



FAITH & FACTS

Clean Water

Economic and Environmental Justice

What does the Bible 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 United Methodist Church 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. (*2008 Book of Resolutions*, “Environmental Stewardship”)

All creation is the 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. (*2008 Book of Resolutions*, “Protection of Water”)

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. (*2008 Book of Resolutions*, “Protection of Water”)



What do the facts 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: 2,500.
- Most showers use five to seven gallons of water every minute.



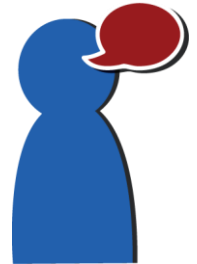
The recommended basic water requirement per person per day is 50 litres, which includes drinking, cooking and basic hygiene.

- In Gambia, the average person has access to only 4.5 liters
- In the U.S. the average person uses 500

What do you say?

Simple steps you can take ...

- Place a displacement object in your toilet tank this could save 4 gallons daily and 1,400 gallons in a year.
- Turn off the tap while you brush your teeth and take shorter showers.
- What resources do you use to maintain your lifestyle? Visit our website and measure your ecological footprint!
- In the U.S., write your Member of Congress and ask that s/he co-sponsor the Clean Water Authority Restoration Act. Take action at www.umpower.org.
- Eat lower on the food chain! Grain-fed animals require much more water per pound than vegetarian alternatives.



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