

Biographical information for Bill Mefford

Bill Mefford serves on the General Board of Church and Society of the United Methodist Church as the Director of Civil and Human Rights. He helps to build movements among United Methodists to defend the rights of immigrants as well as to end mass incarceration and bring about criminal justice reform. He also directs the work of the Board on issues that include ending gun violence, religious freedom, and abolition of the death penalty.

Bill has served the United Methodist Church in various positions, including youth pastor, pastor, Wesley Foundation Director, and an urban missionary in several cities including Chicago, Cleveland and Waco, Texas.

Bill graduated from McMurry University in Abilene, Texas in 1990. He graduated with a Masters of Divinity from Asbury Theological Seminary in 1998 and a Doctor of Missiology, also from Asbury, in 2008. The title of Bill's dissertation is *To Set Free the Affluent: Liberating the North American Church in Captivity through Solidarity with Refugees*. Bill is also the co-author of *The Christian Companion to Not on Our Watch*. (2008)