

# LIVING WAGE

### What does the Bible say?

Woe to him who builds his house by unrighteousness and his upper rooms by injustice; who makes his neighbors work for nothing, and does not give them their wages. **(Jeremiah 22:13)**

Listen! The wages of laborers who moved your fields, which you kept back by fraud, cry out, and the cries of the harvesters have reached the ears of the Lord of hosts. **(James 5:4)**

How does God's love abide in anyone who has the world's goods and sees a brother or sister in need and yet refuses to help? **(1 John 3:17)**

God has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly; God has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty. **(Luke 1:52-53)**



### What does The United Methodist Church say?

Every person has the right to a job at a living wage. **(Social Principles ¶163.C)**

A living wage in a safe and healthy workplace with reasonable hours of work is a universal right not restricted by national borders. **(2016 Book of Resolutions, #4101, "Living Wage Model")**

Since 1908, the Church has advocated for a living wage in every industry (1908 Social Creed) and continues to support the rights of workers to share fully in the prosperity of society. **(2016 Book of Resolutions, #4135, "Rights of Workers")**

The United Methodist Church supports efforts by governments to ensure living wages indexed to inflation. **(2016 Book of Resolutions, #4135, "Rights of Workers")**

In calling for a living wage in every industry, The United Methodist Church recognizes its own responsibility to model fair and faithful compensation. To this end, The United Methodist Church adopts the living wage as a model for justice in the world and in the household of faith. **(2016 Book of Resolutions, #4101, "Living Wage Model")**



**CHURCH & SOCIETY**

The United Methodist Church

Living **FAITH** Seeking **JUSTICE** Pursuing **PEACE**

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### What do the facts say?

- Since 2009, the federal minimum wage in the United States has remained at \$7.25 per hour ranking 11th among industrialized countries<sup>1</sup> and fully \$3.65 per hour less (in inflation adjusted dollars) than the minimum wage in 1968.
- The wealth of the 8 richest people on the planet is now equal to that of the poorest 3.6 billion people combined.<sup>2</sup>
- Over the last 25 years, the annual income of the poorest 10% of the world's population has risen less than \$3 per year.<sup>3</sup>
- The U.S. federal poverty threshold for a household with two adults and one child is \$20,160.<sup>4</sup> An adult working a minimum-wage job 40 hours per week, 52 weeks a year, would earn only \$15,080 (before taxes).



<sup>1</sup> Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), 2,3 Oxfam,

<sup>4</sup> US Department of Health and Human Services (2016)

### What do you say?

Take **ACTION** for justice...

**Get involved!** Join our effort to build an economy that values all work and honors the dignity of all workers. Visit us at [www.umc-gbcs.org/issues/living-wage](http://www.umc-gbcs.org/issues/living-wage).

**Use your purchasing power** to support companies that pay their workers a living wage.

In the U.S., **write your Member of Congress** and ask them to support efforts to increase the minimum wage and make it a living wage. Take action at [www.umcjustice.org](http://www.umcjustice.org).

**Find out** if your local church has adopted a living wage model for its entire staff.



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