



SOCIAL PRINCIPLES: A RESOURCE FOR MISSION AND MINISTRY



PREFACE & PREAMBLE

Use the following questions to guide personal study or facilitate small group discussions within your church. Focus on linking the issues to your local church and community, while keeping the broader global context in mind. Explore ways to move from discussion to advocacy, moving faith into action.

Read the Preface and Discuss

- Reflecting on the United Methodist Church's long tradition of social justice, consider the issues that early Methodists advocated for, such as the abolition of slavery and workers' rights. In what ways is your church or conference continuing this prophetic witness and engaging in advocacy to address contemporary injustices?
- The preface highlights that the Social Principles "challenge all members of the United Methodist Church to engage in deliberative reflection and encourage dialogue between faith and practice." How does your church facilitate this kind of reflective dialogue and integration of faith with practical action within the congregation and the broader community? In what ways do you see faith being actively put into practice as a result?

Read the Preamble and Discuss

- The preamble states that, through God’s grace, we can openly acknowledge how we have broken our covenant with God, each other, and the diverse creation around us. In what ways have we failed to uphold this covenant?
- The preamble notes that “differences are a precious gift and a daunting challenge.” How do differences differ from conflict? In what ways does our faith encourage believers to confront “their disagreements and even their despair” in order to better discern God’s will together?

Additional Resources:

1908 Social Creed <https://www.umcjustice.org/articles/the-1908-social-creed-of-the-methodist-episcopal-church-822>

1972 Social Creed <https://www.umc.org/en/content/our-social-creed>

2008 Social Creed Companion Litany <https://www.umc.org/en/content/our-social-creed>

Backgrounder on 2024 Social Principles <https://www.umcjustice.org/who-we-are/proposed-revised-social-principles-for-general-conference-charlotte>

UNITED METHODIST
**SOCIAL
PRINCIPLES**
As Adopted by General Conference Charlotte, 2024