Have You Ever Wanted To Take Action On An Issue?

Stop By The "TAKE ACTION" Table the Last Sunday Morning of each month!

Justice is not merely a matter of being aware of events in our world...it is taking a hand in shaping those events

The Social Principles of the United Methodist Church

Based on a long history of concern for social justice, the Social Principles are a prayerful and thoughtful effort on the part of the General Conference to speak to the human issues in the contemporary world from a sound biblical and theological foundation as historically demonstrated in UMC traditions.

They are a call to faithfulness and are intended to be instructive and persuasive in the best of the prophetic spirit; however, they are not church law.

Visit the UMC social justice homepage at:

www.umc-gbcs.org

and click on Take Action NOW!

SOCIAL JUSTICE

St. Andrew's
Social Justice Committee

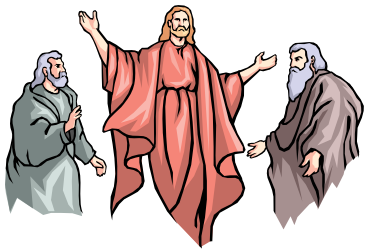
OUR MISSION

As guided by the Social Principles of the United Methodist Church and the teachings of Jesus and the prophets the mission of the Social Justice Committee is to educate and raise consciousness on social justice issues within our committee, church, and community by:

- advocating for just, sound and compassionate public policies that foster human dignity
- attempting to resolve structural injustice in order to address long-term needs
- promoting the responsible care of creation
- working with other faith-based, secular and service organizations with common commitments and goals
- providing opportunities to take action on local, national and international levels.

Charity and Justice

Charity… Social Service	Justice… Social Change
Private, individual acts	Public, collective actions
Responds to immediate need	Responds to long-term need
Provides direct service: food, clothing, shelter	Promotes social change in institutions: i.e. changing corporate policies, legislative advocacy
Requires repeated actions	Resolves structural injustice
Directed at the effects of injustice: symptoms	Directed at the root causes of social injustice



A Franciscan Blessing

May God bless you with discomfort at easy answers, half-truths and superficial relationships, so that you may live deep within your heart.

May God bless you with anger at injustice, oppression, and exploitation of people, so that you may work for justice, freedom and peace.

May God bless you with tears to shed for those who suffer from pain, rejection, starvation and want, so that you may reach out your hand to comfort them, and to turn their pain into joy.

May God bless you with enough foolishness to believe that you can make a difference in this world, so that you can do what others claim cannot be done.

And the blessing of the God of Abraham and Sarah, and of Jesus, born of our sister Mary, and of the Holy Spirit, who broods over the world as a mother over her children, be upon you and remain with you always.

Act with justice and righteousness and deliver from the hand of the oppressor anyone who has been robbed. And do no wrong or violence to the alien, the orphan and the widow, or shed innocent blood in this place.

Jeremiah 22:3

Indeed, it is only when we appreciate this dimension of Jesus' emphasis upon compassion that we realize how radical his message and vision were. For Jesus, compassion was more than a quality of God and an individual virtue: it was a social paradigm, the core value for life in community. To put it boldly: compassion for Jesus was political. He directly and repeatedly challenged the *dominant* sociopolitical paradigm of his social world and advocated instead what might be called a politics of compassion.

Marcus Borg, The Heart of Christianity

He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?

Micah 6:8