

MFSA Iowa Fall Gathering

“Intersectionality”
Bridget Cabrera, M.Div.
MFSA Executive Director



Saturday, October 24 – 9:30 am
Zoom Meeting ID: 894 0168 4627 / Passcode: 116252

**Des Moines Faith
 Committee for Peace**
presents
International Day of Peace

Monday, Sept. 21
6:30 p.m. - [Facebook Live](#)

“Hope is the Thing”
Iowa: artist Ted Lyddon-Hatten
and Kristin Maahs, Harp
New Zealand: artists
Joyce Majendie & Pete
Majendie

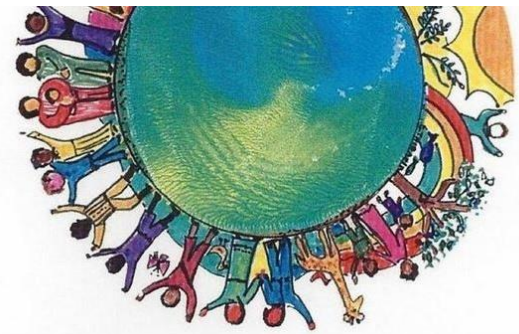
Bridget Cabrera is uniquely positioned to illustrate and advocate for intersectionality, the bringing together of multiple diverse groups of folk around a common vision and cause. Her leadership with RMN, Reconciling Ministries Network, is obvious. It is a network of Christians and other people of faith united around the need for justice and equality towards our brothers and sisters in the LGBTQ community as they struggle for full inclusion in the human community, the church and institutions with a history of less than full inclusion.

Growing our intersectionality, our cooperation with other groups around particular issues is both wise and necessary as we seek to maximize our ability to shape social realities on the ground. Given the current rise of fear, xenophobia, hate and division in our culture, a coming together in resistance is ever more the Gospel imperative.

Our speaker: Bridget Cabrera, M.Div. (she, her, hers) is the Executive Director of Methodist Federation for Social Action, a 110-year-old justice-seeking network consisting of members in 25 annual conferences.

Prior to MFSA she served as the Deputy Director of the Reconciling Ministries Network and a leader in the Love Your Neighbor Coalition. Bridget previously served as the Executive Secretary for National Ministries with United Methodist Women (UMW) and is experienced in campus, young adult, and camping ministry.

Bridget graduated from the University of Alabama with a B.S. in Music Education and from Emory University, Candler School of Theology with an M. Div.



The virtual format makes it possible for the event to be truly international. Artists from Iowa and New Zealand will create **Hope Is the Thing**, a global installation about peace, hope, and birds.

September 21 from noon-7:00 p.m. From 6:30-7:00 p.m., the completion of the art installation will be livestreamed on the [Des Moines Faith Committee for Peace Facebook page](#)

More from Ted Lyddon Hatten:

“To offer a means of sharing signs of hope as a way of shaping peace together...to connect two sides of the world together to promote peace.”

Ephemeral art is fleeting; it is art made for the present moment. Hope, like peace and beauty, is fleeting. This ephemeral art installation will be the eye of a white dove using birdseed, sand, and feathers. The eyes of the dove are on the side of its head, spanning 340 degrees—seeing ahead and behind at the same time. With one eye in Des Moines and one eye in New Zealand, the earth becomes the dove—scanning the past while eyeing the future looking for signs of hope in a world that has a taste for war.

Drink Water ≈  ≈ **Breathe**

MFSA Social Action Award Kathleen Clark

Nomination by Jean Swenson

Kathleen Clark is a justice seeker who loves kindness and walks humbly.

I worked closely with Kathleen when we both served on the Conference Human Resources Committee. Kathleen never shied away from asking difficult questions, or from speaking "truth to power." She was artful in her assertiveness, knew when humor was needed, and was genuinely interested in everyone at the table. Since that time, I have run into Kathleen at almost every social justice event imaginable, she served as my mentor at JFON clinics, and she has pursued new learning opportunities with me (or my husband) at Ray Society classes. Although Kathleen's resume is second-to-none, I was unaware of most of her accomplishments until submitting this nomination.

Kathleen holds a B.S. in education from Purdue University and a Master of Divinity from Saint Paul School of Theology. She holds a certificate from the Women's Theological Center in Boston, and has completed advanced coursework in clinical pastoral education, with emphasis in mental health.

She used, and continues to use, her education in the following ways: teacher in Indiana, Virginia, and Iowa; Chaplain at Western Missouri Mental Health Center, Pastor in Orient, IA, Hill of Zion and United Methodist Church & Community worker for the Board of Global Ministries in the Iowa Conference, heading the conference's Church & Community Development program, Office for Town & Rural Ministries, during the 1980's farm crisis.

*Jean Swenson, left
Kathleen (with award)
Eloise Cranke, MFSA Coordinator*

Kathleen was headquartered in New York City from 1992-2002, while serving as the Executive Secretary in the Mission Personnel Unit of the General Board of Global Ministries supervising the Church and Community Workers in the United States. Since her retirement to Des Moines, she volunteers once a month as chaplain doing the Sunday service at Broadlawns Medical Center, Sands Unit.

Her social justice endeavors include serving as a volunteer at Rosie's Place, a shelter for homeless women in Boston; serving on the board and chairing the Office of Economic Opportunity, Upper Des Moines Opportunity, Inc.; serving on the board and volunteering for Iowa Justice For Our Neighbors, serving on the Interfaith Alliance of Iowa Action Fund Board, serving as a Steering Committee member for the Iowa Chapter of the Methodist Federation for Social Action, and serving as director of Learn to Swim Programs and Instructor Trainer for American Red Cross Water Safety, First Aid, and CPR in Palo Alto County. She received the Governor's Volunteer Award for her service to Zion Residential Drug Treatment Center.

Kathleen served Church Women United (CWU) as Iowa State President, Co-President of the Waterside/UN Unit in New York City, National Nominating Committee, National Program Committee, Central Region Coordinator, and Local Unit President in Adair County, Palo Alto County, and Des Moines Area. She participated in study tours to Nicaragua, Cuba, and the Philippines, and attended the CWU conference in Beijing.



MFSA Social Action Award

The Rev. Barb Dinnen (posthumously)

Nomination by The Revs. Denny Coon and Diane McClanahan

In a lecture at Drake University two years ago, Greg Boyle, Jesuit priest and founder of Homeboy Industries which helps transform gang members in Los Angeles, encouraged the audience to stand at the margins which in reality expands the margins. The margins get erased and in doing so the circle is made bigger. No one stands outside the circle.

This describes exactly how I witnessed Rev. Barb Dinnen engage while we were in ministry together at Trinity/Las Americas United Methodist Church. Barb stood at the margins every day as she ministered with the immigrant and neighborhood community. Most importantly she listened at the margins and helped transform lives by including them in decision making. The women, men and children she guided became leaders. She recognized in them the gifts and wisdom they already possessed. She did not tell them what they needed but tenderly brought to the surface their God given talents.

When Jesus sends the disciples out, he instructs them to not take any possessions with them but to rely on the gifts of the strangers they will encounter. Disciple Barb did this with joy and enthusiasm believing God was working in the lives she encountered. Her joy rubbed off on others who were in ministry with her. No one stood outside the circle in Barb's understanding of God's kingdom. She is well deserving of the MFSA Social Justice Award.

With Loving-Kindness, Rev. Denny Coon

When you really listen to the prayers of the people, you cannot help but do something about the system that oppresses them. That was one of the first lessons I learned from the Rev. Barb Dinnen when I had the privilege of pastoring with her at Trinity Las Americas. Justice, for Barb, was an answer to prayer--not a passive one, but an active one, that embodied her favorite Biblical text.

"What does the Lord require of you, but to do justice, love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God? (NRSV, Micah 6:8). That is what I witnessed Barb doing within her ministry and beyond her ministry.

**Steve Dinnen with
Barb Dinnen's Social Action Award
& Eloise Cranke, MFSA Coordinator**

Barb served on the front line of many organizations like Iowa AIR (Allies for Immigration Reform), and Justice for our Neighbors, who in its early days in Iowa shared her office at Trinity. She was there to protest the Immigration raids in Marshalltown and Postville and in the wake of those raids, cared for the divided families. She used her voice, her position, and her passion to not only welcome the stranger but to seek justice and mercy for them.

Inez Dawes writes of Barb,

"It was fun and sometimes a challenge to work with Pastor Barb. In the very best sense, she embodied the MFSA purpose of doing justice, loving kindness and walking humbly with God. In the midst of those pastoral skills I often saw passion, fury, impatience, persistence, tears of sadness and of joy as she walked with so many parishioners and companions. Her faith and commitment were always obvious."

Even when she became ill, when it would have been easy to just hang up the towel and tend to herself, Barb continued to find ways to serve the diverse and beautiful people she loved for as long as she could. Barb not only listened to the prayers of the people, she did whatever she could to be bring the answer to those prayers into being. I could not have had a better teacher or friend.

With a prayer for peace and justice,

Rev. Diane McClanahan





**The Methodist Federation for
Social Action, Iowa Chapter
SOCIAL QUESTIONS BULLETIN**

SQB

Seeking Global Justice through the United Methodist Church
FALL 2020 www.mfsaiowa.org

Invest in MFSA's Anti-racist Work!

We at MFSA, both locally and nationally, have engaged in serious dialogue, training, and holy confession over the past several years around systemic racism operating in our governance and organization. We have named this as a priority for ourselves and know that we have work to do.

The national MFSA organization began that work this year by engaging CrossRoads Anti-Racism Organizing & Training. At the national level MFSA has invested \$25,000 in this consulting process to begin to dismantling racist systems, policies, and practices within our organization.

During September, you can make your own investment in anti-racist work by giving to MFSA's anti-racist work. **We believe in this vital work enough that we are matching donations received for anti-racist work during September up to \$1,000.** To make your donation, use the [Paypal Donate link](#) or mail a check to Mike Biklen, 515 East Eleventh Street, Muscatine, Iowa 52761. (designate for anti-racist ministry).



**Crossroads Antiracism
Organizing and Training**

MFSA Iowa Membership and Support:

Membership includes membership with National MFSA & SQB newsletter subscription. To join, contact membership secretary Mike Biklen. Please support MFSA Iowa 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.

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*A brief business meeting will follow the
October 24 program to elect officers:*

Nominations for Executive Committee, 2021

Co-Presidents: **Jean Swenson and
Josh Steward**
Secretary: **Medea Saunders**
Treasurer: **Brian Carter**
Accountant: **Ryan Russell**
Peace & Justice
Advocate: **Kathleen McQuillen**
Newsletter: **Dave Shogren**
Membership/
Financial: **Mike Biklen**
IAC Coordinator: **Rita Carter**
Program Council Rep: **Sean McRoberts**
At-Large: **Alejandro Alfaro-Santiz
Allyn Glenn-Angell
Irene DeMaris**

Ex-Officio positions (not elected)

Past Co-President: **Dick Clark**

Steering

Committee Chair: **Betty Ellis**

Coordinator: **Eloise Cranke**

- **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/)
- **MFSA National** <http://mfsaweb.org/>
www.facebook.com/MFSAVoices/