



What is the role of “CHURCH IN SOCIETY”?

Church & Society is different from Missions

In Missions, we do and give to others, as in blankets we purchase to donate or clothing, food or gifts we may collect and distribute. These are much needed one-time “helps.” Church in Society strives to go beyond the one-time help and find a more permanent solution for the injustices that plague our society.

Church & Society works to **live faithfully, seek justice, and pursue peace** by **educating, advocating and connecting** in an effort to implement the Social Principles and other policy statements of the United Methodist Church. This may involve advocating with policy makers, regardless of political affiliation; organizing grassroots efforts, and educating future leaders.

Church & Society focuses on:

1. **Civil & Human Rights**

God has given us the Great Commandment to love God and love our neighbors as ourselves (Matthew 22:35-40; Mark 12:28-34). The United Methodist Social Creed states: **“We commit ourselves to the rights of men, women, children, youth, young adults, the aging, and people with disability; to improvement of the quality of life; and to the rights and dignity of all persons.”**

2. **Economic Justice**

Scripture and United Methodist tradition affirm a vision of abundant living where all God’s children have access to sufficient resources to thrive. The Bible also warns against greed, calls us to love and care for one another, and compels us to seek justice for the poor. Church & Society is the lead agency on the denominational focus on **Ministry with the Poor**, which seeks to engage in relational ministries to address the root causes of poverty.

3. Environmental Justice

Humankind has struggled to live in relationship with the created world, with each other, and with God. We have often treated creation as simply a resource for humankind. In the “United Methodist Social Principles” it states that “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.”

4. Health and Wellness

Jesus said, “I came that you might have life, and have it abundantly.” (John 10:10b) This is a tall order and leads us to work in the areas of healthcare, mental health and addictions so that everyone can have access to both spiritual and physical health abundantly.

5. Peace with Justice

Scripture calls followers of Christ to love our enemies (Matthew 5:44-45a), forgive others their trespasses (Matthew 6:14-15), to overcome evil with good (Romans 12:21), and to seek peace and pursue it (Psalm 34:14). Peacemakers are blessed and called the children of God (Matthew 5:9). Our social principles state that “the first moral duty of all nations is to work together to resolve by peaceful means every dispute that arises between or among them.”

6. Women and Children

United Methodist Social Principles states “We understand our gender diversity to be a gift from God, intended to add to the rich variety of human experience and perspective; and we guard against attitudes and traditions that would use this good gift to leave members of one sex more vulnerable in relationships than members of another.”

If all of this information seems a bit overwhelming, don’t dismay. The **Church and Society Committee** (C&S) at First UMC Brighton engages in Education, Action and Advocacy.

You are invited to join C&S planning and working with others who share your passion for justice. We meet by zoom the **First Wednesday of each month at 7 pm.**

If you have questions or want connection information, contact Randie Clawson at randie.clawson@gmail.com or 231.649.0930.