

# MFSA NCC—The Plumb Line

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## Jack Crum Conference on Prophetic Ministry—Radical Welcome: Learning To Live with the Other

Saturday March 25th the North Carolina conference chapter of the Methodist Federation for Social Action hosted it's 9th annual Jack Crum Conference on Prophetic Ministry -- "Radical Welcome: learning to live with the Other." We learned how we can live with all our neighbors-our Muslim neighbor, our immigrant neighbor, LGBTQ neighbor. We explored how welcoming the stranger is based in scripture and Christian tradition. Bishop Will Willimon set the tone of the conference as preacher for the morning service followed Marcia Owen as the keynote. Carolyn Schult did an excellent job as our lunchtime speaker talking about her many years of ministry with the homeless community in Durham.

A big thank you to Jarvis United Methodist Church for hosting us. Also kudos to our speakers and presenters including Manzoor Cheema, Carl Kenney, Marcia Owen, David Girod, Terry Hunt, Carolyn Schult, Liam Hooper, and Tuck Taylor-Loveland. Thank you to the team that helped put this together including Betty Matteson, Sam Isley, Phillip Jefferson, Laurie Hays Coffman, Alan Felton, Nancy Van Antwerp and David Girod.

Great job all!



*Some of the crew that helped pull together conference-Phillip Jefferson, Laurie Hays Coffman, Kay Crum, Nancy Van Antwerp, Alan Felton, Henry Jarrett, and Sam Isley*

## Gayle Felton Love Thy Neighbor Lunch, Saturday June 17

The Gayle Felton Lunch will be on Saturday June 17th at 12 noon at the Holiday Inn in Greenville, 203 SW Greenville Blvd.

Our Preacher for the lunch is the Reverend Vernon Tyson who has had a nearly 60-year career of fighting injustice in North Carolina. Rev. Tyson was born in 1929 at Buie's Creek and is a graduate of Biscoe High School, Guilford

*Gayle Felton Love Thy Neighbor Lunch. Saturday June 17. continued*

College and Duke Divinity School. He is married to the former Martha Buie of Biscoe. They have four children and four grandchildren.

Registration for lunch is \$15 in advance, \$17 the day of the event, and \$10 for students. You can make a check out to MFSA NC and mail it to MFSA NC PO Box 18311 Raleigh NC 27619 or go online to [mfsancc.org/events/2017-gayle-felton-love-thy-neighbor-lunch/](http://mfsancc.org/events/2017-gayle-felton-love-thy-neighbor-lunch/)

## **Background**

In 2014 the North Carolina Annual Conference chapters of Reconciling Ministries Network, Reconciling United Methodists and Friends NC, and Methodist Federation for Social Action renamed their combined lunch at Annual Conference the Gayle Felton Love Thy Neighbor Lunch in memory the Reverend Dr. Gayle Felton who had chaired the board of RMN and was active with both chapters. A native of Pinetops, Gayle graduated from North Carolina Wesleyan College and taught high school in Edgecombe County before answering the call to ministry. She received her Masters of Divinity and Doctorate from Duke University. Gayle taught at Meredith College and Duke Divinity School. Her published works include *This Gift of Water, By Water and the Spirit, This Holy Mystery, United Methodists and the Sacraments, and The Coming of Jesus*. Gayle had a deep commitment to social justice, working to integrate the public schools in Edgecombe County and as a pioneer in building the Reconciling Movement, a group advocating for the full inclusion of LGBT persons in the United Methodist Church. Gayle also was a role model for women seeking ordination in the United Methodist Church, working tirelessly to remove many of the obstacles she herself had to overcome in becoming an ordained elder.



*Gayle Felton*



*Vernon Tyson*

## **Statement on recent Judicial Council Rulings with Bishop Reverend Dr. Karen Oliveto and requiring boards of ordained ministry to ask questions about one's sexuality**

The North Carolina Conference chapter of the Methodist Federation for Social Action expresses deep concern over the recent ruling by the Judicial Council of The United Methodist Church regarding the Reverend Dr. Karen Oliveto who currently serves as Bishop of the Mountain Sky Conference in the Western Jurisdiction of The United Methodist Church. To nullify or rule void her consecration as a bishop of The United Methodist Church even though they followed the procedures according to the guidelines of the church and those present knew who she was is an affront to the word of God. In Galatians 5:22-23 it says "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control". Jesus does not engage in identity when he asks who neighbor is in Luke 10:25-37. Whether we are a Samaritan, a Levite, or a priest we are all God's children.

We are also concerned the Judicial Council's other ruling with respect to the requirement that all candidates for ordination be asked question about their sexuality/sexual orientation. Are other questions to be asked as well? Or is this more of The United Methodist Church just singling out a particular class of persons. Is that what Jesus would do? Christ never mentioned sexual orientation in the Gospels. He did have much to say about poverty, abuse of power, and loving one's neighbor regardless of "identity".

We the North Carolina Conference chapter of the Methodist Federation for Social Action stand with our LGBTQIA clergy, bishops, and laity. We advocate for full inclusion of LGBTQIA persons in the full life and ministry of The United Methodist Church. Further we invite all those who wish to see a diverse and fully inclusive United Methodist Church to join us on Saturday June 17th as we celebrate diversity and inclusion at Gayle Felton Love Thy Neighbor Lunch at 12 noon at the Holiday Inn in Greenville NC. You can look for more details on our website at [www.mfsancc.org](http://www.mfsancc.org) and our Facebook page.

*Grace and peace,  
Henry Jarrett, President  
Methodist Federation for Social Action  
North Carolina Conference chapter*