

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

What does the Bible say?

So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God. **(1 Corinthians 10:31)**

Behold, this was the guilt of your sister Sodom: she and her daughters had pride, excess of food, and prosperous ease, but did not aid the poor and needy. **(Ezekiel 16:49)**

Behold, the wages of the laborers who mowed your fields, which you kept back by fraud, are crying out against you, and the cries of the harvesters have reached the ears of the Lord of hosts. the cries of the harvesters have reached the ears of the Lord of hosts. **(James 5:1-5)**

And when you reap the harvest of your land, you shall not reap your field right up to its edge, nor shall you gather the gleanings after your harvest. You shall leave them for the poor and for the sojourner: I am the Lord your God. **(Leviticus 23:22)**

‘Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not take care of you?’ Then he will answer them, ‘Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.’ **(Matthew 25: 44-45)**

What does the United Methodist Church say?

Food systems that are ecologically sustainable, locally oriented, and equitably distributed are urgent priorities. We endorse policies and practices designed to ensure access to healthy nourishment and clean drinking water, especially for communities that have been subjected to environmental degradation or deprived of adequate resources to produce or purchase their own food **(Community of All Creation, Stewardship of Creation, C. Food Justice)**.

The Bible reveals that, from the earliest times, God’s faithful community has been concerned about hunger and poverty. Helping those in need was not simply a matter of charity, but of responsibility, righteousness, and justice **(2020/2024 Book of Resolutions, #2100, The United Methodist Church, Food, Justice, and World Hunger)**

In faithfulness to our understanding of God’s good intentions for all peoples, we, as members of The United Methodist Church, set for ourselves, our congregations, institutions, and agencies no lesser goals than repentance for the existence of human hunger and increased commitment to end world hunger and poverty **(2020/2024 Book of Resolutions, #2100, The United Methodist Church, Food, Justice, and World Hunger)**

We call for The United Methodist Church to engage in an educational effort that would provide information about the scale of world and domestic hunger and its causes, and to engage in study and effort to integrate the church’s missional programs into a coherent policy with respect to a just, sustainable, and participatory development **(2020/2024 Book of Resolutions, #2100, The United Methodist Church, Food, Justice, and World Hunger)**



FOOD JUSTICE



CHURCH & SOCIETY

The United Methodist Church

Living **FAITH** Seeking **JUSTICE** Pursuing **PEACE**

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

FOOD JUSTICE

What do the facts say?

- Each year, one-third of all food produced globally for human consumption, roughly 1.6 billion tons, is wasted. (United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization)
- 1 in 9 people – approximately 795 million worldwide – do not have access to sufficient food to live a healthy life. 1 in 4 indigenous people suffer from food insecurity worldwide. (United Nations World Food Program)
- The carbon footprint of food waste worldwide is estimated to be 3.3 billion tons of CO2 released into the atmosphere each year. (United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization)
- 80 million children aged 5-14 are employed in agriculture – 70% of the world's child laborers. (International Labor Organization)
- A disproportionate number of Black and Latinx households experience food insecurity in the United States, at a rate of approximately 20% compared to the national average of 11%. (National Institute of Health)



What do you say?

Take **ACTION** for justice...

- **Discuss** with your church and conference leadership ideas reduce food waste, support food workers, and reach out to your neighbors by sponsoring a farmer's market or community garden.
- **Trace** the journey of your food from farm to place. Learn more about the communities that provide your daily bread and pray for the many hands that have harvested, processed, packed, transported, prepared, served and sold the food you eat.
- **Advocate** for policies that support healthy and sustainable agriculture, humane treatment of animals, fair wages for workers and access to nutritious food.
- **Connect** with other United Methodists and the church-wide conversation in support of food justice.



For more information contact:
advocacy@umcjustice.org

www.umcjustice.org

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General Board of Church and Society

100 Maryland Ave, NE Washington, DC 20002

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