

What does the Bible say?

Peter opened his mouth and said: “Truly I understand that God shows no partiality, but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him.” **(Acts 10: 34-35)**



You shall appoint judges and officials throughout your tribes, in all your towns that the LORD your God is giving you, and they shall render just decisions for the people. Justice, and only justice, you shall pursue, so that you may live and occupy the land that the LORD your God is giving you. **(Deuteronomy. 16:18, 20)**

What does the United Methodist Church say?

The United Methodist Church has for many years supported the separation of church and state. In some parts of the world this separation has guaranteed the diversity of religious expressions and the freedom to worship God according to each person's conscience. Separation of church and state means no organic union of the two, but it does permit interaction. The state should not use its authority to promote particular religious beliefs (including atheism), nor should it require prayer or worship in the public schools, but it should leave students free to practice their own religious convictions. We believe that the state should not attempt to control the church, nor should the church seek to dominate the state. **(Book of Discipline, ¶164C, “Church and State Relations”)**



In participating in the arena of public affairs, churches are not inherently superior to other participants; hence the stands that they take on particular issues of public policy are not above question or criticism. Another norm of responsible behavior derives from the fact that no particular public policy that may be endorsed by churches at a given point in time should be regarded as an ultimate expression of Christian ethics in society. Churches should not assume that any particular social pattern, political order, or economic ideology represents a complete embodiment of the Christian ethic. Finally, churches should not seek to utilize the processes of public affairs to further their own institutional interests or to obtain special privileges for themselves. **(Book of Resolutions, # 5102, “A Statement Concerning Church Participation in Public Affairs”)**



CHURCH & SOCIETY

The United Methodist Church

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

What do the facts say?

- Christian Nationalism is a political ideology that seeks to merge Christianity and U.S. citizen identities, distorting both the Christian faith and the United States constitutional democracy. It often overlaps with and provides cover for white supremacy and racial subjugation (Christians Against Christian Nationalism).
- The First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution established the free exercise of religion while also prohibiting any establishment of religion by the state.
- The U.S. Constitution guarantees that religion can never be a requirement for holding public office.
- People in the United States who are supportive of Christian nationalism generally hold less favorable views of immigrants, racial and ethnic minorities, and are less likely to believe that racism remains a problem in the United States.
- 40% of Christian nationalism adherents agree with patriots resorting to violence to save the United States (Brookings Institution).



Brookings Institution –
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What do You say?

Take **ACTION** for justice...



Foster Public Interfaith Relationships in Your Community.

Discuss the topic in your Church at bible studies, workshops or meetings.

Sign “Christians Against Christian Nationalism” statement on their website
www.christiansagainstchristiannationalism.org

Call for legislative policies that strengthen federal law for the protection of religious freedom.

For more information contact:
advocacy@umcjustice.org

www.umcjustice.org

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