



## **Racial Justice: Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow**

### ***A Conversation with –***

### **Rev. Jim Lawson, Jr. and Rev. Phil Lawson**

Saturday, September 12<sup>th</sup>, 1:00 pm – 2:30 pm PDT

The CA-NV Conference United Methodist Women in partnership with the CA-NV Conference UMC are proud to host a webinar conversation with Rev. Jim Lawson, Jr. and Rev. Phil Lawson about their lives as activists, their insight into today's events, their hopes for the future and what will be required by all of us to build the Beloved Community in our land. We hope you will join us. All are welcome.



A third-generation Methodist minister, The Rev. Jim Lawson, Jr. earned his pastor's license during his last year in high school. Soon after graduating, he was drafted into the U.S. military but refused to enlist. As a conscientious objector, he received a three-year prison sentence, of which he served 13 months. Following his prison term, Rev. Lawson served as a missionary in India for three years, where he studied nonviolent resistance and embraced the practices of Mohandas Gandhi.

In his long and storied career, Rev. Lawson orchestrated the lunch counter sit-in campaign in Nashville, TN, the largest and most influential of the southern student sit-in campaigns; developed strategy for the Freedom Riders; and taught the theory and practice of nonviolent direct action to students, activists and politicians, including the late Rep. John Lewis. Rev. Lawson has been active in many campaigns and in the instruction of emergent leaders. Often referred to as "the mind of the movement", the Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. called him "the leading theorist and strategist of nonviolence in the world."



At the age of 15, Rev. Phil Lawson became engaged in the justice and peace movements, joining the Fellowship of Reconciliation and studying non-violent direct action and integrating the Methodist Youth Fellowship of Northeast Ohio Annual Conference. He was President of the segregated Lexington Conference, and participated in Congress of Racial Equality (CORE) desegregation non-violent direct action under the leadership of Bayard Rustin and George Houser in Washington, D.C. His first arrest was at a drug store counter in 1950. Rev.

Lawson was a conscientious objector to the Korean War and later joined the army band in a non-combatant status, serving from 1953 to 1956.

Rev. Lawson has been a social justice activist leader founding, directing or serving as an organizer for organizations engaged in a broad spectrum of movements, eg Clergy and Laity Concerned (for Vietnam), N. CA Ecumenical Council where he was responsible for resettling thousands of Central American refugees, Interfaith Coalition for Immigrant Rights, Oakland's Community Bank of the Bay, Interfaith Witness with the Homeless in San Francisco, Richmond Vision which working with the Central Labor Council won the highest minimum wage in the country at the time, East Bay Housing Organization (EBHO) expanding affordable housing opportunities, Black Alliance for Just Immigration ...

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Please click the link below to join the webinar:

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