

BISHOPS CONVENE IMMIGRATION RALLY

April 25 -- Flanked by bishops Carcaño of the Desert Southwest Annual Conference, Devadhar of the Greater New Jersey Annual Conference, Hee Soo Jung of Northern Illinois, retired bishop Dale White, and others, speakers at MFSA's afternoon "Immigrant, Civil, and Human Rights" rally charged that current immigration restrictions were inhumane. Attempting to weave a more open-borders immigration agenda into the church's witness for human rights, Bill Mefford instructed all participants at the well-attended rally to take out their cell phones, and immediately "make two calls." The first call was to be to their representative, and "then" instructed Mefford, "you're going to call your church and tell them to call their representative" in order to put a stop to a piece of legislation called the "SAVE Act" that is currently on the House of Representatives agenda. Mefford did not mention any of the provisions of the Act, but only that it was objectionable.

Perhaps looking to a different (or more politically ambiguous) source for assistance, one pastor declared "¡Tenemos esperanza en Cristo!" or, "We have hope in Christ!" He read letters from undocumented immigrants who had spent decades in the United States and who expressed their frustration at the difficulty of life here. An immigration attorney stated that she has watched as "the laws of this country have grown more hostile, and hateful to immigrants," because "the

laws of this country were made by those who were completely out of touch" with the situations of immigrants.

One South African immigrant lamented that, "We have witnessed the denial of civil and human rights to these immigrants" but encouraged, "Justice will prevail" because "we worship a Jesus that knows the immigrant experience" and "a God that states that no human being is illegal." He cited Christ's infancy in Egypt, recalling that, "As a child, due to economic and social instability... His parents left" Judea.

Upcoming UMAction Events:

Mark Tooley's
"Taking Back
The United Methodist Church"

book party

Sunday, April 27

4:30 p.m. - 6 p.m.

Hilton Crystal "C" Ballroom

Religious Liberty Lunch

Featuring

Faith McDonnell

author of

"Girl Soldier, A Story of Hope for
North Uganda's Children"

Tuesday, April 29

12:30 p.m. - 2 p.m.

Hilton Crystal "C" Ballroom

All are welcome!

Gay Rights Activists Target United Methodist General Conference

Gay rights activists from within and without the church have worked hard for years to undermine United Methodist biblical teaching about marriage. Now they are particularly targeting the April 23 — May 2 General Conference, the denomination's top policy-setting authority.

The main pro-homosexuality United Methodist caucus group is the Reconciling Ministries Network (RMN) which encourages church officials to violate the policies established by General Conferences.

RMN's executive director left United Methodism years ago to be ordained in the obscure Orthodox Catholic Church. Yet RMN has ironically denounced United Methodists who support their own church's teaching as "outside agitators."

At the last two General Conferences, RMN has also worked closely with Soulforce, an activist group funded by various foundations and "Corporate Sponsors," to perform civil disobedience. This year Soulforce vows similar "direct action" at the United Methodist General Conference.

RMN enjoys significant financial support from non-church foundations. In 2005, the Human Rights Campaign (HRC), which calls itself "America's largest civil rights organization working to achieve gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender equality," launched its Religion and Faith Program, which includes work within United

Methodism. HRC President Joe Solomonese has called the program "the cornerstone of our efforts to change hearts and minds." In 2006, the secular National Gay and Lesbian Task Force took over the "Institute for Welcoming Resources," which supports RMN. That same year, the Gill Foundation, which calls itself "the nation's largest private foundation focused on lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender civil rights," convened a coalition of gay rights organizations to plot strategy within various North American denominations.



It is not difficult to understand the interest of secular gay-rights leaders in undermining biblical teaching on marriage and sex. As one Soulforce activist recently wrote, taking over the United Methodist Church for their cause would be "significant to us strategically" because "[i]t's the third largest denomination in the U.S."

and "[i]ts members hold positions of power in society—John Edwards, Hillary Clinton, George W. Bush and Dick Cheney are members of the United Methodist Church...." The National Gay and Lesbian Task Force explains its religion work by arguing that pro-homosexuality shifts in at least some religious bodies "have, in turn, provided the foundation for winning" key victories for their political agenda.

Whatever the outcome of key votes at this General Conference, its reverberation will reach far beyond United Methodism.