

Staff Contacts

Alcohol, Other Addictions and Health Care

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- Death Penalty Abolition • Education
- Immigration and Refugees
- Racial Justice • Religious Liberty
- Torture • Voting Rights

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- Clean Air • Clean Water • Domestic Hunger and Poverty
- Energy and Climate Change • Environmental Health • Farm Worker Justice • Housing • Labor
- Low-Income Concerns • Native American Economic Development • Sustainable Living

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- HIV/AIDS • Gender Justice
- Human Sexuality • Human Trafficking
- International Children's Concerns
- Population Issues • Reproductive Health and Family Planning

Peace with Justice

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- Africa • Debt Relief
- Disarmament • Global Hunger
- Globalization/Trade • Iraq
- Latin America/The Caribbean
- Middle East • Militarism
- Terrorism

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- Global racism • International and National Relations • International Peace and Human Rights • Sustainable Development • U.N. Education and Advocacy



What does the Lord require of you?



do
justice

love
mercy

walk
humbly
with your God

— Micah 6:8

Areas of Ministry

Advocacy

Education and Leadership Formation
United Nations and International Affairs

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General Board
of Church & Society
The United Methodist Church

2009 Legislative Priorities*

General Board of Church & Society
The United Methodist Church

Alcohol, Other Addictions, and Health Care

- ✓ **Reform U.S. health-care system**
An inclusive, accessible, affordable and accountable health-care system lives out God's intention for wholeness and abundant life. Everyday, the health of people throughout the U.S. is jeopardized by lack of access or huge gaps in access to health care. 45.7 million people are uninsured in the U.S., and a mounting number are underinsured or have expensive and inadequate health care.
- ✓ **Reauthorize the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP)**
- ✓ **Pass legislation to curb underage drinking and strictly regulate tobacco**
- ✓ **Oppose repeal of the Unlawful Internet Gambling Enforcement Act**

Civil and Human Rights

- ✓ **Just, humane immigration reform**
Scripture calls us as people of faith to welcome the Sojourner. Common sense tells us that the immigration system is badly in need of reform. This reform must entail a path to citizenship for all undocumented immigrants, protection of the rights of workers, and the reunification of families.
- ✓ **Eliminate sentencing disparities between crack and powder cocaine**
- ✓ **Abolish torture**
- ✓ **Fully fund Second Chance Act**

Economic Justice

- ✓ **Strengthen the social safety net**
As economic uncertainty grows, we must protect those living on the economic margins, particularly children. GBCS will work to strengthen and expand programs to ensure every child has access to proper nutrition.
- ✓ **Prioritize the needs of the poor in budget and tax policies**
- ✓ **Expand affordable housing opportunities**
- ✓ **Pass the Employee Free Choice Act**

Environmental Justice

- ✓ **Invest in a 'green-energy' future**
Responding to our call to be faithful stewards of God's creation, GBCS supports a transition to green, low-carbon, energy alternatives. Adopting a new energy policy with a strong federal investment in clean alternative energy sources will reduce global warming pollution, generate jobs and lead us toward a sustainable future.
- ✓ **Reduce global warming emissions**
- ✓ **Re-engage in international framework on climate change**
- ✓ **End mountain-top removal coal mining**

Peace with Justice/U.N. and International Affairs

- ✓ **Overcome global poverty**
GBCS supports legislation that helps to end global poverty. Foreign aid reform, fair trade, debt cancellation, and major reform of international financial institutions, such

as the World Bank and International Monetary Fund, are instrumental ways the United States can lead to end poverty on God's world.

- ✓ **End the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan and promote a peace agreement between Israel and Palestine**
- ✓ **Promote a nuclear weapons-free world**
- ✓ **Strengthen multilateral cooperation through reform of the United Nations**

Population Concerns

- ✓ **Increase levels of U.S. spending for international family planning**
One way to bring relief to those who suffer and restore wholeness to humanity is to ensure access to the full range of health services including family planning. Millions of couples around the globe lack such access. With greater access, we can reduce the spread of AIDS, allow couples to space their children, reduce abortions and child and maternal mortality. Advocacy for increased spending on international family planning will include support for the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA).
- ✓ **Pass and fund International Violence Against Women's Act**
- ✓ **Pass Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act**
- ✓ **Ensure highest levels of funding for global and domestic AIDS**

* These priorities support the 4 Areas of Focus of The United Methodist Church

- Ministry with the Poor
- Improving Health Globally
- Developing Principled Christian Leaders
- Congregational Development



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