

Our Social Principles

The Social Principles of The United Methodist Church are a prayerful and thoughtful effort to speak to issues in the world around us using scripture, tradition, reason, and experience as our guide.

Rooted in expressions of faith dating back to the life and ministry of Jesus, these principles echo the witness of early Methodists (who regularly worked in opposition to the slave trade, cruel treatment of prisoners, harmful labor practices that exploited men, women, and children, and much more). By the late 1800s, Methodists here in the United States (and around the world) fought to help families escape from the terrible impacts of alcoholism, gambling addictions, as well as difficulty accessing housing and medical care.

In 1908, The Methodist Episcopal Church (North) adopted its first social creed. This was followed by similar statements from The Methodist Episcopal Church, South, The Methodist Protestant Church, and The Evangelical United Brethren Church. Together, they provided framework for what would become our United Methodist Social Principles (adopted in 1972). These principles have been revisited and revised by each successive General Conference, and an entirely new set of revised Social Principles will be presented later this month for approval by the 2024 General Conference.

While not considered church law (or formal doctrine), the Social Principles are intended to be a resource for conversation and a call for United Methodists everywhere to put their faith into action by engaging with the wider community in ways that help to meet the deep-seated needs that are present.

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Beginning Sunday, April 7, Pastor Doug will be leading a sermon series on the Social Principles. Each week, we will look at one of the sections (or themes). We will explore what it means for us to live out our faith in ways that address real, practical matters in people's lives. And we'll see how doing so is part of our ongoing commitment to help embody God's reality here on earth.

Apr 7	Our Social Principles
Apr 14	The Natural World
Apr 21	The Nurturing Community
Apr 28	The Social Community
May 5	The Economic Community
May 12	The Political Community
May 19	The World Community & Our Social Creed

If you have questions or want to learn more about our Social Principles, Pastor Doug will be happy to explore them with you. You can also read through them yourself (and find other, related resources) on The United Methodist Church website by going to <https://www.umc.org/en/content/our-social-principles>.

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