

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?

The Social Principles state, “All individuals living with HIV and AIDS should be treated with dignity and respect. We support their rights to employment, appropriate medical care, full participation in public education, and full participation in the Church.” (**Social Principles ¶162.U**)

In response to the HIV/AIDS crisis in the world, The United Methodist Church commits itself to a holistic approach of awareness, education, prevention, treatment, community organizing, public advocacy and abstinence. (**2016 Book of Resolutions, #3243, “The Church and the Global HIV/AIDS Pandemic”**)

“Churches and other United Methodist organizations need to continue or begin compassionate ministry with persons living with HIV/AIDS and their loved ones. In terms of prevention education, United Methodists have an opportunity to teach not only the facts about HIV transmission and how to prevent infection but to relate these facts to Christian values. Congregations can do HIV/AIDS prevention education in broader contexts, such as human sexuality and holistic health, as well as addressing societal problems, such as racism, sexism, addiction, and poverty.” (**2016 Book of Resolutions, #3241, “Covenant to Care: Recognizing and Responding to the Many Faces of AIDS in the U.S.A.”**)



CHURCH & SOCIETY

The United Methodist Church

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

HEALTH AND WHOLENESS

HIV & AIDS

What do the facts say?

- At the end of 2015, approximately 36.7 million adults and children were living with HIV/AIDS in the world, more than ever before due to the life prolonging effects of antiretroviral therapy.
- During 2015, an estimated 2.1 million people became newly infected with HIV, including approximately 300,000 children.
- Eight of ten states with the highest rates of new AIDS cases are in Southern states that have not expanded Medicaid.
- More than 35 million people around the world have died of AIDS-related diseases.
- It has been estimated that 16 million children under the age of 18 have been orphaned by AIDS.
- There are currently around 1.2 million people living with HIV in the United States of America and about 1 in 8 of these are unaware of their infection
- Globally, infection rates in young women 15–24 years old are twice as high as among men of the same age.
- 77% of pregnant women living with HIV had access to antiretroviral medicines to prevent transmission of HIV to their babies in 2015



United Nations AIDS, AVERT, Centers for Disease Control

What do you say?

Take **ACTION** for justice...

Support the UMC Global AIDS Fund, Advance Special #982345.
Go to: www.umglobalaidsfund.com.

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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