

What does the Bible say?

“Beloved, I pray that all may go well with you and that you may be in health; I know that it is well with your soul.”
(3 John 2)

“He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds.”
(Psalm 147:3)

“Behold, I will bring to it health and healing, and I will heal them and reveal to them abundance of prosperity and security.”
(Jeremiah 33:6)

“Then he showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb through the middle of the street of the city; also on either side of the river, the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, yielding its fruit each month; and the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations.” (Revelation 22:1-2)

“He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed.” (1 Peter 2:24)



What does The United Methodist Church say?

“Health care is a basic human right.” (Social Principles ¶162.V)

“Stewardship of health is the responsibility of each person to whom health has been entrusted...Creating the personal, environmental, and social conditions in which health can thrive is a joint responsibility—public and private.”
(Social Principles ¶162.V)

“Providing the care needed to maintain health, prevent disease, and restore health after injury or illness is a responsibility each person owes others and government owes to all, a responsibility government ignores at its peril.” (Social Principles ¶162.V)

“Countries facing a public health crisis such as HIV/AIDS must have access to generic medicines and to patented medicines. (Social Principles ¶162.V)

“We call upon United Methodists around the world to accept responsibility for modeling health in all its dimensions.”
(Book of Resolutions, Resolution 3202)



CHURCH & SOCIETY

The United Methodist Church

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



What do the facts say?

- The global adolescent birth rate is estimated at 44 per 1000 women aged 15-19, but is five times higher in low-income countries than high income countries.¹
- Every day 830 women die and every year 2.9 million newborns die from complications during pregnancy or childbirth.
- In Sub-Saharan Africa, one child in 12 dies before his or her 12th birthday.
- Household air pollution is estimated to cause one half of all pneumonia deaths of children under 5.
- In 2012, an estimated 871,000 deaths (mostly from infectious diseases) were caused by the contamination of drinking water.
- Life expectancy at birth in 2015 was 50.8 for women and 49.3 for men in Somalia, versus 83 in Switzerland.²
- Social and Economic determinants of health include water and sanitation, air quality, nutrition, income, education, gender, peace, and security.³

¹U.N. Department of Economic and Social Affairs; ²World Health Statistics, 2016; ³WHO, 2016

What do you say?

Take **ACTION** for justice...

Talk about issues of health and justice in the church you attend. What are the barriers to good health in your community? What social and economic determinants of health are prevalent in your community? Which can be dealt with by changing personal habits and circumstances, and which are systemic?



Identify the health issues that people talk about privately and create spaces that remove stigma and shame to facilitate public education and advocacy.

Look for opportunities to participate in projects which go beyond simple health care measures like inoculation or clinics and address underlying causes of ill-health.

Advocate to your country's leaders on behalf of improved health and improved social and economic determinants of health.

Remind your members of Congress that health care is a right and not a commodity. Our priority for health should reflect our shared values honoring human life. We should work to correct inequity, especially as it affects the poor, the disabled, and other vulnerable populations who cannot afford or do not have access to health care. Take action today at www.umcjustice.org

For more information contact:

Cynthia Abrams • cabrams@umcjustice.org

www.umcjustice.org

General Board of Church and Society

100 Maryland Ave, NE Washington, DC 20002

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