



Rev. Dr. Bill Mefford to Speak on United Methodists and Gun Violence

The Pacific Northwest Conference is pleased to host Rev. Dr. Bill Mefford from Washington DC. Rev. Mefford is Director of Civil and Human Rights for the General Board of Church and Society of the United Methodist Church where he works on immigration, refugees, criminal justice reform, death penalty and torture abolition, religious freedom and other civil rights issues. In January, 2013 he wrote:

"When the gun shooting at Columbine High School happened in 1999, I was a pastor of a small United Methodist church in West Texas. Like many rural congregations, my church was filled with teachers and we spent the Sunday following the gun shooting grieving for such unnecessary violence. My church was also filled with gun owners — folks who regularly went hunting — and one of the things I remember from the conversations we had was that something needed to change to stop this kind of violence. None of us could fathom maintaining the status quo and allowing things to get worse. Fourteen years later, virtually nothing has changed and we are seeing increased amounts of violence."

Faith leaders in Washington State have been instrumental in creating Initiative 594 which calls for criminal background checks on all gun purchases. Join Bill to discuss how we can begin the difficult conversations in our churches that can lead to change in society. Please join us at one of the following three venues to hear how you can help!

**Monday, May 5
12 to 1:30 pm**

Marysville UMC
5600 64th ST NE
Marysville, WA 98270

**Monday, May 5
7 to 8:30 pm**

Seattle First UMC
180 Denny Way
Seattle, WA 98109

**Tuesday, May 6
10 am to 12 pm**

Tacoma First UMC
621 Tacoma Avene S
Tacoma, WA 98402

Lunch Provided - Please RSVP
pugetsound@pnwumc.org
or call 1-888-818-4288