

Church and Society Committee
Bethel United Methodist Church
Ministry Description
July 2012

The purpose of the Church and Society Committee is to help our congregation to become educated in social justice issues and engaged in social justice ministries, which may be local or global in nature. Local issues could address appropriate care for the homeless in our city, adequate funding for education in our state, and racial justice for all ethnic groups in our nation. Global issues could include climate change or the pervasiveness of poverty worldwide. The committee will need to be selective based on interests and opportunities and how much we can take on. In order to serve our purpose faithfully and well, however, we will first seek to become better informed ourselves by making use of some of the resources below as well as other sources of information from the library, news services, or other organizations with similar concerns. Our task then will be to offer resources, promote educational events, and participate in partnerships that advocate for policies that will alleviate some of our more serious societal problems and lead to a more just and peaceful world.

Meeting requirements:

The chairperson will call meetings as needed, but meetings will be held at least quarterly. The chairperson will consult with team members to carry out responsibilities of team.

In addition, the Chair also serves on:

Church Council meet on 4th Monday, 6:00 PM bi-monthly beginning in January with called meetings as necessary.

The Outgoing Chairperson will “Shepherd” incoming chair for at least the last quarter of their term as Chairperson. If possible, the Committee on Lay Leadership team will seek to identify a member who is willing to serve as chair on following years and have them train under current chairperson for up to a year before becoming chairperson.

Further information and resources:

The website for the General Board of Church and Society is: www.umc-gbcs.org.

The Social Principles of the United Methodist Church 2009-2012 is essential reading. It is about 30 pages long and is found as part of *The Book of Discipline 2008*. It also is available separately in inexpensive booklet form (with added study/teaching aides) at Cokesbury.

Guidelines For Church and Society, designed for local church committee members, is available in inexpensive booklet form at Cokesbury.

The Book of Resolutions of the United Methodist Church 2008 is a wonderful resource providing "talking points" on a myriad of social issues.

Faith in Action is a weekly newsletter published by the General Board of Church and Society. You can sign up and receive this by e-mail through a link at the website above.