

### 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?

"We affirm health care as a basic human right and vow to work toward expanded access to all forms of medical treatment, including preventative, therapeutic, and palliative care." **(Social Principles 163.A)**

"Health care as a human right also means that clinics, hospitals, and medical services and treatments must be accessible, affordable, and of good quality. They must also be available when and where they are needed and be provided on an equitable basis. We call on governments, businesses, churches, and civil society institutions to work cooperatively to ensure that every human being has access to medical services and treatment." **(Social Principles 163.A)**

"Additionally, we call on national governments and international health organizations and medical groups to work cooperatively and expeditiously to address global pandemics such as HIV/AIDS, as well as outbreaks of contagious diseases that threaten the health and wellbeing of entire countries and regions. As a church, we support other measures and initiatives to improve human health, including investments in preventative care, good nutrition, continuing research in infectious disease prevention and treatment, pre- and postnatal health, and substance abuse treatment on demand. We commend churches that are involved in community-based health-care ministries." **(Social Principles 163.A)**



**CHURCH & SOCIETY**

The United Methodist Church

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

### What do the facts say?

- As of April 20, 2022, there have been 50.4 million confirmed cases of COVID-19, including 6.2 million deaths directly attributable to COVID-19. Significant inequalities underpin the disruption of COVID-19 cases and death, as well as access to vaccinations.<sup>1</sup>
- Everyday 830 women die and every year 2.9 million newborns die from complications during pregnancy or childbirth.<sup>2</sup>
- Globally 2.4 million children died in their first month of life in 2020 – approximately 6,500 newborn deaths each day.<sup>3</sup>
- Social and economic determinants of health include water and sanitation, air quality, nutrition, income, education, gender, peace and security.<sup>4</sup>



<sup>1</sup> World Health Organization, <sup>2</sup> U.N. Department of Economic and Social Affairs, <sup>3,4</sup> World Health Organization

### 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](http://www.umcjustice.org)



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