

### What does the Bible say?

Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of injustice, to undo the thongs of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke? Is it not to share your bread with the hungry, and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover them, and not to hide yourself from your own kin? Then your light shall break forth like the dawn, and your healing shall spring up quickly; your vindicator shall go before you, the glory of the Lord shall be your rear guard. **(Isaiah 58:6-8)**

God has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly; God has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty. **(Luke 1:52-53)**

Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink?...Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me. **(Matthew 25:37-40)**



### What does The United Methodist Church say?

Today is the day God cries with the masses of starving people, despises growing disparity between rich and poor, demands justice for workers in the marketplace.

*And so shall we.*

**(Companion Litany to the Social Creed)**

In order to provide basic needs such as food, shelter, education, health care and other necessities, ways must be found to share more equitably the resources of the world.

**(Social Principles ¶163.E)**

It is especially important to note that the causes of hunger are intricately related to the problems of poverty and greed. Hunger cannot be dissociated from people and systems that keep people in poverty. **(2016 Book of Resolutions, #4051, “The United Methodist Church, Food, Justice and World Hunger”)**

As a church, we are called to support the poor and challenge the rich. To begin to alleviate poverty, we support such policies as: adequate income maintenance, quality education, decent housing, job training, meaningful employment opportunities, adequate medical and hospital care, humanization and radical revisions of welfare programs, work for peace and efforts to protect creation’s integrity. **(Social Principles, ¶163.E)**



# HUNGER & POVERTY IN THE UNITED STATES



**CHURCH & SOCIETY**

The United Methodist Church

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

## ECONOMIC JUSTICE

### What do the facts say?

- Every 33 seconds a baby is born into poverty in the United States.<sup>1</sup>
- 14% of households – over 48 million men, women and children – experience food insecurity in the U.S.<sup>2</sup>
- Despite progress in cutting extreme poverty rates around the world, the number of people living on less than the equivalent of \$1.25U.S./day remains nearly 1.2 billion.<sup>3</sup>
- 21% of all U.S. children live in homes with income below the federal poverty level. State rates range from 11% in New Hampshire to 32% in Mississippi.<sup>4</sup>
- In 2016, over 43 million U.S. residents received Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program benefits.<sup>5</sup>



1 Children's Defense Fund, 2 US Department of Agriculture, 3 World Bank, 4 National Center for Children in Poverty, 5 Food Research & Action Center

### What do you say?

Take **ACTION** for justice...

- **Learn** about hunger and poverty in your area – visit the Food Research Action Center ([frac.org](http://frac.org)) or the Coalition on Human Needs ([chn.org](http://chn.org)) for updated information and educational opportunities.
- **Discuss** with your church and conference leadership ways you can expand justice ministries to tackle the root causes of hunger and poverty.
- **Speak truth to power!** Tell Congress to put those living on the economic margins at the center of our vision of a new just economy. Take action at [www.umcjustice.org](http://www.umcjustice.org).
- **Connect** with other United Methodists and the church-wide focus on eradicating poverty: [www.ministrywith.org](http://www.ministrywith.org).



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