

# The Methodist Federation for Social Action

An un-official fellowship founded in 1907.

President:  
Bishop Edgar A. Love

Executive Secretary  
The Rev. Lee H. Ball  
11 Forest Boulevard  
Ardsley, New York

Recording Secretary:  
Mr. Frederic H. Bidwell

Vice-Presidents:  
The Rev. Clarence T. R. Nelson  
The Rev. Edward L. Peet

Telephone:  
Area Code 914—OWens 3-2472

Treasurer:  
Mr. Robert F. Beech



January 13, 1964

Dear Friend of Our Federation:

I

We should do whatever we can about Jackson, Miss. Some of our members have gone there on missions and have been arrested, at the Capitol Street Methodist Church or at the Galloway Memorial Methodist Church. Bishop James K. Mathews of Boston has called the situation there "a humiliation and an embarrassment" to our Methodist Church.

We are asking the members of our Executive, National and Administrative Committees to write

- (1) Bishop Marvin A. Franklin  
Methodist Building  
Jackson 1, Mississippi  
  
and the District Superintendent,
- (2) The Rev. John W. Leggett, Jr.  
Box 303  
Jackson, Mississippi

in the following suggested tenor, by January 31. Identify yourselves as members of your particular committee of The Methodist Federation for Social Action (Unofficial); and please let me know that you have written to Jackson, Mississippi:

Dear Bishop Franklin (Reverend John Leggett)

We are deeply concerned about the situation in Jackson, specifically at the Capitol Street and Galloway Memorial churches. Some of our members have been among those arrested in attempts to witness to the inclusiveness of our Christian worship. One of our Bishops has called this "a humiliation and an embarrassment" to our Methodist Church.

We feel that an inescapable moral obligation rests upon our Bishop and our District Superintendent in Jackson to help achieve democracy in Mississippi; more, to stand in Mississippi for what our Methodist Church stands; still more, to maintain in Mississippi an uncompromising witness to Christian brotherhood.

A high price has to be paid to achieve Christian brotherhood in Jackson. It is being paid by a considerable number. We beseech you to join in paying the price. We beseech you, too, to accompany Negro worshippers to these churches, and, as others have been, if it so happens, to be arrested with them. Such a dramatic confrontation might finally speak to the Christian conscience in Jackson.

We make this plea to you humbly, with a sense of our common responsibility for the good name of our church.

Our president, Bishop Edgar A. Love, and our vice presidents, the Rev. Edward L. Peet and the Rev. Clarence T. R. Nelson, have approved this action.

## II

The December 18th decision of the Federal Appeals Court reversing the registration order for the Communist Party is the first major breakthrough on a constitutional issue involved in the McCarran Internal Security Act.

The Citizens Committee for Constitutional Liberties, of which our Dr. Willard Uphaus is chairman, has approved the insertion of an advertisement of 1/4 page in "The New York Times" before the end of January, spelling out the significance of this decision.

The cost of this ad is \$2,000. Will you join me in helping to underwrite \$100 of it? This request goes to 135 Committee members. Can you return \$1 (or more)? and mark it "CCCL Ad"?

I look forward to hearing from you.

Very sincerely,

*Lee H. Ball*

You are on our National Committee