

# Living our Principles: A Look at The United Methodist Church's Social Principles (Hybrid)

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**Instructor:** Rev. Neal Christie

**Location:** Trinity UMC, 703 W Patrick Street, Frederick, MD 21701 and Zoom (link will be sent one week before the class)

**Class Schedule:** October 8 – 29; 9:30 a.m. to noon (Four Saturdays)

**Required Reading:** 2017-2020 UM Social Principles available from Cokesbury <https://www.cokesbury.com/Social-Principles-of-The-United-Methodist-Church-2017-2020>

What does it look like to practice our principles both in our personal and public lives?

As faithful United Methodists how can we better listen to one another when we do not always agree on the issues that we face as a church, community and world? And, what can we learn from each other's lived experiences when we hold them alongside inspired Scripture, our Wesleyan tradition, and our capacity to thoughtfully and reasonably discuss urgent issues?

Over the next five weeks participants will engage in meaningful interactive dialogue, group exercises and personal reflection that will expand their knowledge about the UM Social Principles. We will look closely and carefully at the theology and applied values and ethics implicit in the Social Creed and Social Principles. We will discern ways that the Social Principles serve as prayerful resources for our spiritual growth and or responsible civic engagement. We will consider what the UMC actually say about the importance of practicing stewardship of creation, recognizing human dignity and rights, securing a fair and equitable sharing of resources, and peace-building and interdependent global relationships.

Areas we will address include the Natural World, Nurturing Community, Social Community, Economic Community, Political Community, and World Community. We will look at both the 2016 Social Principles and the proposed, Revised Social Principles that will be acted on at the 2024 General Conference.

Throughout the study participants are invited to reflect on concrete ways the Social Principles can amplify and strengthen the mission and ministry of the local church as we make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

## Course materials:

- Justice in Everyday Life available from the Upper Room <https://bookstore.upperroom.org/Products/DR652/justice-in-everyday-life.aspx> or <https://upperroombooks.com/book/justice-in-everyday-life/>
- 2017-2020 UM Social Principles available from Cokesbury <https://www.cokesbury.com/Social-Principles-of-The-United-Methodist-Church-2017-2020>
- 2021 Revised Social Principles available online at <https://www.umcjustice.org/news-and-stories/social-principles-2020-607>
- Living Our Principles video series available on YouTube at <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLKbXvgM3JINZAVaXudhPpo57izayk5mWW>

## Supplementary resources:

- 1908 Social Creed video available at <https://www.umc.org/en/content/methodist-history-1908-social-creed-for-workers>
- Social Principles revision process <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OUsdhm7u49c>
- Additional materials may be shared each week of the course.

**(Registration Deadline: Tomorrow, October 7)**