



COUNCIL OF BISHOPS
THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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The United States is a nation blessed with unparalleled abundance. The debate among elected leaders over the federal budget is at its core a debate over how the nation's abundance is shared.

The budget is as much a moral as a financial document. Beneath the charts and graphs and projections are people and communities and values. At this critical time, our faith has called us to proclaim a new vision of community and a reordering of our nation's budget priorities. A budget reflecting our nation's values would more equitably share the abundance of the nation and ensure that all God's children are secure – a security born of justice and the guarantee of basic rights to food, shelter and health care.

We are alarmed by recent trends in the federal budget that have squeezed investments in education, child care, food nutrition programs and other anti-poverty measures to accommodate dramatic tax cuts for the wealthiest citizens in the United States and to fuel military conflicts abroad. These policies turn the teachings of Christ on their head.

The Council of Bishops has focused for years on lifting up the well-being of children and combating persistent poverty and we will not remain silent as the most vulnerable populations in the United States and around the world are sacrificed at the altars of greed and war.

We are not unaware of the fiscal constraints – some real, some perceived – binding this Congress and the President. As the debate over budget priorities begins, however, we call on elected leaders to place the needs of children and the poor at the center of the budget debate; to reverse policies that have taken from those with the least and given to those with the most; and to enact a budget that reflects our shared commitment to justice and compassion for all God's children.

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