

THE

MORE²

VISIONARY

Transforming our metro area one relationship at a time.

Kansas City, Missouri
Volume 1, Issue 1

MORE² Celebrates at Third Annual Banquet

MORE² Movement is Good News!

The Downtown Marriott was a scene of jubilation June 8, 2008, as more than 600 MORE² members and supporters gathered to celebrate new relationships and broken barriers. The annual fundraiser was a major success, netting the organization over \$30,000.

Jim Wallis, the founder and CEO of the Sojourners network and author of *The Great Awakening*, riveted the faithful with his call for social justice reform in our communities. Wallis reminded the group that social movements arise to change politics. Great awakenings like the abolition of slavery, women's suffrage and the civil rights movement have spiritual foundations. He continued to say, "MORE² represents that kind of social justice movement".

Wallis' delivery entertained, inspired and commanded action from his audience as he stated "bad religion pulls out our worst stuff—division, intolerance, hatred; while good religion pulls out our best stuff—compassion, desire for peace, commitment to social justice." In conclusion he

said, "Pulpits can move nations. It's time to believe again. That's what MORE² is about".

"Wallis' message was both a call to action to the membership and a confirmation of who we are, what we do and how we act in our communities", said Jim Eller, Senior Minister All Souls Unitarian Universalist Church.

The Rev. Dr. Margaret Roberts, Senior Minister Swope Parkway United Christian Church and Lester Woods, Missouri Department of Transportation Civil Rights Administrator, jointly addressed the group explaining the alliance between MoDOT, MORE² and other community groups to fund heavy construction training for minorities women and disadvantaged in the Kansas City area.

The Kansas City Boys and Girls choirs under the direction of Mr. Ah'Lee Robinson dazzled the audience with their spirited delivery of "What a Wonderful World".



Jim Wallis in action at the 2008 Banquet.

MORE² Honors Community Equity Partners of the Year

MORE² works to build relationships with groups and individuals who weave the fabric of the metro region. While cultivating these connections MORE² leaders united with a number of people who have made significant contributions to the cause of racial and economic equity in the area. The MORE² Equity Partner of the Year award was created to recognize community leaders who have made major contributions to social justice in the metro area. The first awards were presented to The Rev. Dr. Wallis Hartsfield and Bridget Williams during the June 8 banquet.

Rev. Dr. Wallis S. Hartsfield, Sr.

Rev. Wallace Hartsfield has been a prominent figure on the Kansas City landscape for more than 40 years. As spiritual leader of the Metropolitan Missionary Baptist Church, he was dedicated to enriching the lives of the community he served.



While Hartsfield has held many positions of responsibility within the church and civic communities, MORE² recognized him for his dedication to community building and improving the lives of those in his community.

Hartsfield's unwavering love for his community coupled with his unerring commitment to social justice has molded him into the man we know as the quintessential shepherd of those seeking to overcome obstacles to living wage jobs, equitable education, quality healthcare and adequate transportation.

Ms. Bridgette Williams

Bridgette Williams is President of the Greater Kansas City AFL-CIO representing 80,000 union members in greater Kansas City. She is the first African American and the first woman elected to head a metropolitan-wide labor council.



Williams first worked with MORE² on the Jericho table where she fought for construction job opportunities for minorities and women.

MORE² recognized Williams for her work coordinating the greater Kansas City area effort to block the recent attempt to overturn Affirmative Action in Missouri. Her leadership was instrumental in the success of the grassroots movement repelling the action to place a ban on Affirmative Action on the November ballot.

A Message from the Co-Chairs



Revs. Eric Belt and Bob Hill share Co-Chair duties at the banquet and on the job for MORE².

Rev. Eric D. Belt, Senior Minister at St. Stephen Baptist Church, and Rev. Dr. Robert L. Hill, Senior Minister at Community Christian Church, have served as Co-Chairs of MORE² since the

group was organized in 2004. For this first edition of "A Message from the Co-Chairs", we asked the duo a series of questions about MORE² and their involvement in the organization.

Why is the work of MORE² important to your church, your local community and the bi-state Kansas City area?

BELT: MORE² is important because it gives a voice to the people. Many people have ideas and concerns, but feel they have no way to be heard. MORE² gives a way for them to be heard. In the process of really hearing others we can focus on their concerns and interests.

HILL: *It mobilizes us to do the work our faith says we are to be about. Whether it is the call of Jesus in his job description (Luke 4:18-19) or the reminder of what God would have us do daily according to Micah (Micah 6:8). Both of these are front burner priorities for MORE².*

Why did you think it was important for you to take a highly visible leadership position in the organization and what does your leadership position bring to your congregation?

HILL: *I thought I could be of use for MORE²'s work because of previous involvements in the metro Human Relations Commission and the Compassion Sabbath endeavor; besides, our congregation has had a long standing commitment to justice and better relations and this would help us to live out our highest values as a congregation.*

BELT: I have been here from the beginning of MORE². After attending national training I was asked to serve in this position. I was willing to accept the challenge and take the initiative to see this through. MORE² has many powerful leaders.

What is the most important work MORE² has accomplished since being organized?

BELT: I think we have had two major accomplishments. The first is the formation of the Jericho Table because that is what brought

together a diverse group of people to set down together and work on getting more and better jobs in construction. The second was the passage of the Kansas City Workforce Ordinance.

HILL: *Beyond workforce ordinances on the books in Kansas City, Missouri, beyond assisting in the equity discussions related to the new KCI-con bridge and beyond the establishment of trust and effectiveness in the minds of significant numbers of community and business leaders, the most important thing has been the creation of solid relationships beyond racial and geographic lines among our congregations and clergy.*

What would you like to see accomplished in the coming year?

HILL: *A significant improvement in the quality of education in all school districts and the growth of our MORE² congregations numerically and in dedicated involvement.*

BELT: We need more real jobs for more people. We need to support more efforts to increase training for minorities and youth in danger. Training for good jobs needs to begin early. MORE² needs to continue to support efforts like the proposed KCMSD engineering and construction academy.

What impressed you most about the recent banquet?

BELT: The connections we have made and the work we have done have motivated others. It was good to see Lester Woods from MoDOT at the banquet talking about working with MORE².

HILL: *The tremendous number of people who came to celebrate; the awe and appreciation of others of our keeping on time; Jim Wallis' message that struck at the heart of MORE²'s work.*

Other than serving as major fundraiser, what does the annual banquet bring to the organization?

HILL: *Invigoration and awareness of both our effectiveness and the need of what we are doing; it raises our profile with the wider commu-*

nity. It also shows other congregations that have wanted to do justice work what they can do.

BELT: Energy. There was a lot of energy in the room and people of faith are bringing that energy to the community.

What message do you want to send to other metro area spiritual leaders to persuade them to participate in MORE²?

BELT: Some groups, particularly minority groups, are more visual by nature. Some leaders need to see success, lots of success, before they join. Some people have fought for justice for 35 years or more and it is hard to have as much fire after 35 years as in the beginning. If we keep working and having success we can strike that spark that will re-light that fire in others, a fire that will light it up for all.

HILL: *Come and see and note how much has been done in such a short time.*

What other comments would you like to make?

HILL: *I think MORE² is one of the most exciting cross racial, cross geographical endeavors in which I have ever had the opportunity to participate. I treasure the relationships I have developed through this participation.*

BELT: I thank God for those who volunteer service to others. There are some groups who are watching us and adopting some of our structure. I don't care who gets the credit, I just want the work of justice to be done.



Alvin Brooks, former Kansas City Missouri mayor pro-tem and Dr. Rex Archer, Director Kansas City, Missouri Health Department share a moment at the Third Annual MORE² Banquet.

Social Justice Movement to Reach Across Missouri

MORE² supporters will join hands with Metropolitan Congregations United (MCU), our sister Organization in St. Louis, on Sunday, October 19 to demonstrate that people of faith care; that people of faith understand, that people of faith act. The simultaneous gatherings in Kansas City and St. Louis will be electronically linked to illustrate that we are a social justice movement working in our communities, about our cities, across our state, throughout our country and around the world.

And what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God.
—Micah 6:8

Why should you be part of this meeting?

- Great social movements are based on deep faith.
- Great social movements are based on strengthening relationships.
- Great social movements are based on moving from happy religion to commitment to creating good news.
- A new president, governor, or senator cannot in and of themselves create a movement to right the injustices we experience daily.
- In relationship together, we represent the movement to transform our world, to create a "great awakening".

Join with us on October 19 as we join our voices with the prophet's voice to "Let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream". (Amos 5:25)

Jim Wallis, author of **The Great Awakening**, expressed many of these ideas in his address at the June 8 MORE² banquet. His words moved many of us to reconsider the call of our faith. Come join with us and see where your faith guides and what people of faith can do.

Live Out Your Faith with MORE² & MCU Save This Date

MORE² METRO ORGANIZATION FOR RACIAL AND ECONOMIC EQUITY

Living Out Our Faith in 2008
Public Meeting
Sunday, October 19, 2008 3:00 - 5:00 p.m.
Location to be Announced

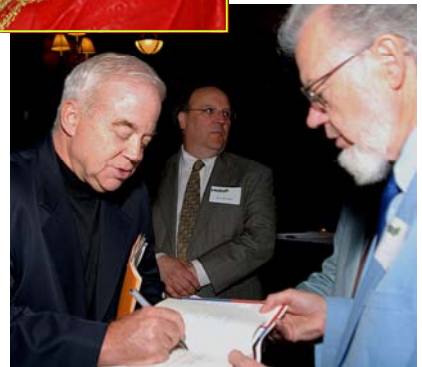
www.more2.org

MORE² Third Annual Imagine Banquet in Review—June 8, 2008



This was an outstanding banquet that further displays the fact that MORE² is not just a warmed over conglomeration of the same, but rather a voice that demonstrates the effectiveness of viewing our strengths and weaknesses with truth and the willingness to be flexible in our methods to provide measurable solutions.

—Rev. Dr. Bobby L. Love, Sr.
Second Baptist Church of Olathe



MORE² Third Annual Imagine Banquet In Review—June 8, 2008



MORE² has proven again it has the ability to bring together the most diverse population of supporters around common causes in the metro. The banquet was an overwhelming success and a glimpse of what this powerful organization can and must do in the future.

—Rev. Michael Brooks Greater Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church



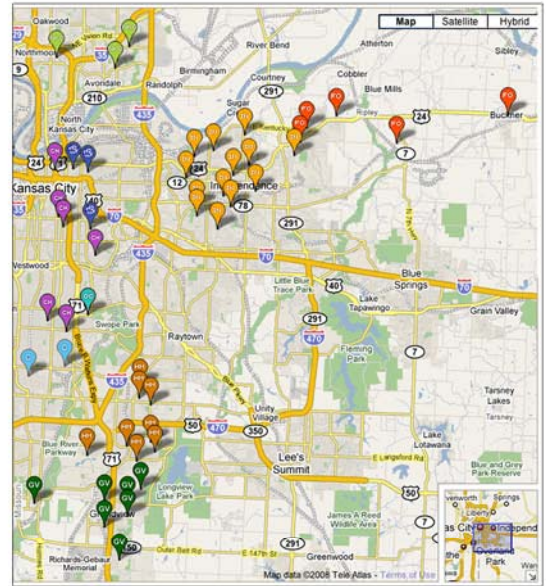
Local Investment Commission

is a nationally-recognized organization known for its efforts to improve the lives of children and families in Kansas City through its Caring Communities initiative and for its focus on improving services that families depend upon education, child welfare, health, neighborhood development, seniors and others.

What is a community school?

A community school is both a place and a set of partnerships between the school and other community resources. In these schools, an integrated focus on academics and family support, health and social services, and youth and community development leads to improved student learning, stronger families and healthier communities. Community schools are open to everyone—all day, including evenings and weekends. Community-based organizations or public institutions often work as lead agencies in community schools, helping to mobilize community assets and support student success.

Local Investment Commission - LINC
 3100 Broadway, Ste 1100, Kansas City, MO 64111
www.kclinc.org



LINC Caring Communities in the Kansas City area.



Quality Child Care
 matters to **YOU**
YOUR CHILD and
YOUR COMMUNITY.

KCChildCare.org

Providing and obtaining quality accredited child care for our young.

www.KCForeclosureHelp.org
 Help for KC families facing foreclosure.

MORE² Issues
Transportation — Access to Opportunity
cjarrold@sbcglobal.net or rba851@earthlionk.net
Workforce Development — Jericho Table
dcraw4d@hotmail.com
Education — Gilead Table
rtaunton@kc.rr.com
Issues Development — Faith and Democracy
muphd@sbcglobal.net

Leadership

Rev. Eric D. Belt
 Co-Chair

Rev. Dr. Robert L. Hill
 Co-Chair

Rev. Michael Brooks
 Co-Chair Clergy Caucus

Rev. Dr. Heather Entrekin
 Co-Chair Clergy Caucus

Rev. Dr. Bobby Love
 Executive Committee

Rev. Dr. Margaret Roberts
 Executive Committee

Sharon Blevins
 Executive Committee

Mary Lim-Lampe
 Staff Organizer

MORE² Thanks: Full Employment Council, Equity Partner Sponsor



Clyde McQueen is the President and CEO of the Full Employment Council (FEC).

The FEC is a non-profit corporation with a mission is to obtain public and private sector employment for the un- and under-employed residents of the Greater Kansas City Area. The FEC accomplishes this by working in partnership with business, local governments, educators, labor and community based organizations. This broad partnership responds to employer needs and reduces the public dependency of area residents.

The FEC, through McQueen's guidance, was one of the original covenanting members of the MORE² Jericho Table. He has remained active with the group and brings his passion for "full" employment for all people to the table. Always eloquent when addressing career equity, his enthusiasm spills over to all who hear him.

"MORE² is important because the faith community is independent—the people (from MORE²) who work on this do it because their faith grounds them—MORE² is a movement—people are doing what they do based on what they believe—it is important to have that to drive us in areas that we could not move before—MORE² adds

an additional ingredient that was not possible before." , noted McQueen when ask why he wanted to join with MORE².

This year McQueen and the FEC decided to make a greater investment in MORE² by becoming the first Equity Partner Sponsor for the annual banquet. McQueen said he "thought it was important for the FEC to play a larger role in this movement that is making things happen in Greater Kansas City as well as be a part of recognizing the main partners—Bridgette Williams and Pastor Hartsfield". He further noted that it was an "electric evening with an excellent speaker."

MORE² Jericho Table Ponders the Future

MORE² Supports Proposed KCMSD Technical School

The relationships built through work on the MORE² Jericho Table have developed into a project that will create the Engineering and Construction Academy on the site of Manual Career and Technical Center. The school would provide an experiential engineering and construction curriculum, in tandem with a complete high school education. Experts in the field have told the MORE² leadership that the industry is experi-

encing a shortfall of qualified engineers, especially from minority communities. This school would offer an option for Kansas City youth to experience their high school education as a direct pathway to a viable career. Students would be closely linked to apprenticeship programs, community colleges and university engineering programs. The plans for the school feature an "iBuild" lab for demonstrations to middle school students of the Kansas City Missouri School district, as well as students outside the district. This project is a direct product of what

can happen when industry leaders come together to dream and ponder the future of the youth of Kansas City. Congratulations to the KCMSD, and other industry leaders who support this worthy project!

A deep-seeded desire to make a difference and have a positive impact on the community in which I work and live drives my involvement with MORE².
—Sterling Stanford, Director of Diversity/ Human Resources, Walton Construction

Education Taskforce/Gilead Table

The Education Task Force is moving forward with strategies to facilitate its 2012 goal, namely: *increased appreciation within the Metro Kansas City community (represented by MORE² congregations) of the value and significance of our public schools.* Highest priorities for the coming months include recruitment of new members from unrepresented congregations and establishing a grass-

roots network across MORE² to support the Task Force's work.

Education Task Force members continue to monitor meetings of the Kansas City, Missouri, School Board. Members also have attended all meetings of the Board's Education Reform Task Force. Planning is underway for the next Kansas and Missouri legislative sessions. One focus is building relationships with other groups that advocate for public education policy. Another focus is the collaborative effort with Metro Congregations United (St. Louis)

to move our *Persistence to Graduation* bill through the Missouri General Assembly. At the federal level, the Task Force anticipates intensified activity around *No Child Left Behind* and the *Dream Act*.

The Gilead Table is pursuing initiatives related to teacher development and adopt-a-school programs. The Table will create the 2009 legislative agenda for the Education Task Force, with consideration of the priorities of the school districts represented on the Table.

The Kansas City Boys and Girls choirs share their talents with MORE² Banquet attendees.



About MORE²

Join the MORE² Movement

MORE² is a faith based organization dedicated to achieving social justice and transforming communities by changing the policies that separate us.

Congregations interested in membership contact Rev. Michael Brooks: 816-924-1818, hope4kc@hotmail.com.

To become more involved as an individual contact your senior minister or core team leader.

Calendar

August 19, September 16, 2008

MORE² Education Task Force meeting , Zion Grove Missionary Baptist Church 5:30 p.m.-7:00 p.m.

August 19, September 16, 2008

Gilead Table Meeting, Penn Valley Community College 4:00 p.m.– 6:00 p.m.

August 12, 2008

Jericho Table Meeting, St. Stephen Baptist Church 2:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m.

September 2008

MORE² Clergy Caucus Annual luncheon: "Get Out the Vote" (location and date TBA)

October 19, 2008

MORE² Annual Public Meeting (time and location TBA)

June 11, 2009

MORE² 4th Annual Imagine Banquet featuring Rabbi Michael Lerner (time and location TBA)

Congregations

All Souls Unitarian Universalist Church
 Community Christian Church
 Congregation Kol Ami
 Congregation Ohev Sholom
 Country Club Christian Church
 Country Club Congregational United Church of Christ
 Crossroads Church
 Grand Avenue Temple United Methodist Church
 Greater Mount Zion Missionary Baptist Church
 Pleasant Green Missionary Baptist Church
 Prairie Baptist Church
 Redemptorist Parish of Our Lady of Perpetual Help
 Saint Andrew Christian Church
 St. James United Methodist Church
 Swope Parkway United Methodist Church
 Zion Grove Missionary Baptist Church

MORE² CONTRIBUTIONS

MORE² needs your support. Contributions may be made online at www.more2.org. Checks payable to MORE² may be mailed to

MORE²
207 W Linwood #23
Kansas City, MO 64111

Call 816-808-6604 for information on how you can become an ongoing contributor.



207 West Linwood Blvd. #23
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