

INTRODUCTION

UNITED METHODIST SOCIAL PRINCIPLES

AS ADOPTED BY GENERAL CONFERENCE CHARLOTTE, 2024

The Social Principles document contains six main sections: (1) the preface, (2) the preamble, (3) the community of creation, (4) the social community, (5) the economic community and (6) the political community. The history of Methodism and its predecessor bodies' commitment to social principles can be found in the preface; the theological convictions of the church are found in the preamble.

First.

The document integrates Biblical and Wesleyan references throughout the text.

The inclusion of the references in the document allows communities to teach, preach, and reflect together on how the principle relates to Scripture and our shared Wesleyan tradition. Furthermore, there are clear recommendations in the document for what the church and civil societies are called to do. This creates possibilities for churches to take clear action on a given social concern that is impacting communities.

Second.

Each principle is written in a concise and clear way.

This allows all United Methodists from many different contexts to participate and engage the principles without relying on an expert to interpret the document for the community. It is meant to be engaged by everyone.

Third.

The world-wide nature of the church is reflected in all areas of the document.

All the sections of the document include language and topics reflective of the world-wide church's social concerns. In this way, United Methodists from different contexts can see both their own context reflected in the document as well as the contexts of other communities across the connection building a common language and understanding for stronger relationship and social witness.

This document is for the United Methodist Church and its people to engage and take action for peace and justice of God's world.



CHURCH & SOCIETY

The United Methodist Church

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