



# SOCIAL PRINCIPLES: A RESOURCE FOR MISSION AND MINISTRY



## SOCIAL COMMUNITY

The Social Community is divided into three sections: the preface, which connects the topic to Wesleyan history, scripture, and theology; The Nurturing Community, which outlines the many ways we are interconnected and supported in our personhood; and Other Social Issues, an examination of various issues challenging human dignity.

Topics Included in the Social Community:

- The Family
- Human Sexuality
- Substance Abuse, Alcohol & Tobacco
- Colonialism, Neocolonialism & their Consequences
- Gambling
- Media & Communication Technologies
- Medical Experimentation & Research
- Reproductive Health & Abortion
- Sexual Harassment, Abuse & Assault
- Single People
- Marriage (Child Marriage, Polygamy, Divorce)
- Bullying & Other Forms of Violence
- Death with Dignity (Faithful Care of Dying People, Euthanasia & Suicide)
- Gender Equality and Diversity
- Pornography
- Organ Donation & Transportation
- Racism, Ethnocentrism & Tribalism

## Read the Social Community and Discuss

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 Translating Faith Into Action

- In what ways are the legacies of colonialism and neocolonialism present in the church? What steps have been taken, and need to be taken to stop the continuation of colonial and neocolonial practices and theologies?
- In what ways can we as individuals and as a church become more aware of and address our complicity in perpetuating injustice? What steps towards repentance, reconciliation, and reparations are being taken?
- In what ways does the protection and promotion of human dignity, particularly in contexts involving reproductive health and end-of-life care, impact the well-being of individuals and communities? Consider how the erosion of dignity—through lack of access to health services, gender inequality, or inadequate end-of-life care—can affect personal and collective experiences. How can we as advocates and members of our communities actively contribute to preserving and upholding the dignity of all individuals in these sensitive areas?

### Additional Resources:

John Wesley, Preface, Explanatory Notes on Romans.

John Wesley, Preface, Hymns and Sacred Poems.

Faith & Facts Cards (updated and released in 2025)

Faith & Justice Youth Curriculum (updated and released in 2025)

Civil & Human Rights Page:

<https://www.umcjustice.org/what-we-care-about/civil-and-human-rights>

Health & Wholeness Page:

<https://www.umcjustice.org/what-we-care-about/health-and-wholeness>

Women & Children Page:

<https://www.umcjustice.org/what-we-care-about/women-and-children>

Peace with Justice Page:

<https://www.umcjustice.org/what-we-care-about/peace-with-justice>

UNITED METHODIST  
**SOCIAL  
PRINCIPLES**  
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