

Church and Society Legislative Priorities 2021



CHURCH & SOCIETY

The United Methodist Church

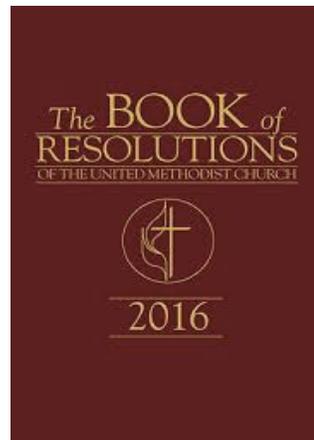
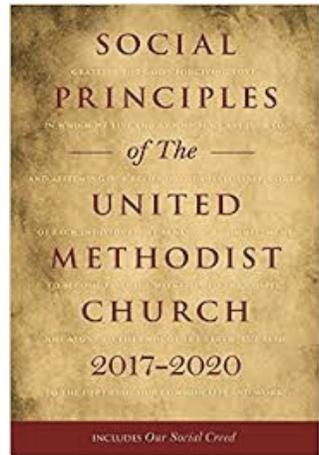
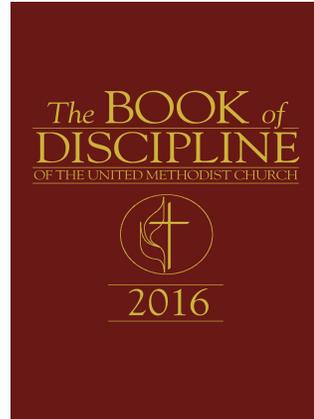
Living**FAITH** Seeking**JUSTICE** Pursuing**PEACE**



The General Board of Church and Society educates, advocates and connects with United Methodists in living faith, seeking justice, and pursuing peace across the connection and around the world.

Last year, amid the unfolding health, economic, and social crises arising from the pandemics of COVID-19 and systemic racism, Church and Society reaffirmed its focus on five program priorities: climate, health, immigration and global migration, peace, and poverty.

Additionally, Church and Society will elevate racial equity both in connection to the five program priorities and by advancing policies that dismantle structural racism and colonialism and uphold civil and human rights.



Grounded in Scripture and our Wesleyan theology, supported by the social teachings of The United Methodist Church as reflected in the Social Principles and Book of Resolutions, and informed by our connection with impacted communities, Church and Society is advocating for policies that advance justice and peace including:

Climate

Health

Immigration

Peace

Poverty

Racial Equity

- Rapidly and equitably reduce emissions in line with scientific recommendations.
- Support workers and frontline communities in a just transition to a new clean-energy economy.
- Reaffirm and strengthen multilateral commitments including support for climate-vulnerable countries and communities through climate finance, adaptation, loss and damage.

Climate

Health

Immigration

Peace

Poverty

Racial Equity

- Increase access to affordable equitable healthcare for all.
- Address racial disparities in health access, treatment and outcomes including maternal health.
- Support equity in vaccine distribution and access.

Climate

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- Pathway to citizenship and permanent relief for undocumented and under-documented immigrants.
- Strengthen and expand the Refugee and Asylum systems.
- Divest from harmful immigration enforcement and detention in support of community-based alternatives
- Address root causes of displacement and migration.

Climate

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- Reduce and redirect military funding for diplomacy, international development and human needs
- End endless wars and support arms control agreements and peace efforts including Palestine and Israel, the Iran Nuclear deal, the Korean Peninsula, and the Philippines
- Gun violence prevention
- Support community-led solutions for safety and security.

Climate

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- Robust funding to address the immediate crisis including expanded nutrition, unemployment, and housing assistance
- Increase the minimum wage
- Worker rights and Farm Worker Campaigns
- Paid Family Leave and Sick Leave

Climate

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Civil and Human Rights

- Voting Rights
- Abolish the death penalty
- Commissions on Reparations and Truth, Healing and Reconciliation
- Policing Reform
- Religious Freedom
- LGBTQ Non-discrimination
- Advance civil rights for people with disabilities

Climate

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To learn more about the work of Church and Society explore our website at www.umcjustice.org,

Download our Civic Engagement Toolkit at www.umcjustice.org/what-you-can-do/advocacy/take-action/creating-change-together

And visit our Take Action center at <https://www.umcjustice.org/what-you-can-do/advocacy/take-action>