

RELIGIOUS FREEDOM

What does the Bible say?

Then Peter and the other apostles answered and said, “We ought to obey God rather than human beings.” **(Acts 5:29)**

If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. **(Romans 12:18)**

There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear. **(1 John 4:18)**

For freedom Christ has set us free. Stand firm, therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery. **(Galatians 5:1)**



What does the United Methodist Church say?

Religious freedom, as a human right, involves not only every individual's freedom of belief, thought, and conscience, but also a person's right to change one's belief. **(Book of Resolutions, #4300, Religious Freedom: Grounded in Love)**



CHURCH & SOCIETY

The United Methodist Church

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

RELIGIOUS FREEDOM

What do the facts say?

- The First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution guarantees freedom of religion and prohibits government establishment of religion. In 2023, 77% of Americans said it is important for people of all faiths to be able to practice freely in the U.S. (Pew Research Center)
- Reports of religious discrimination and hate crimes, especially against Jewish, Muslim, and Sikh communities, have been on the rise in recent years. (FBI Hate Crimes Statistics)
- Religious minorities often face barriers to employment, education, and public service due to implicit and explicit bias. (U.S. Commission on Civil Rights)



What do you say?

Take **ACTION** for justice...

- **Learn** about and **build** relationships with people of different faiths in your community.
- **Speak out** against religious discrimination and stand with those who are targeted for their beliefs.
- **Advocate** for policies that protect the religious liberty of all people—not just the majority.
- **Support** organizations that defend religious freedom, such as the Baptist Joint Committee for Religious Liberty (BJC) or Americans United for Separation of Church and State.



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