

*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

Volume 2, Issue 2

2nd Quarter 2018

The 10th Annual Jack Crum Conference on Prophetic Ministry Economic Inequality for All

On Saturday April 21st the North Carolina Annual Conference chapter of the Methodist Federation for Social Action held the 10th annual Jack Crum Conference for Prophetic Ministry at Highland United Methodist Church in Raleigh. The theme of the conference was "Economic Inequality for All". Reverend Dr. Jennifer Copeland, Executive Director of the North Carolina Council of Churches, opened us with a powerful message for the opening worship service.

We had a panel discussion led by Keith Bullard, Fight for 15, hearing from workers telling what it was like to live day to day. Our morning workshops included-Runaway Inequality led by Cesar Leyva and Keith Bullard, Reverend Hugh Hollowell workshop on ministering to people living with economic inequality in a urban setting, Gary Locklear, NC Annual Conference Lay Leader, led a workshop about economic inequality in rural communities, and Anna Pardo from the NC Justice Center led a workshop on how state policies affect economic inequality.

We concluded the day with a powerful poverty simulation game led by Steve Taylor, NC Annual Conference Executive Director of Connectional Ministries . It was followed a powerful message from Reverend T Anthony Spearman, president of the North Carolina Council of Churches and president of the North Carolina NAACP. Thank you much to Highland United Methodist Church for their hospitality and to the officers and board members of the MFSA NCC for their hard work for putting on this event. And also thanks to Kay Crum for her patronage of MFSA NCC.



Gayle Felton Love Thy Neighbor Lunch

On Friday June 15 at 12 noon at the Holiday Inn in Greenville NC the North Carolina Annual Conference chapter of Methodist Federation for Social Action and Reconciling United Methodists and Friends NC held the 5th annual Gayle Felton Love Thy Neighbor Lunch. This year we gave the Jimmy Creech Award for Prophetic Ministry to Reverend Gil Caldwell for his over 50 years of preaching and standing up for the rights of all God's children from Selma to Stonewall. We awarded the Gayle Felton Drum Major for Justice award to Phillip Jefferson for his steady leadership of Reconciling United Methodists and Friends NC and his involvement with MFSA NCC.

Reverend Gil Caldwell gave a powerful message about "Southern Liberation Theology" about liberating the South from both its racist past and present homophobia and also the United Methodist Church. Reverend Caldwell had collaborated with Marilyn Bennett, former Executive Director of Reconciling Ministries Network , on a documentary called " From Selma to Stonewall: Are We there Yet ?".

MFSA NCC was able to pass legislation calling for further gun regulations including background checks, limits on rounds, and age limit. The legislation was sent to the North Carolina General Assembly.



Plans for the Fall-The Way Forward

The North Carolina Annual Conference chapter of the Methodist Federation for Social Action and Reconciling United Methodists and Friends NC are working on putting on a half conversation on inclusiveness and half conversation on the way forward on LGBTQ inclusiveness within The United Methodist Church. In February 2019 there will be a special called conference of the General Conference of The United Methodist Church in St Louis dealing with one single issue-human sexuality, specifically inclusivity of LGBTQ persons in The United Methodist Church. We hope to have a specific date and time soon for the conversation. More communication will be coming out later.