SPEAK UP. STAND UP. TAKE ACTION

WE ARE JUSTICE-SEEKING PEOPLE OF FAITH AND WE BELIEVE THAT
"THE ARC OF THE MORAL UNIVERSE IS LONG, BUT IT BENDS TOWARD JUSTICE"
A MESSAGE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Bridget Cabrera
White nationalists protested outside my church during worship a few weeks ago. My congregants were forced to walk through a crowd that shouting that they were pedophiles and groomers. These slurs were in response to a recent message on our church sign that named the harm Florida Governor Ron DeSantis was doing, and the name calling parroted his press secretary who said that those opposed to the “don’t say gay” bill must be groomers.

Last week we all witnessed a self proclaimed white supremacist target and kill Black people in a grocery store. This was followed by a man attacking Taiwanese-American church-goers.

It is not hard to connect the dots between White Nationalism, White Supremacy, and other forms of hatred that inspires violence. Politicians, media pundits, and others have been gaining power by
stoking the fear of white people and culture being replaced by people at the margins. We see this “Great Replacement” fear-mongering tool at work in everything from voter suppression laws, anti-CRT rhetoric, chants of protestors calling LGBTQ worship attendees groomers, to cable news pundits’ rants, the writings of both of last weekend’s shooters, and to the actual chants of torch carrying marchers in Charlottesville.

As a white pastor who has done the intellectual work of studying this evil, everything listed above is easy to spot and name. The hard work is knowing how to cure this disease. And the hardest work is moving beyond only an intellectual understanding into connecting the dots back into our own organizations, our churches, our people, and ourselves.

Said another way, where does the fear of “being replaced” dwell within me? As someone who benefits greatly from every form of privilege, how do I properly examine and root this from myself and our still white-dominated spaces...
2021 began with the Organizational Racial Audit Team completing the second of three tools, the Continuum on Becoming an Antiracist Multicultural Institution. This was the second instrument for qualitative analysis of patterns of white-supremacy culture and anti-racist policies and practices in MFSA. It provided a method to examine the ways that MFSA was moving beyond functioning as passively non-racist and reaching toward becoming a multicultural institution.

Following the completion of the Continuum, the audit team worked to begin drawing out common themes from that tool and the previously completed Matrix. The Matrix examined ways that racism functioned on individual, institutional, and cultural levels in MFSA.
The themes that emerged from this comparison formed the basis for the third instrument, the Survey.

The Survey provides a quantitative analysis to be used alongside the two qualitative tools, forming a triangulated analysis of MFSA. The Audit team wrote 30 questions to explore the eight common themes from the Matrix and Continuum. These questions were then presented to a sample of respondents from among MFSA’s membership and stakeholders.

The audit team expressed deep gratitude to everyone who participated in the Survey process, in one or both of its phases. The first phase of the survey was sent to a broad list, seeking as many respondents as possible to simply provide demographic information. We received over 560 responses, which allowed us to create a sample for the second survey which matched the racial demographics of the UMC...
MFSA does not receive any financial support from the United Methodist Church's giving channels. 100% of our budget is funded through membership dues and the generosity of our Justice-Seekers.

You make our collective work possible by your witness for justice and your financial contributions.

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Justice-Seeking Communities have committed to work toward justice, inclusion, and loving their neighbors.

Regional Communities/Chapters work in their communities and Annual/Central Conferences to make change.

Justice-Seeking People of Faith are part of MFSA's network, a progressive movement towards justice within the United Methodist Church and beyond.
MFSA sponsored **13 webinars** with partner organizations

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- United Methodists for Kairos Response (UMKR)
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In a world where faith is used as a weapon to do harm towards others and exclude, Justice-Seeking Congregations and Communities work toward justice, inclusion, and loving our neighbors. Learn more here: https://www.mfsaweb.org/congregations

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Are you a person of faith that cares about progressive social issues that centers the voices that are most often pushed to the margins? Signing up as a Justice-Seeking Person of Faith will subscribe you to our National Newsletter MFSA Voices, which features the latest news of the progressive movement towards justice within the United Methodist Church and beyond. Sign up here: https://mfsaweb.salsalabs.org/mfsaeblastsignupform/index.html

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15,000 Justice-seekers connect with MFSA and each other on social media for justice-oriented resources, news, opportunities, and community!

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