

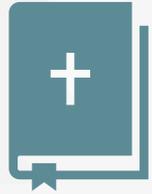
What does the Bible say?

There will always be poor people in the land. Therefore I command you to be openhanded toward your fellow Israelites who are poor and needy in your land. **(Deuteronomy 15: 11)**

For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in. **(Matthew 25:35)**

God has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly; God has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty. **(Luke 1:52-53)**

If a brother or sister is without clothing and in need of daily food, and one of you says to them, “Go in peace, be warmed and be filled,” and yet you do not give them what is necessary for their body, what use is that? Even so faith, if it has no works, is dead, being by itself. **(James 2:15-17)**



What does The United Methodist Church say?

We claim all economic systems to be under the judgment of God, no less than other facets of the created order. As a church, we are called to support the poor and challenge the rich. We urge support for policies that will encourage equitable economic in the Global South and around the world, providing a just opportunity for all. Poverty most often has systemic causes, and therefore we do not hold poor people morally responsible for their economic state. **(Social Principles ¶163E)**

We call on the United States, governments of other industrial nations, private commercial lending institutions, and international financial institutions such as the World Bank and IMF to cancel the debts of the poorest countries to enable them to meet human development goals, beginning with the Sustainable Goals. **(2016 Book of Resolutions, #4053, “Global Debt Crisis: A Call for Jubilee”)**

Today our world is facing crises on an unprecedented scale: war, genocide, poverty hunger, disease, and global warming. Saddened by the state of the world, overwhelmed by the scope of these problems, and anxious about the future, we believe god calls us and equips us to respond. **(2016 Book of Resolutions, #6139, Peace With Justice Sunday and Special Offering)**



HUNGER & POVERTY

What do the facts say?

- After years of progress, the number of undernourished people in 2020 grew by an estimated 161 million globally due to conflict, climate change, and the COVID-19 pandemic. (Action Against Hunger)
- In 2021 an estimated 698 million people, or 9% of the global population, are living in extreme poverty (less than \$1.90 USD/day) and over 20%, an estimated 1.8 billion people live on less than \$3.20 USD/day. (World Bank)
- New research estimates that climate change will drive 68 million to 132 million into poverty by 2030. (World Bank)
- Outside of sub-Saharan Africa, the number of people living in extreme poverty fell from 708 million to 240 million over the past decade. Between 2010 and 2021, the number of people living in extreme poverty in sub-Saharan African countries rose from 417 million to 458 million - an increase in the global share of poverty from 37% in 2010 to 66% in 2021 (Development Initiatives / World Bank)
- Educating girls strengthens economies and reduces inequality. Barriers to access to education include poverty, child marriage, and gender-based violence. Globally, 129 million girls are out of school. In countries affected by conflict, girls are more than twice as likely to be out of school than girls living in non-affected countries. (UNICEF)



What do you say?

Take **ACTION** for justice...

- **Urge** your elected government officials to provide robust and sustained funding for international programs to eradicate poverty and eliminate hunger.
- **Learn** more about the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, a set of goals to end poverty, protect the planet, and ensure prosperity for all as part of a new sustainable development agenda: www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/sustainable-development-goals.
- **Engage** in educational efforts on eliminating world poverty in your local church and community, including the study of God's Renewed Creation: Call to Hope and Action by the Council of Bishops of The United Methodist Church.
- **Connect** with other United Methodists in your local church and Annual Conference to address the root causes of poverty.



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