

The MIFA Minute

MIFA remembers Linda Marks

We are heartbroken to share the news that Linda Marks, MIFA's interfaith officer, passed away this week.

Linda came to MIFA in 2005 to work with the Long-Term Care Ombudsman program but found her ideal role at the heart of our interfaith efforts, building MIFA's relationships with congregations and faith groups through grassroots involvement and authentic engagement. She pushed us to expand our interfaith work, cleverly referring to her role as the IF in MIFA.

Linda helped churches find new ways to participate at MIFA and sought a deep understanding of their motivations to serve as well as their beliefs and traditions. She thoughtfully organized our Founders Day events around interfaith panels that explored the depth and urgency of interfaith work and helped those around her understand the importance of genuine acceptance, rather than mere tolerance, of others. She sought threads of commonality among people and belief systems, and her care and compassion for others shone through in everything she did. We are all better for, in the words of Rev. Dr. Dorothy Wells, "all of the human-made boundaries that she tore down and all of the people that she brought together."



Linda's interfaith work was the intersection of her faith and her vocation, and the culmination of that work has been her involvement in MICAH, first as MIFA's representative and most recently as chair of the task force on immigration and intercultural equity. She was passionate about justice and always made sure MIFA's voice and mission were represented anywhere interfaith exploration happened in Memphis.

Beloved for her humor and intellect, Linda enjoyed a wide circle of diverse friendships. She was curious and insightful, colorful and witty, and able to connect with friends of all ages and from all walks of life. She was as comfortable at the pulpit as she was at the piano or leading her coworkers in "Happy Birthday." She was only five feet tall, but her joyful energy and love for others were boundless. For all those who knew her, a light has truly gone out.