

What does the Bible say?

Is it not enough for you to feed on the good pasture, but you must tread down with your feet the rest of your pasture? When you drink of clear water, must you foul the rest with your feet? **(Ezekiel 34:18)**

Thus says the Lord, “Stand at the crossroads, and look, and ask for the ancient paths, where the good way lies; and walk in it, and find rest for your soul.” **(Jeremiah 6:16)**

For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. **(Matthew 6:21)**

I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly. **(John 10:10)**



What does The United Methodist Church say?

Let us recognize the responsibility of the church and its members to place a high priority on changes in economic, political, social and technological lifestyles to support a more ecologically equitable and sustainable world leading to a higher quality of life for all of God’s creation. **(Social Principles, ¶160)**

Confronted with the massive crisis of the deterioration of God’s creation and called to a ministry of reconciliation between God, humankind, and creation, we ask God’s forgiveness and commit ourselves to a new way of being that integrates environmental, economic, and social justice. **(2016 Book of Resolutions, #1033, “Caring for Creation: Our Call to Stewardship and Justice”)**

Because of industrial extraction, production, and waste, some people’s lives are destroyed while others profit. This is harmful and is neither sustainable nor just. **(2016 Book of Resolutions, #1032, “Principles for Just and Sustainable Extraction and Production”)**

As United Methodists we therefore are called to participate in God’s healing of creation through acts of personal, social, and civic righteousness. Proclaiming and modeling a new lifestyle rooted in stewardship and justice, we work toward the day when all God’s children respect and share in the goodness of creation. **(2016 Book of Resolutions, #1033, “Caring for Creation: Our Call to Stewardship and Justice”)**



CHURCH & SOCIETY

The United Methodist Church

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



What do the facts say?

- Less than 5% of the world's population lives in the United States, and yet U.S. residents consume 20% of the world's produced energy¹, 21% of the world's beef², and generate nearly 20% of global greenhouse gas emissions.³
- If everyone in the world lived according to the U.S. standard of living, we would need FOUR planets worth of resources.
- The United States throws away over 93,000 tons of food every day⁴ and yet nearly 15% of households suffer food insecurity at some point during the year.⁵
- Today, 2.5 billion people lack access to basic sanitation and 750 million live without access to safe and clean water.⁶
- The world's forests, which remove CO₂ from the atmosphere and provide life-sustaining oxygen, are disappearing at the rate of 13 million acres per year.⁷
- Every 20 minutes a distinct species of plant or animal becomes extinct.⁸ One out of every five species is at risk of extinction due to climate change.⁹ The loss of biodiversity is occurring at 1,000 to 10,000 times the natural rate.¹⁰

1 U.S. Energy Information Administration, 2 U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), 3,4 U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 5 USDA, 6 World Health Organization, 7 UN Food and Agriculture Organization, 8 World Wildlife Fund, 9 UN Convention on Biological Diversity, 10 Center for Health and the Global Environment

What do you say?



Take **ACTION** for justice...

Reduce: Buy less stuff. Did you know over half of the plastic we buy and throw away each year is simply packaging?

Reuse: Pack a “no-waste” lunch, using reusable containers instead of disposables, host a “disposable-free” coffee hour at church, or find innovative ways to repurpose old products.

Recycle: Paper, glass, aluminum, even plastic - if you can't use it again recycle it. The energy saved from recycling 1 can could power a TV for 3 hours.

Refuse: Do you really need the plastic bag they are putting your purchase in? Be sure to pack a reusable bag before you head out shopping.

Rethink: How much is enough? Once you have decided you need the item make sure it was produced in a way that is both earth-friendly and worker-friendly.

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