

Dear Ones in the Family of God

“How would John Wesley vote?” Jim Patterson, a reporter of UM News wrote an article about this year’s election with that question (<https://www.umnews.org/en/news/how-would-john-wesley-vote>). He writes, “In these polarizing times, United Methodists across the connection are being called to faithfully participate in civic engagement as a witness for peace and justice.” The United Methodist Church does not tell its members how to vote, but it does enumerate the values members of the denomination could consider as they make their decisions. Our core values are discussed, voted and published by the General Conference of UMC in a booklet called “UMC Social Principles” (<https://www.umcjustice.org/who-we-are/social-principles-as-adopted-by-general-conference-charlotte-2024>).

We need to make our vote from our conscience and faith, holding to the fact our votes are, in fact, sacred, since it has so much to do with our mission to build up <kin-dom of God> in our land.

John Wesley, Methodism’s founder, spoke out against the exploitation of poor people, slavery and other abuses. The Social Principles address issues including urging the government to effectively tackle poverty, climate change, physical and mental health care, addiction, war and promotion of civil and human rights.

It is illegal under IRS rules for the church to endorse specific candidates. Instead, the General Board of Church and Society recommends that United Methodists be “election ambassadors,” taking on tasks to contribute to an election with integrity. Ambassadors are encouraged to help register voters and get them to the polls on Election Day, distribute nonpartisan voter’s guides that detail candidates’ positions on issues, assist voters who wish to use mail-in ballots, serve as poll workers and support local and national initiatives that “seek to protect and expand voting rights, particularly for marginalized communities.

Let’s pray and vote! It has the power to bring changes for the good of the nation and of the world!

I am sharing the following prayer with you that is from UM Creation Justice (<https://umcreationjustice.org/blessing-of-the-ballots-four-prayers/>)

“Prayer at the ballot box”

Creator, Deliverer, Light of lights. As I post/submit my ballot, let there be hope! Bless this ballot and the ballots of my neighbors. Let our choices rise with justice, kindness, and peace. Let us bring joy to this nation. Let our neighborhoods, our families, and the whole community of creation be blessed. In this public space, in this public act, let my ballot and my faithful citizenship be a mark of hope. For I am rooted in the good of this Earth and the love of God. Amen.

“Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, and give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you!” (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18)



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