

What does the Bible say?

Instruct the wise and they will be wiser still; teach the righteous and they will add to their learning. **Proverbs 9:9**

The one who has knowledge uses words with restraint, and whoever has understanding is even-tempered. **Proverbs 17:27**

When I was a child, I talked like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I put the ways of childhood behind me. **1 Corinthians 13:11**

The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and knowledge of the Holy One is understanding. **Proverbs 9:10**



What does the United Methodist Church say?

The General Conference of the United Methodist Church calls on rich nations as well as the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank to deliver on the promises to the world's children articulated in Sustainable Development Goal 4 by providing substantial and sustained increases in aid for basic education in poor countries through bilateral assistance and the Global Fund for Education. **(4214. The Right of All to Quality Education)**

We specifically oppose tuition tax credits, school vouchers, or any other mechanism that directly or indirectly allows governments to support religious schools at the primary and secondary level. **(Government Responsibilities, 4100 Church-Government Relations, The Political Community Resolutions)**

Whereas, the historic United Methodist concern for education is witnessed through commitment to educational opportunity for all persons regardless of gender, sexual orientation, ethnic origin, disability, or economic or social background... **(4123. Education: The Gift of Hope, Book of Resolutions, 2020/2024)**



CHURCH & SOCIETY

The United Methodist Church

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

EDUCATION REFORM

What do the facts say?

- In 2024, extreme weather events such as heatwaves, floods, and storms disrupted the education of at least 242 million children across 85 countries. These climate-related disruptions were especially severe in low-income regions of Asia and sub-Saharan Africa, underscoring the vulnerability of educational systems to environmental challenges. (AP News)
- According to the World Bank, seven out of ten children in low- and middle-income countries cannot read or understand a simple paragraph by age 10. In sub-Saharan Africa, this figure rises to nine out of ten children. The COVID-19 pandemic and climate-related school closures have further exacerbated this learning crisis. (The World Bank)
- The OECD reports that while girls outperform boys in educational attainment—being 28% less likely to repeat a grade and more likely to complete upper secondary and tertiary education—they continue to face disadvantages in the labor market. For instance, among 25-34-year-olds without an upper secondary qualification, the employment rate for women is 25 percentage points lower than for men. Even among those with tertiary education, women's employment rate is 6 percentage points lower than their male counterparts. (The Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development)



What do you say?

Take **ACTION** for justice...

- **Partner** with local primary and secondary schools in your area to offer support in the form of volunteering, tutoring, or school supplies.
- **Connect** with the Black College Fund and provide a monetary donation to further the uplift of Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs)
- **Develop** a tutoring program in your local congregation that serves the needs of students in your area.



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