

HEALTH AND WHOLENESS

TOBACCO

What does the Bible say?

God created humankind in his image, in the image of God he created them. **(Genesis 1:27a)**

This is what you should decide: never put a stumbling block or obstacle in the way of your brother or sister.

(Romans 14:13)

Christ is just like the human body – a body is a unit and has many parts; and all the parts of the body are one body, even though there are many. If one part suffers, all the parts suffer with it. You are the body of Christ and parts of each other. **(1 Corinthians 12:1; 26-27)**

I came that you might have life and have it abundantly. **(John 10:10)**



What does The United Methodist Church say?

“We affirm our historic tradition of high standards of personal discipline and social responsibility. In light of the overwhelming evidence that tobacco smoking and the use of smokeless tobacco are hazardous to the health of all ages, we recommend total abstinence from the use of tobacco. We urge that our educational and communication resources be utilized to support and encourage such abstinence. Further, we recognize the harmful effects of passive smoke and support the restriction of smoking in public areas and workplaces.”

(United Methodist Social Principles ¶162.M)

“We commend the suspension of cigarette advertising on radio and television. We are concerned about other advertisements that associate smoking with physical and social maturity, attractiveness, and success, especially those targeted at youth, racial minorities, and women.”

(Book of Resolutions, 3042)

“Neither may we gain by hurting our neighbor in his body. Therefore we may not sell anything which tends to impair health.”

(John Wesley, Sermon: The Use of Money)



CHURCH & SOCIETY

The United Methodist Church

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

What do the facts say?

- Tobacco use killed 100 million people globally in the 20th century. If current trends continue, tobacco will kill one billion people in the 21st century.¹
- Secondhand smoke kills more than 600,000 people worldwide each year, including 165,000 children.²
- In the U.S., more deaths are caused each year by tobacco use than by all deaths from human immunodeficiency virus (HIV), illegal drug use, alcohol use, motor vehicle injuries, suicides, and murders combined.³
- In the U.S., cigarette smoking costs more than \$193 billion per year (\$97 billion in lost productivity plus \$96 billion in health care expenditures). Secondhand smoke costs more than \$10 billion (i.e., health care expenditures, morbidity, and mortality).⁴
- Electronic or “vapor” cigarettes are marketed as safe alternatives to other kinds of tobacco consumption, but lack appropriate warnings regarding their ingredients, health effects, and potential to cause addiction.⁵



^{1,2} Campaign for Tobacco Free Kids, www.tfk.org, ³Centers for Disease Control, www.cdc.gov, ⁴Food and Drug Administration, www.fda.gov, ⁵32 U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), *The Health Consequences of Smoking: 50 Years of Progress. A Report of the Surgeon General, CDC, Office of Smoking and Health (OSH), 2014*, <http://www.surgeongeneral.gov/library/reports/50-years-of-progress/index.html>.

What do you say?

Take **ACTION** for justice...

Remind your state and federal legislators that the tobacco industry is still a powerful and dangerous lobby in the United States and in global markets. Though we support the government’s actions to curb advertising and permit stronger warnings on tobacco products domestically, we encourage stronger regulation of these harmful products in both the United States and abroad.

Learn more about how much smoking costs your nation and the world, and brainstorm ideas for ways to organize around specific steps your communities can take to reduce the influence of the tobacco industry. Visit www.tobaccoatlas.org and www.cdc.org and look for the latest information on tobacco costs, concerns, and proposed solutions.

Make a commitment to educate yourself about the indirect ways normal consumers support the tobacco industry by purchasing non-tobacco products made by large tobacco companies, RJR Nabisco and Altria/Philip Morris.

Join Church and Society’s Global Health and Wholeness Network at <http://action.umc-gbcs.org/joinnetworks>.



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