

## 2025 – 2026 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES THE ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE PORTFOLIO

THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH GENERAL BOARD OF CHURCH AND SOCIETY

*The Environmental Justice portfolio supports a just transition away from dependence on fossil fuels and a robust United States contribution to international climate finance. We oppose policy which promotes expansion of exploration, drilling, and production of fossil fuels, including revocation of environmental review, opening of new or environmentally sensitive areas for oil and gas drilling, and any policy which targets renewable forms of energy production for additional regulatory burdens. 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*

### Climate Change

“Global warming and climate change are already creating extreme conditions that threaten the entirety of life on earth. Over industrialization, widespread deforestation, and overreliance on fossil fuels are but some of the human activities that have contributed to the buildup of greenhouse gases such as carbon dioxide, methane, and nitrous oxide in the earth’s atmosphere. A sharp upsurge in greenhouse gases over the past decades already has resulted in a steady rise in sea levels, growing acidification of the world’s oceans, increased droughts and famines, and the intensification of extreme weather events. Climate scientists warn that the window of opportunity for reversing the negative effects of global warming and climate change is rapidly closing. Without concerted action by individuals, churches, communities, shareholders, businesses, governments, and international organizations, the negative effects will become irreversible.” (Community of All Creation, Creation in Peril, B. Global Warming and Climate Change)

### Energy Transition

“The burning of fossil fuels, including coal, oil and, to a lesser extent, natural gas, is the greatest single contributor to the buildup of greenhouse gases and the consequent warming of earth’s atmosphere. To reverse the current trajectory of global climate change, increased investments are needed in the research, development, and distribution of alternatives to fossil fuels, including, but not limited to, solar, wind, geothermal and hydrogen-based energy sources.” (Community of All Creation, Creation in Peril, C. Dependence on Fossil Fuels)

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**CHURCH & SOCIETY**

The United Methodist Church

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

## Just Transition

“Inevitably, transitioning from an overreliance on fossil fuels will have adverse impacts on individuals and communities whose livelihoods are still heavily dependent on the production, sale and distribution of these commodities. To the greatest extent possible, plans for developing and deploying alternative sources of energy should minimize negative financial impacts by investing in strategies that support people in successfully transitioning to new employment, strengthen the social safety net to deal with the loss of jobs and income, and provide ample educational and retraining opportunities.” (Community of All Creation, Creation in Peril, C. Dependence on Fossil Fuels)

## Climate Finance

“As a church, we recognize the importance of creating just, equitable, and sustainable economies that benefit all members of society, especially marginalized and vulnerable peoples. Further, because globalization transcends the capacity of any single individual, community or government to manage, we call on international bodies, including the United Nations, the World Trade Organization, the International Monetary Fund, and others, to hold multinational corporations and national governments accountable to provide for economies that promote people over profits and protect the environment.” (The Economic Community, Economic Challenges, A. Globalization)

## Environmental Racism

“We confess that the negative impacts resulting from the degradation of the natural world have fallen disproportionately on marginalized communities, including indigenous tribes, religious and ethnic communities, people living in poverty, and other vulnerable groups. We therefore, pledge to resist all forms of environmental exploitation, neglect and inequality. These practices

condemn impoverished communities and developing countries to bear the brunt of hazardous environments, industrial pollution, toxic waste dumps and urban decay.” (Community of All Creation, Stewardship of Creation, A. Environmental Racism)

## Sustainability

“Recognizing that simply changing our personal habits will not be enough to reverse decades of environmental damage, the church supports local, regional, national, and international cooperative efforts aimed at redressing the ecological harms humans have wreaked on a global scale. Such cooperative efforts must include the development and enforcement of policies and practices that protect all sentient beings, and the promotion of sustainable economic development. We also encourage responsible consumption and urgent action against global warming and climate change.” (Community of All Creation, Stewardship of Creation, B. Sustainable Policies and Practices)

## Sustainable Agriculture

“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, Responsible Consumerism, B. Farming and Agricultural Production).”

