

# ECONOMIC, HEALTH, AND GENDER JUSTICE

## 2025 – 2026 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES THE ECONOMIC, HEALTH, AND GENDER JUSTICE PORTFOLIO

THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH GENERAL BOARD OF CHURCH AND SOCIETY

*Rooted in an intersectional approach to ministry; the Economic, Health, and Gender Justice portfolio seeks to address unjust policies and practices that obstruct the full flourishing of humanity. As these issues have been adopted by the General Conference of The United Methodist Church, the General Board of Church and Society upholds the mandate of the Social Principles and advocates in the United States, Europe, Africa, and Asia.*

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### Budget and Tax

“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 towards the eradication of the roots and effects of poverty.” (The Economic Community, Economic Challenges, B. Poverty and Income Inequality)

### Farm Worker Justice

“We urge farmers, large and small, to engage in sustainable practices that preserve the integrity of the food chain, ensure that farmworkers and other laborers are justly compensated, and protect the natural environment.” (The Economic Community, Economic Justice, B. Farming and Agricultural Production)

### Affordable Housing

“Additionally, we believe that everyone has a right to decent living conditions, including adequate food and water, safe housing and a healthy environment.” (The Political Community, Basic Rights and Freedom, A. Health Care)

### Food Security and Nutrition

“Food systems that are ecologically sustainable, locally oriented, and equitably distributed are urgent priorities. We endorse policies and practices designed to ensure access to healthy nourishment and clean drinking water, especially for communities that have been subjected to environmental degradation or deprived of adequate resources to produce or purchase their own food.” (Community of All Creation, Stewardship of Creation, C. Food Justice)

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**CHURCH & SOCIETY**

The United Methodist Church

Living FAITH Seeking JUSTICE Pursuing PEACE

## Maternal Health

“Motherhood is sacred. Mothers are important figures in our biblical tradition... Women are crying out for not only their own survival but also the survival of their families and communities. They deserve access to services and care that empower their personal decision-making. As a global church, we are called to eradicate systems of oppression and marginalization that inhibit women’s well-being.” (2020/2024 Book of Resolutions, #4203, Maternal Health: The Church’s Role)

## Reproductive Health

“Our commitment to the sanctity of human life makes us reluctant to condone abortion. We unconditionally reject it as an acceptable means of birth control or a mechanism for gender selection and other forms of eugenics... We oppose late-term or partial-birth abortion, a process also known as dilation and extraction... We recognize that these and other tragic conflicts of life with life may justify decisions to terminate the life of a fetus. In these limited circumstances, we support the legal option of abortion and insist that such procedures be performed by trained medical providers in clean and safe settings.” (The Social Community, Other Social Issues, K. Reproductive Health and Abortion)

## Comprehensive Healthcare

“We affirm health care as a basic human right and vow to work toward expanded access to all forms of medical treatment, including preventative, therapeutic, and palliative care... To confront these painful realities, we urge United Methodists to join efforts aimed at creating systems that provide comprehensive health protections for all.” (The Political Community, Basic Rights and Freedoms, A. Health Care)

## Mental Health

“Health care as a human right also means that clinics, hospitals, and medical services and treatments must be accessible, affordable and of good quality. They must also be available when and where they are needed and be provided on an equitable basis. We call on governments,

businesses, churches, and civil society institutions to work cooperatively to ensure that every human being has access to medical services and treatment.” (The Political Community, Basic Rights and Freedoms, A. Health Care)

## HIV/AIDS

“Additionally, we call on national governments and international health organizations and medical groups to work cooperatively and expeditiously to address global pandemics such as HIV/AIDS, as well as outbreaks of contagious diseases that threaten the health and well-being of entire countries and regions. As a church, we support other measures and initiatives to improve human health, including investments in preventative care, good nutrition, continuing research in infectious disease prevention and treatment, pre- and post-natal health, and substance abuse treatment on demand.” (The Political Community, Basic Rights and Freedoms, A. Health Care)

## Human Trafficking

“We condemn human trafficking and slavery as profound violations of the inherent dignity and worth of every person and of their fundamental rights related to autonomy, including the ability of every individual to make personal life choices. We understand slavery to be a repudiation of the basic Christian understanding that all people are created in the image of God.” (The Economic Community, Economic Challenges, C. Human Trafficking and Slavery)

## Gender-Based Violence

“Sexual abuse or molestation entails unwanted sexual activity perpetrated through the use of force or threats, or by taking advantage of those who are unable to give consent or those in vulnerable situations with unequal power. Sexual assault includes all threats and forms of forcible sexual contact or bodily harm, including rape. We particularly deplore the sexual exploitation of children and youth and recognize that any sexual abuse is especially heinous and damaging when it occurs in the context of the church.” (The Social Community, Other Social Issues, M. Sexual Harassment, Abuse and Assault)