is lived out 24/7.

Kathi's boundless energy and positive attitude are an inspiration to all of us. She is truly a servant leader, worthy of this award.

Rev. Bill Steward - Nominated by Carol Crandall (Posthumous Award)

Although earlier would have been better, it is never too late to recognize someone who has impacted so many lives in a positive way.

A colleague described Bill as "a man who preached uncommon grace." He also lived uncommon grace as he made everyone he encountered feel like they were a person of importance and worth. Bill was passionate about his faith and advocated for justice, civil rights, worker's right and LGBTQ inclusion in the church. Bill served churches in Iowa from 1972 until his retirement in 2011 after which he continued ministry as a chaplain at Wesley Acres. He served on the board of Church and Society and as a legislative advocate, taught in the school for lay ministry and was a member of MFSA. He preached liberation theology with a style all his own. He hit a home run every time!

Bless your heart, Bill. Your love of God and neighbor serves as a shining example of a life well lived. We miss you and love you.

UMC Next – A Gathering to Discern a Different Path by the Rev. Katie Dawson

UMC Next, May 20-22, 2019 called together 600+ people from every U.S. annual conference to Minneapolis. It purposely brought together a diverse coalition to stand in opposition to the Traditional Plan, which is set to take effect January 1, 2020, by removing discriminatory language and penalties directed at our LGBTQ siblings. I was invited to be a member of the convening team working to present a variety of options, facilitate conversation at table, and discern energy for next steps.

It was necessary to limit size to 600 due to available space and to better facilitate meaningful conversation at table. This gathering is one piece of a global puzzle with other conversations spearheaded by various groups happening elsewhere. It was a closed meeting in order to allow honesty and free strategizing to test various possibilities, realizing there are those who would gladly twist seminal ideas in negative ways. Attendance was not public, as there was concern about perceptions at home as conferences prepare for General Conference 2020 elections.

Once invitations were sent and conveners solidified there were only three weeks to plan three days of content focusing on common ground. Coalition building is messy and difficult but it is good and necessary work, knowing we will fail in some ways, but doing better next time. Never perfect, but fortunately diversity of the convening team helped us see some of potential pitfalls.



Attempts to make sure that voices of people of color, LGBTQ, laity and young people were represented at each table also meant some found themselves isolated/tokenized. Some plans were scrapped as the actual conference unfolded.

Four commitments were shaped out of **UMC Next**, available at www.umcnext.com. Consensus was starting to solidify around at least two paths forward - dissolution of our denomination in order to start something new or staying, resisting, building community, and reforming our denomination into something new. Both include a new thing, acknowledging the reality that the polity and practices of our church are broken and we can no stand by. Both include a shared vision of an intersectional church that not only celebrates and affirms the gifts of our LGBTQ siblings, but also recognizes our legacy of institutional systemic sin such as racism, sexism, ableism, and ageism. Can these be addressed simultaneously or are the pathways mutually exclusive? Which will work better in which conferences? It feels like time is running short.

In some ways, I feel the gathering was insignificant, although I celebrate a number of really important accomplishments. The depth of conversation around tables produced 231 pages of feedback on paths before us as well as new ideas to be digested and summarized as we plan next steps. Participants expressed their willingness to help as we expand leadership for the work. Each annual conference team is working to multiply efforts locally, utilizing new shared resources. We formed new relationships and discerned how to be creative together. It was far from perfect, but it was an important step forward.



Please support these Iowa Annual Conference Resolutions for Justice

Action Item #	Resolution	Submitted by
501	Disavowal of the Traditional Plan	Katie and 13 other clergy
502	Firearms and Child Safety	Rita Carter
503	Abolition of ICE	Dick Clark & Inez Dawes
504	Plastic Pollution	Rita Carter
505	Climate Crisis Emergency	Dick Clark
507	Children’s Mental Health	Brian Carter
508	Addressing Federal Legislation on Israeli Detention of Children	Des Moines First UMC & Christine Anders
509	Iowa Drone Command Center Must Be Closed	Sean McRoberts
510	Permanent Status for DACA and TPS Immigrants	Rita Carter

MFSA Iowa Chapter Coordinator:
Eloise Cranke ecranke@mchsi.com

Visit mfsaiowa.org for SQB archives, monthly events memo and more

[Facebook.com/MFSAIowa/](https://www.facebook.com/MFSAIowa/)
like us and get the latest events and news

National MFSA Website
<http://mfsaweb.org/>

MFSA Iowa Membership and Support:

Membership includes National MFSA & SQB newsletter subscription. To join, contact our membership secretary Mike Biklen.

No dues are required, but any gift is greatly appreciated. 80% of your membership donation goes to fund the work of National MFSA. Please support MFSA Iowa financially through any or all of these three funds:

- **Organizer Fund:** Supports the work of our coordinator Eloise Cranke.
- **General Fund:** operating budget expenses.
- **Memorial Fund:** Gifts given /designated Donate by mailing a check to MFSA Iowa c/o Mike Biklen 515 E. 11th St., Muscatine, IA 52761-3920 or via PayPal at mfsaiowa.org.



Reaffirmation of Our Purpose and Statement of Reconciliation

Passed May 26, 2019

Whereas: Collegiate United Methodist Church and Wesley Foundation on October 8, 2000, adopted our Statement of Reconciliation, which states that "our inclusive community welcomes and affirms all persons without regard to gender, ethnic background, sexual orientation, national origin, age, physical or mental ability, marital status, economic condition or anything else which threatens to divide God's family. In our quest to follow the example of Christ. We will employ no circles of exclusion and we commit ourselves to loving acts of invitation, hospitality, and reconciliation, providing ministry to, for, and with all persons without exception," and Whereas: Collegiate/Wesley, on October 19th, 2015, as a part of our continuing effort to live into our Statement of Reconciliation, we resolved and affirmed that the congregation of Collegiate Wesley would support and approve the use of our facilities for marriage ceremonies of all couples licensed to marry in the State of Iowa and approved by our officiating pastor. And that any of our clergy who chose to minister fully to all persons by celebrating such marriages could do so knowing that we pledged to them our full support.

Whereas: The United Methodist Church during a Special Called Session of the General Conference on February 26, 2019, passed by a vote of 438 to 384 the "Traditional Plan" which is in conflict with our Reconciling Statement. Most of the provisions of the Traditional Plan were affirmed as constitutional in Judicial Council rulings issued on April 26, 2019.

Therefore: Collegiate/Wesley, in response to the

Special Called Session of General Conference and successive Judicial Council ruling, reaffirms our commitment to our Statement of Reconciliation and to be a fully inclusive church, and Collegiate/Wesley will not conform with, comply with, or support provisions of the Book of Discipline which discriminate against LGBTQIA+ persons, including matters Of marriage (161.C), the incompatibility clause (161.G), ordination and appointments (304.3), homosexual unions (341.6), Annual Conference funding ban (613.19). General Council on Finance and Administration funding ban (806.9), chargeable offenses pertaining to being "a self-avowed practicing homosexual" or to officiating at weddings for couples regardless of the sex of the partners (2702.1b,d and 2711.3), and Collegiate/Wesley reaffirms our commitment to hold weddings in our church regardless of the gender, sex or sexual orientation of the partners. We reaffirm our commitment to support clergy who perform weddings in our church and pledge to them our full support; and Collegiate/Wesley commits to advocate for changes and legislation at the 2019 Iowa Annual Conference that will limit the harm and impact of the Traditional Plan and to work to elect delegates to the 2020 General Conference who will work for full inclusion Of all persons. At Collegiate/Wesley our purpose is to build an inclusive community where all are invited to experience God's unconditional love, grow in faith and serve others.



IOWA ANNUAL CONFERENCE EVENTS

MFSA IOWA CAUCUS

Friday, June 7 at 9:00 PM

**Held at the close of the session on
Saturday, Sunday, Monday –
June 8-9-10**

**Wesley UMC, 800 E. 12th Street,
Des Moines, IA 50316**

BISHOP'S FITNESS WALK SUNDAY, JUNE 9

Contact Kae Tritle to register: bktritle@msn.com



United
Methodist
Women

FAITH · HOPE · LOVE IN ACTION

SUNDAY EVENING, JUNE 9

“Our Legacy for 150 Years” Beverly Nolte, retired missionary, calls IAC United Methodist Women together during supper break at Wesley UMC, 800 E. 12th, DSM. Tickets are \$10.

RSVP to Myra Bowman: 641-843-4086
or jlmkbowman51@comm1net.net

Iowa JFON Luncheon – JUNE 8

Justice for our Neighbors luncheon meets

12:15PM at Trinity Las Americas UMC

1548 8th Street, Des Moines, 50314

\$12 at the door

Contact: Frank Camp

Fscamp77@msn.com

or 319-899-3585



MAKING PEACE:

IN OUR CHURCH, IN OUR WORLD, IN OURSELVES

MONDAY, JUNE 10 - 12:15 PM

Walk for Peace and Social Justice

Led by Bishop Laurie Haller

from Hy-Vee Hall to the

Peace Garden in Cowles Commons

