



Caring for the Common Good

An Introduction to KIFA

Kansas Interfaith Action

- ★ Statewide, non-profit, non-partisan, multi-faith legislative advocacy leader
- ★ Bringing a moral voice to Kansas public policy
- ★ Primary focus in four intersectional circles
- ★ Inspired by the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., "The Three Evils of Society," August 31, 1967

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I have fought too long and too hard against segregated public accommodations to end up at this point in my life, segregating my moral concerns.

”

Faith and Politics

MERCY AND JUSTICE

This is the fast I desire: to unlock fetters of wickedness, and untie the cords of the yoke; to let the oppressed go free; to break off every yoke. It is to share your bread with the hungry, and to take the wretched poor into your home; when you see the naked, to clothe them, and not to ignore your own kin.

Isaiah 58:6-7

THE LEAST OF THESE

“Those who are righteous will reply to him, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you a drink? When did we see you as a stranger and welcome you, or naked and give you clothes to wear? When did we see you sick or in prison and visit you?’

“Then the king will reply to them, ‘I assure you that when you have done it for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you have done it for me.’

Matthew 25:37-40

FAITH INTO ACTION

Faith is dead when it doesn't result in faithful activity. Someone might claim, “You have faith and I have action.” But how can I see your faith apart from your actions? Instead, I'll show you my faith by putting it into practice in faithful action.

James 2:17-18

The Role & Value of Faith Communities

- ★ Frame issues in a **moral** language (not merely economic or political)
- ★ Concern for the most vulnerable (building the Beloved Community)
- ★ Resonating with our deepest values: our books mean what they say!
- ★ Speaking together for the common good – moving beyond the witness or focus of individuals to build healthy communities in the broadest sense
- ★ Healing the damage of the past, especially by White Christians (abuse, exploitation, slavery, genocide)

What is Advocacy?

Open your mouth for the mute, for the rights of all who are destitute. Open your mouth, judge righteously, defend the rights of the poor and needy. (Proverbs 31:89)

- ★ Talking to Electeds
- ★ Lobby Days
- ★ Giving Testimony
- ★ Action Alerts



2024 Legislative Priorities

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A civilization can flounder as readily in the face of moral bankruptcy as it can through financial bankruptcy.

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- ★ **Faithful Protection of Democracy**
- ★ **Medicaid Expansion**
- ★ **Economic Justice**
- ★ **Climate & Clean Energy**

Where can I find KIFA?

- Advocates/Clergy Calls
- Faith & Public Policy Forums
- Advocacy Day(s) at the Statehouse
- Annual Dinner May 30 in Lenexa
- Your local faith community!
- Small Cities Locations

