



Faith & Facts: Clean Water

What does the



say?

And God said "Let the waters under the sky be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear." And it was so. God called the dry land Earth, and the waters that were gathered together God called the Seas. And God saw that it was good - Genesis 1:9-10

You shall worship the Lord your God, and I will bless your bread and your water
- Exodus 23:25

Water shall flow from [Israel's] buckets, and his offspring shall have abundant water
- Numbers 24:7

When you drink of clear water, must you foul the rest with your feet? - Ezekiel 34:18

To the thirsty I will give water as a gift from the spring of the water of life - Revelation 21:6

What does the



say?

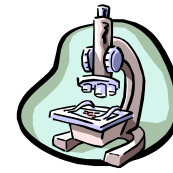
We believe that water is a gift from God that needs to be kept clean. We advocate measures that will address polluted runoff that is threatening to public health; protection of waters for future generations; wetlands preservation to clean water and sustain wildlife; the public's right to know that their water is safe for drinking, swimming, and fishing; and effective enforcement against illegal pollution. (*Book of Resolutions, p.102*)

All creation is Lord's and we are responsible for the ways in which we use and abuse it. Water, air, soil, minerals, energy resources, plants, animal life and space are to be valued and conserved because they are God's creation and not solely because they are useful to human beings. (*Social Principles ¶160*)

Water is an integral part of God's radical expression of God's love for all humanity. Water cannot be monopolized or privatized. It is to be shared like air, light, and earth. (*Book of Resolutions, p.106*)

The people called United Methodists shall affirm and educate that water is a basic human right to be shared and enjoyed by all God's people. (*Book of Resolutions, p.107*)

What does



say?

44 states in the U.S. have issued advisories warning residents not to eat fish caught in lakes and streams because of high levels of toxic mercury.

Worldwide over one billion people lack access to clean and affordable water and over 2.4 billion lack access to proper sanitation.

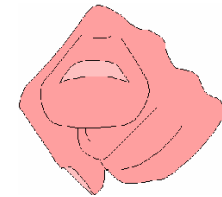
Every year, over two million children die from diseases related to poor water quality or sanitation.

Gallons of water needed to produce one pound of wheat - 25.
Gallons of water needed to produce one pound of beef - 2500.

Most showers use five to seven gallons of water *every minute*.

The recommended basic water requirement per person per day is 50 litres - which includes drinking, cooking, and basic hygiene. In The Gambia - the average person has access to only 4.5 litres ... in the US the average person uses 500.

What do



say?

Simple steps you can take ...

- Place a displacement object in your toilet tank this could save 4 gallons daily and 1400 gallons in a year.
- Turn off the tap while you brush your teeth and take shorter showers.
- Write your Member of Congress and ask that she or he co-sponsor legislation to strengthen the Clean Water Act such as the Clean Water Authority Restoration Act. (visit: www.umpower.org)
- Eat lower on the food chain! Grain-fed animals require much more water per pound than vegetarian alternatives.

For more information: Contact John Hill

General Board of Church and Society
100 Maryland Avenue, NE Washington DC 20002
jhill@umc-gbcs.org -- www.umc-gbcs.org