



Eradicating Poverty

A Focus Area of The United Methodist Church



Other United Methodist Church focus areas:

- Developing leaders
- Global health initiative
- Creating new places for new people

General Board of Church & Society will focus on
ADVOCACY, EDUCATION and **EQUIPPING DISCIPLES**
 for the transformation of the world.

Advocate

GBCS will expand its advocacy efforts to ensure just economic opportunities for all and adequate funding for critical anti-poverty efforts around the world.

Building on success of the past four years, advocacy teams will engage United Methodists and policy makers to “share more equitably the resources of the world” (Social Principles, ¶163.E) *Specific goals include:*

- Double the number of United Methodists connected to justice networks.
- Reorder budget priorities to reflect our faith values including concern for the poor.
- Increase the minimum wage and support local efforts to enact a living wage.
- Support comprehensive immigration reform.
- Ensure fair wages and just working conditions for farm workers and others who labor on the social and economic margins of society.
- Implement the United Nations Millennium Development Goals and debt cancellation for poor countries.
- Support community-based efforts to eliminate human trafficking and other forms of economic bondage.

How does God's love abide in anyone who has the world's goods and sees a brother or sister in need and yet refuses to help?

— 1 John 3:17

- Develop a speakers bureau on issues of poverty and economic justice to educate United Methodists across the connection.
- Sponsor workshops, events and jurisdictional gatherings to challenge the culture of consumption and greed and educate United Methodists of all ages about alternatives for simpler living and just economic opportunities.
- Engage United Methodists through the UM Seminar Program to explore the root causes of poverty in their own communities and around the world.
- Highlight local opportunities — living wage initiatives, farm worker campaigns, fair trade cooperatives — for United Methodist engagement.
- Survey and map assets (advocates, community programs, clergy and leaders) within conferences to engage in public witness and advocacy.

Educate

GBCS will increase awareness and move United Methodists and policy makers to action through seminars, workshops, conferences and resources on economic justice. GBCS will expand outreach to youths and young adults as well as engagement in conferences around the world. *Specific goals include:*

- Double web traffic and expand e-newsletter coverage of economic justice issues.

God has granted us stewardship of creation

A creation that reveals God's radical love and God's economy of abundance.

All too often, humankind has chosen to manipulate this abundance through systems and structures that benefit the few, emphasize the individual over the community, and nurture the false notion of scarcity.

God calls us to proclaim a new vision!

Through advocacy, education, and equipping ministries, GBCS will challenge these powers and false idols, work to lift God's children out of poverty and ensure the love and abundance we have been freely given is freely shared with all.

Equip disciples

GBCS will provide educational and action-focused resources for United Methodists to engage in worship, reflection, study and action on issues related to poverty. *Specific goals include:*

- Expand United Methodist resources on economic justice and global poverty including new interactive web-based resources on living wage and poverty, immigration and human trafficking.
- Promote adult study sessions on power and privilege and root causes of economic inequities for use by individuals, congregations and conferences.
- Create and distribute new economic justice worship resources highlighting our biblical call and how we can respond in today's broken world.
- Highlight successes and action opportunities monthly through e-newsletters and in collaboration with United Methodist Communications.