

HEALTH AND WHOLENESS

What does the Bible say?

God created humankind in his image, in the image of God he created them. **(Genesis 1:27)**

Seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you...and pray to the Lord on its behalf, for in its welfare you will have your welfare. **(Jeremiah 29:7)**

Ah, you shepherds of Israel who have been feeding yourselves! Should not shepherds feed the sheep? You eat the fat, you clothe yourselves with the wool, you slaughter the fatlings; but you do not feed the sheep. You have not strengthened the weak, you have not healed the sick, you have not bound up the injured, you have not brought back the strayed, you have not sought the lost, but with force and harshness you have ruled them. **(Ezekiel 34:4)**

The Lord who executes justice for the oppressed; who gives food to the hungry; sets the prisoners free; the Lord opens the eyes of the blind. The Lord lifts up those who are bowed down; the Lord loves the righteous. **(Psalm 146:7-8)**

I came that you might have life and have it abundantly. **(John 10:10)**



What does The United Methodist Church say?

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

Health is a condition of physical, mental, social, and spiritual well-being. **(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. We encourage individuals to pursue a healthy lifestyle and affirm the importance of preventive health care, health education, environmental and occupational safety, good nutrition, and secure housing in achieving health. **(Social Principles ¶162.V)**

We encourage hospitals, physicians, and medical clinics to provide access to primary healthcare to all people regardless of their healthcare coverage or ability to pay for treatment. **(Social Principles ¶162.V)**



HEALTH CARE

IN THE UNITED STATES



CHURCH & SOCIETY

The United Methodist Church

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

HEALTH AND WHOLENESS

What do the facts say?

- Over 32 million people in the U.S. lack health insurance, a decrease of 9% from 2013. Most uninsured are in low-income working families.¹
- In 2014, 15% of the American population lived in poverty, that's 46 million people.²
- In 2015, 54% of the federal discretionary budget was spent on Defense while just 6% was spent on Health.³
- As of 2012, per capita spending on health care in the United States is \$8,745. That is 42% higher than the second highest per capita spending country (Norway), and nearly 90% higher than many other industrialized nations.⁴
- Illness and medical bills contributed to 67% of American bankruptcies in 2007.⁵
- People who don't have health insurance are more likely to forego preventive care, rely on the emergency room for care, be diagnosed in the late stages of a disease, and leave prescriptions unfilled.



1 Kaiser Family Foundation, 2015, 2 U.S. Census Bureau, 3 National Priorities Project, 4 Kaiser Family Foundation 5, David U. Himmelstein et al, Medical Bankruptcy in the United States, 2007

What do you say?

Take **ACTION** for justice...

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.umpower.org.

Learn more about federal spending decisions. Visit the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities (www.cbpp.org) for the latest analysis of proposed legislation or the National Priorities Project (www.nationalpriorities.org) to see exactly how your tax dollars are being spent.

Visit the following websites to learn more about health care reform (including the Affordable Care Act) and options for purchasing or signing up for insurance: the Kaiser Family Foundation (www.kff.org), and www.healthcare.gov.

Join the Health and Wholeness Network at <http://action.umc-gbcs.org/joinnetworks>.



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