

HIV & AIDS

What does the Bible say?

We find story after story of Jesus encountering persons who were seeking wholeness in their lives, and Jesus intentionally sharing his love and his healing touch with them with few, if any, questions asked. The author of Mark tells us that Jesus healed a man with leprosy (**Mark 1:40-45**) and following the healing told the man not to tell anyone but to show the priest his “wellness” through an act of giving (gratitude), and through that act, people would know the power of Christ.



According to the Gospel of Luke (**4:16-21**), Jesus identified himself and his task with that of the servant Lord, the one who was sent to bring good tidings to the afflicted, hope to the brokenhearted, liberty to the captives, and comfort to all who mourn, giving them the oil of gladness and the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit. (**Isaiah 61:1-3**)

What does the United Methodist Church say?

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. (**Social Principles 163.A**)



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**)

The United Methodist Church unequivocally condemns stigmatization and discrimination of persons with HIV and AIDS and violence perpetrated against persons who are or are presumed to be infected with HIV. The United Methodist Church advocates the full involvement of the church at all levels to be in ministry with, and to respond fully to the needs of, persons, families, and communities whose lives have been affected by HIV and AIDS. (**Book of Resolution #4205 The Church and the Global HIV/AIDS Pandemic**)

The unconditional love of God, witnessed to and manifested through Christ’s healing ministry, provides an ever-present sign and call to the church and all persons of faith to join efforts to prevent the spread of HIV, provide care and treatment to those who are already infected and ill, uphold the preciousness of God’s creation through proclamation and affirmation, and be harbingers of hope, mercy, goodness, forgiveness, and reconciliation within the world. (**Book of Resolution #4205 The Church and the Global HIV/AIDS Pandemic**)



CHURCH & SOCIETY

The United Methodist Church

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

HIV & AIDS

What do the facts say?

- As of 2020, 37.7 million people globally were living with HIV; 36 million adults, 1.7 million children (0-14 years).¹
- In 2020, 1.5 million people became newly infected with HIV and 680,000 people died from AIDS-related illnesses.²
- Since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, 79.3 million people have become infected with HIV and 36.3 million people have died from AIDS-related illnesses.³
- Globally, infection rates in young women 15-24 years old are twice as high as among men of the same age.⁴



^{1,2,3,4} *United Nations AIDS*

What do you say?

Take **ACTION** for justice...

- **Support** the work of The United Methodist Church's Global AIDS Committee.
- **Ask** your Member of Congress, if you reside in the United States, to support the highest level of funding for AIDS prevention, care and treatment in the United States and globally.
- **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.
- **Work** to end stigma and gender-based violence, and increase protective/prevention factors such as sexuality education and access to health care.



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