

*Then the Lord said, "Look, I am setting a plumb line among my people Israel; I will spare them no longer."
(Amos 7:8)*

MFSA NCC—The Plumb Line

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Gayle Felton Love Thy Neighbor Lunch



On Saturday June 17, the North Carolina Conference chapter of the Methodist Federation for Social Action and Reconciling United Methodists Friends filled the room at the 4th annual Gayle Felton Love Thy Neighbor Lunch for a great, spirit-filled event.

This year we honored the Reverend Vernon Tyson, Boo Tyson, and Sam Isley for the Gayle Felton Drum Major for Justice Award. Reverend Vernon Tyson has been a consistent voice for justice in our conference for over 50 years starting with desegregation and including LGBTQ full inclusion. Boo Tyson and Sam Isley pioneered LGBTQ inclusion in our conference by forming Reconciling United Methodist and Friends NC. Rev. Tyson gave a sermon reflecting on his more than 50 years of ministry.

We also honored Calvary United Methodist Church in Durham for being the first Reconciling congregation in the Carolinas. Both Calvary and Reverend Jen Anderson received the Jimmy Creech Prophetic Ministry Award. Reverend Anderson had been Calvary's pastor for 4 years and fully supported their ministry as a church of full inclusion. She now serves a church in Minnesota.

We recognized our outgoing website and tech person, Manzoor Cheema, with honorary membership in MFSA NCC. Manzoor set up our website and gave much needed advice about how to take advantage of social media, he currently coordinates Muslims for Social Justice and Movement to End Racism and Islamophobia and works for Project South.

The next Gayle Felton lunch will be Friday, June 15, 2018 at the Holiday Inn Greenville.

Hate is Not A Religious Value

The North Carolina Annual Conference chapter of the Methodist Federation for Social Action strongly condemns the violence perpetrated by white supremacist groups yesterday in Charlottesville Virginia. In Luke 10:27 Christ is quoted as saying "He answered, 'Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind'; and, 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'" MFSA NCC holds that all persons are of equal worth regardless of race, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, age, documentation status, ethnic background, nationality, intellectual or physical disability, or religion.

And when it comes to immigration and refugees, we would do well to remember that people of Israel were refugees and immigrated to a strange land and God reminded them of that. When a foreigner resides among you in your land, do not mistreat them. The foreigner residing among you must be treated as your native-born. Love them as yourself, for you were foreigners in Egypt. (Leviticus 19:33-34). Christ was a refugee whose family fled a tyrant and for a time lived in a land that was not their own. We read in Matthew 25:35 "For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in." Our charge is to love the stranger, the immigrant, the refugee and to welcome them in, not hate them. Our charge is to radically welcome the other in our midst.

MFSA NCC Retreat

MFSA NCC recently had its annual retreat at Carolina Beach on September 8 and 9. Boo Tyson and Lori Messinger kindly provided their home for the retreat. Reverend Bill Braswell led us through evening vespers and communion and Reverend Laurie Hays Coffman led us in a morning devotion. We reviewed the Jack Crum Conference and the Gayle Felton Lunch and agreed both went quite well. We discussed ways we could be active after the Gayle Felton Lunch and to not let ourselves just die for 6 months. Financially we are in good shape but would like to have more active members to carry out the work of the chapter. It was a very productive weekend.

