

HUNGER & POVERTY

What does the Bible say?

There will always be poor people in the land. Therefore I command you to be openhanded toward your fellow Israelites who are poor and needy in your land. **(Deuteronomy 15: 11)**

For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in. **(Matthew 25:35)**

God has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly; God has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty. **(Luke 1:52-53)**

If a brother or sister is without clothing and in need of daily food, and one of you says to them, "Go in peace, be warmed and be filled," and yet you do not give them what is necessary for their body, what use is that? Even so faith, if it has no works, is dead, being by itself. **(James 2:15-17)**



What does the United Methodist Church say?

We decry the widening gap between the rich and the poor and the concentration of wealth in the hands of ever smaller percentages of the global population. We lament that too many of the world's people lack the basic resources necessary for survival and pledge ourselves to work toward the eradication of the roots and effects of poverty. **(Social Principles 161.B)**

We also affirm food sovereignty, which promotes the rights of all people to healthy, culturally appropriate food, produced through ecologically sound and sustainable methods. **(Social Principles 160.C)**

The United Methodist Church calls for changes to current tax systems to better embody the following faithful principles: Protecting the Poor and Vulnerable: All tax decisions must be judged by their impact on children, low-income families, the elderly, people with disabilities, and other vulnerable populations. **(Book of Resolutions #2111 Call for Just Tax Structures)**



CHURCH & SOCIETY

The United Methodist Church

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

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What do the facts say?

- After years of progress, the number of undernourished people in 2020 grew by an estimated 161 million globally due to conflict, climate change, and the COVID-19 pandemic. (Action Against Hunger)
- In 2021 an estimated 698 million people, or 9% of the global population, are living in extreme poverty (less than \$1.90 USD/day) and over 20%, an estimated 1.8 billion people live on less than \$3.20 USD/day. (World Bank)
- New research estimates that climate change will drive 68 million to 132 million into poverty by 2030. (World Bank)
- Over 41 million U.S. residents receive benefits from the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). (USDA)



What do you say?

Take **ACTION** for justice...

- **Urge** your elected government officials to provide robust and sustained funding for international programs to eradicate poverty and eliminate hunger.
- If in the United States, **tell** the U.S. Congress to put those living on the economic margins at the center of our vision of a new a just economy. Take action at www.umcjustice.org
- **Learn** more about the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, a set of goals to end poverty, protect the planet, and ensure prosperity for all as part of a new sustainable development agenda: www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/sustainable-development-goals
- **Engage** in educational efforts on eliminating world poverty in your local church and community, including the study of God's Renewed Creation: Call to Hope and Action by the Council of Bishops of The United Methodist Church.



For more information contact:
advocacy@umcjustice.org

www.umcjustice.org

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General Board of Church and Society

100 Maryland Ave, NE Washington, DC 20002

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