



Global Health

A Focus Area of The United Methodist Church



- Other United Methodist Church focus areas:
- Eradicating poverty
 - Developing leaders
 - Creating new places for new people

General Board of Church & Society will promote global health by addressing systemic health and health-care access through **ADVOCACY, EDUCATION** and **INSPIRING MINISTRY**.

Advocate

GBCS will expand its advocacy efforts to ensure health and access to health care is a top priority.

- Double membership of GBCS advocacy action networks related to health:

Health and Wholeness advocates for access to adequate, safe, quality health care for all people.

AIDS advocates for U.S. funding to eliminate AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria around the globe, and promotes the UMC Global AIDS Fund.¹

Addictions advocates for effective, transformative alcohol, tobacco and drug policy focused on health and wholeness, and discourages the alcohol and tobacco industry's influence on public health.

Women and Children works with other organizations to pass U.S. Congressional legislation that increases funding for family planning, abortion prevention and education for women and girls.

Peace with Justice advocates for the Millennium Development Goals, which seek to improve maternal and child health.

- Increase the number of annual conferences that have Drug & Alcohol Coordinators, who address addiction issues.
- Increase participation in key health-care coalitions to expand access to both physical and mental health care.
- Expand work with the United Nations and key coalitions to advance global public policies that expand access to health care and improve health for all people.

*Jesus said,
"You will have life,
and have it abundantly."
— John 10:10*

- Through our Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) status urge the World Health Organization to support systemic global reform on alcohol policy.

- Participate biennially in the United Nations Special Session on AIDS to advocate for global funding and address justice-making policies and stigma reduction for persons with AIDS.

- Work with the UN Foundation on educational and legislative initiatives targeting obstetric fistula.²

Educate

GBCS will increase awareness through programs and resources that motivate people and policy makers to action.

- Sponsor training for annual conference Drug & Alcohol Coordinators to equip them with advocacy tools to address addictions with the U.S. Congress.
- Train Central Conferences to advocate on addictions public policy in their countries.

- Sponsor at least two training sessions for Peace with Justice Coordinators that will include implementing the Millennium Development Goals.
- Write articles for *Faith in Action*, GBCS's e-newsletter, on health, health-care access, mental health, addictions, family planning, AIDS prevention, care and treatment and human sexuality.³

God's abundant life should prevail for all

We live in a world that values contrived scarcity, which has encouraged gross inequity and tolerated death where life could and should prevail.

God points us toward abundance and wants for us abundant life, which dictates that health care and health as wholeness is achievable if we are willing to share.

Continued on other side

General Board of Church & Society and The United Methodist Church Global Health Initiative

Continued from other side

- Consult with and equip U.S. annual conferences in their efforts for health-care reform.
- Consult with Central Conferences about activities related to the World Health Organization and efforts to provide adequate health care.
- Consult with annual conferences on activities regarding AIDS, and explore worldwide partnerships to address the pandemic.
- Consult with annual conference on activities regarding the Millennium Development Goals.
- Communicate monthly with the “Mental Illness Action Network” to provide effective advocacy tools.
- Staff and serve as a member of the UMC Global AIDS Fund Committee that meets semiannually to promote the Fund and resource projects addressing the pandemic.
- Staff and serve as a member of health-care, mental-health, alcohol, tobacco, gambling and drug-prevention coalitions and networks.
- Co-sponsor an ecumenical faith-based summit to organize on U.S. health-care reform.
- Sponsor a briefing during the next four years on alcohol, tobacco, drugs and gambling addictions advocacy to educate about eradicating stigma in the local church and initiating effective public policy on addictions.
- Sponsor a briefing during the next four years focused on women’s concerns to improve their health, reduce AIDS and violence, and promote gender equality.

***You have not strengthened the weak,
you have not healed the sick,
you have not bound up the injured,
you have not brought back the strayed,
you have not sought the lost,
but with force and harshness
you have ruled them.***

— Ezekiel 34:4

Inspire ministry

GBCS will provide educational and action-focused resources to engage in worship, reflection, study and action on global health issues.

- Create and distribute biblical and theological materials through GBCS’s Web site, *Faith in Action* e-newsletter, seminars and in annual conferences to increase understanding of the biblical and theological foundations for achieving global health and wholeness. These tools deepen individual faith and its connection with serving as Christian advocates for health around the world.
- Create and distribute worship and other liturgical resources through GBCS’s Web site, *Faith in Action* e-newsletter, and printed materials to promote Christ’s call for abundant life. These resources will create exciting worship opportunities in local churches. The resources will also focus on the connection between personal holiness and outward social transformation as it relates to global health.
- Build networks and linkages for sharing global health resources by collecting and publicizing creative biblical studies, sermon aids, and worship resources created by individuals, local churches, annual conferences and other organizations.

¹Approximately 33 million people around the globe have the HIV/AIDS virus.

²Obstetric fistula is a condition that occurs when adequate medical care is not available: A hole develops between either the rectum and vagina or between the bladder and vagina after severe or failed childbirth. At least 2 million women in Africa, Asia and the Arab region are living with the condition. Some 50,000 to 100,000 new cases develop each year. The persistence of fistula is a signal that health systems are failing to meet the needs of women.

³*Faith in Action* will include monthly articles on “Health and Wholeness,” an effort to educate United Methodists in ways to arrive at the goal of providing health care for all, and to explore ways that local churches and annual conference ministries are engaging in efforts to expand access to adequate health care. Articles will also address each month “Sex and the Church,” sensitive issues of sexuality and how the church can serve as a positive force for healthy decision making.

For more information: visit www.umc-gbcs.org or call (202) 488-5600