

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 claim all economic systems to be under the judgment of God, no less than other facets of the created order. As a church, we are called to support the poor and challenge the rich. We urge support for policies that will encourage equitable economic in the Global South and around the world, providing a just opportunity for all. Poverty most often has systemic causes, and therefore we do not hold poor people morally responsible for their economic state. **(Social Principles ¶163E)**

We call on the United States, governments of other industrial nations, private commercial lending institutions, and international financial institutions such as the World Bank and IMF to cancel the debts of the poorest countries to enable them to meet human development goals, beginning with the Sustainable Goals. **(2016 Book of Resolutions, #4053, “Global Debt Crisis: A Call for Jubilee”)**

Today our world is facing crises on an unprecedented scale: war, genocide, poverty hunger, disease, and global warming. Saddened by the state of the world, overwhelmed by the scope of these problems, and anxious about the future, we believe god calls us and equips us to respond. **(2016 Book of Resolutions, #6139, Peace With Justice Sunday and Special Offering)**



CHURCH & SOCIETY

The United Methodist Church

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

HUNGER & POVERTY

What do the facts say?

- 836 million people live in extreme poverty making less than \$1.25 a day.¹
- Half of the extreme poor live in Sub-Saharan Africa. The vast majority of the global poor live in rural areas and are poorly educated, mostly employed in the agricultural sector, and over half are under 18 years of age. Access to good schools, healthcare, electricity, safe water and other critical services remains elusive for many people, often determined by socioeconomic status, gender, ethnicity, and geography.²
- There are over 59 million children of school-age who are being denied the right to education. Girls are more likely to be denied access to education. Children growing up in poverty suffer from inadequate nutrition, a lack of early stimulation and learning and exposure to stress that last a lifetime.³
- 400 million people do not have access to essential health services.⁴
- 620 million people in Sub-Saharan Africa (two-thirds of the population) live without electricity, and more than 620 million rely on dangerous forms of cooking.⁵



1 United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, 2 World Bank, 3 UNICEF, 4 World Bank and WHO, 5 International Energy Agency

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.
- **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.
- **Create or enhance** a Ministry With the Poor in your local church, annual, conference, or organization, to address the root causes of poverty.



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