

OREGON-IDAHO CHAPTER
Methodist Federation for Social Action

Please enter my MFSA membership gift for the calendar year 2008 in the following category:

- ___ \$500+ **Stellar**
(\$450 for national/\$50 for chapter)
- ___ \$200 **Spirited**
(\$160 for national/ \$40 for chapter)
- ___ \$150 **Supporting**
(\$120 for national/ \$30 for chapter)
- ___ \$100 **Sustaining**
(\$80 for national/ \$20 for chapter)
- ___ \$60 **Subscribing**
(\$48 for national/ \$12 for chapter)
- ___ \$ ___ **Other** (set your own amount)
(80% for national/ 20% for chapter)

___ In addition to my membership dues, I enclose an extra contribution for the work of the chapter, in the amount of _____

___ I do not wish to join, but would like to receive *Witness*, the chapter newsletter. I enclose \$10 to cover costs.

Enclosed is \$ _____

Names of Household Adults: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

E-mail: _____

Congregation: _____

Make check payable to OR-ID Chapter, MFSA

**Mail to David King, Membership Secy.,
1080 Ocean Ct.; Coos Bay, OR 97420**

National membership amounts will be forward to the National MFSA Office in Washington, D.C.

(No one is denied membership for lack of funds. Contact John Schwiebert at john@metanoiaumc.org, or call him at 503 281-3597 if you have questions.)

MFSA National Priorities

PEACE

Nonviolence: MFSA sponsors "Creating a Culture of Peace" nonviolence training and action seminars.

Palestine and Israel: MFSA promotes a just and lasting settlement to the conflict in the Middle East through nonviolent action. MFSA has requested UM Agencies to explore selective divestment.

POVERTY

Workers' Rights: MFSA takes action to support the rights of workers to make a living wage.

Budget Priorities: MFSA advocates for adequate funding for housing, healthcare, and education in the belief that security cannot be gained through military might.

PEOPLES' RIGHTS

Full Inclusion: With the Reconciling Ministries Network, Affirmation, and Church Within a Church, MFSA is working for a church and society that are fully inclusive of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender persons.

Dismantling Racism: MFSA supports the work of the General Commission on Religion and Race and has joined other progressive UM groups to explore the intersections of race, gender, sexual orientation, and class.

PROGRESSIVE INITIATIVES

Coalition Building: MFSA is strengthening and building a progressive movement of UMs through Voice of Faith conferences and organizing at Annual, Jurisdictional, and General Conferences.

Monitoring Conservative Renewal Movements: MFSA raises awareness around conservative renewal movements within the UMC, some of which are actively pursuing the option of a schism within the UMC.

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BECOME PART OF THIS
EXCITING MOVEMENT
AT THE HEART OF
THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



Oregon-Idaho Chapter
**Methodist Federation
for Social Action**

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503 364-0312

National MFSA Office:
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Washington, DC 20003

202-546-8806
mfsa@mfsaweb.org
www.mfsaweb.org

HOW YOU CAN BE INVOLVED

making a difference

MFSA is an independent movement of progressive United Methodists taking action on issues of

Justice, Peace and Liberation

The Methodist Federation for Social Action calls upon the United Methodist Church to expand its understanding and embodiment of **the radical call of the Gospel** to be the inclusive, justice-seeking, risk-taking **Body of Christ**. We support and augment **peace and justice ministries** through and beyond the United Methodist Church.

Through MFSA we **live out our belief** that to be faithful witness to the Gospel of Jesus Christ is to be involved in the transformation of the social order.

Nationally, MFSA is **accountable** to a Board of Directors, composed of representatives from our forty chapters plus additional at-large members, to ensure diversity and breadth of expertise. Supported entirely by annual memberships and contributions, MFSA is not an official United Methodist body.

In our Oregon Idaho Conference Chapter local activities are guided by an Executive Committee of 12 or more officers and representatives elected by chapter members at an annual meeting.

OUR OREGON-IDAHO CHAPTER MEMBERSHIP COVENANT

As a member of the Oregon-Idaho Chapter of the Methodist Federation for Social Action I agree to:

1. **pray** regularly for the prophetic work of MFSA both in the wider United Methodist Church and in the Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference.
2. **challenge** the members of my local church to take Jesus seriously, to seek first God's Realm and to speak and act for God's justice in the world.
3. **know and tell** the story of MFSA (see next column) to at least one other person in my local church, and invite that person to become a member of MFSA.
4. **connect** with others in the Chapter network in **at least one** of the following ways:
 - attend the MFSA Spring Event in Portland, OR.
 - attend the MFSA Luncheon at Annual Conference in Salem in June
 - attend a gathering of MFSA members and friends in my local area
 - sit in on a meeting of the Chapter MFSA Executive Committee (held every other month in Portland or Salem)
 - submit an article for publication the **Witness**, our chapter newsletter.

Over 100 Years of Witnessing for Justice and Peace

The Methodist Federation for Social Service, later called the Methodist Federation for Social Action (MFSA) was founded in 1907 by several Methodist Episcopal clergy to direct church attention to the enormous human suffering among the working classes. Immediately the Federation became Methodism's unofficial rallying point for the Social Gospel and achieved in 1908 the adoption of the first denominational social creed.

In the 1930's, the Federation focused on the rights of laborers and workers for a just and living wage and advocated for a society without class or group discrimination and privilege.

MFSA attained the height of its growth just following World War II. With the coming of the anti-communist hysteria of the McCarthy period, however, relations with The Methodist Church became very strained and the Federation came under sharp attack.

In the wake of these events, MSA experienced a serious decline. A dedicated remnant of MFSA leaders saw the importance of an independent advocate of social action in the church, however, and kept the Federation alive.

Over the past 100 years, MFSA has been a consistent witness for justice, peace, and the transformation of the social order. MFSA has experienced a broad revival and has re-established itself as a force within United Methodism. The Federation's accomplishments include: support for striking workers, issuing documented studies of the Far Right presence in the denomination and rallying forces to stem its influence, and leading the struggle for UM support of divestment from South Africa. The Federation makes a major impact every four years at the denomination's General Conference and Jurisdictional Conferences.

The Methodist Federation for Social Action continues to unite United Methodists to promote action on peace and justice issues of our day.