

Church and Society

Myrtle Felkner, Chair

“What does the Lord require of you but to do justice, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with the Lord” Micah 6:8

This Bible passage gives us a wonderful description of the Work Area of Church and Society! God expects us to live humbly, extending the reach of justice and mercy to all. Our United Methodist denomination, through our Social Principles, strives to do just that.

The Social Principles have been written by the General Conference of the United Methodist Church. They are reviewed and sometimes changed or modified only by the General Conference, in an official meeting.

The task of the local church’s work area of Church and Society is to bring the Social Principles to local church attention and to encourage active support of the Principles, in order that we might be obedient to God’s requirement in Micah 6: 8. Among the Principles we find such issues as the care of the environment, food safety and justice, energy conservation and development, nuclear safety, racism, the sacredness of life , and many other issues that affect our lives, our church and our community.

So, what is it that we as a church and as individuals do to advance our common concern of each of the Social Principles? That will be the theme of each of our Web discussions. Today our theme is The Environment.

God gave us the Word on that very quickly. (Genesis 1: 26-28) Human beings are to be the stewards of the earth!

Here in Iowa, we know about stewardship of the environment. For the most part, our farmers are diligent in land preservation, through good cultivation, fertilization, and land construction practices. There are other efforts for other individuals. Even small children can help to recycle household items. Those plastic grocery sacks, for instance, can be recycled to be fashioned into benches and chairs.

Encourage your children to pick up trash in the park or when it is safe, along the roadways. Pick milkweed pods in the fall, then retrieve the seeds from the pods and plant them in the spring. The monarch butterflies will love you! Turn off the lights when you leave a room; plant shade trees to help cool your house; learn all you can about climate change and our endangered planet.

Each of us needs to learn all we can about environmental sciences as our earth becomes ever more fragile. God has given us the duty to learn and to speak out. We are God's chosen stewards.