

# THE Cornerstone

“On this rock, I will build my church.”  
Matthew 16:18

AN ANNUAL PUBLICATION BROUGHT TO YOU BY:



*The General Board of  
Church and Society*



*The United Methodist Church Foundation serves  
God by encouraging stewardship as a way of life  
and upholding the mission and ministries of The  
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*This list represents persons who gave between September 2007 and October 2008. We regret the inadvertent omission of any donor name.*

## A NOTE FROM

JIM WINKLER



The General Board of Church & Society (GBCS) represents three streams of Methodist social concerns. One is represented by the old Board of Temperance, Prohibition & Public Morals established by the 1912 General Conference to work for alcohol prohibition, the suppression of salacious literature, and against gambling and prize-fighting among other matters.

The 1908 Social Creed represents another stream that highlighted justice for labor. That historic Social Creed called for conciliation and arbitration in industrial disputes, a living wage, an end to child labor, and one day a week to observe the Lord's Sabbath. The 1952 General Conference established a Board of Social & Economic Relations to carry out this ministry.

*(continued below)*

And, the concern for peace is the third stream. The 1924 General Conference, reacting to the horrific slaughter of World War I in which 116,000 U.S. soldiers and some nine million Europeans perished, created the Commission on World Peace. In those days, the arms industry was referred to as the "merchants of death." John Wesley called war "a horrid reproach to the Christian name — yea, to the name of man, to all reason and humanity."

GBCS, which is the latter day embodiment of all those streams and agencies, continues to labor against alcohol and tobacco abuse, and to bring an end to gambling and pornography. Prize fighting may not be high on our agenda these days, but we are concerned for public morals and the greater good of God's Creation.

The rights of working people, including migrants and immigrants, is an important priority, as is the global debt crisis, trade justice, and a living wage. Peace, an end to the arms race, and the dismantling of nuclear weapons are vital to GBCS's ministry.

Each of these streams has merged together into a mighty river for justice. United Methodist personal and social holiness are linked in the General Board of Church & Society. The gains achieved in past decades are here today: the great movements for civil rights and the rights of women, for peace and for environmental justice. We United Methodists have been and will continue to be present at the table and in the struggle for God's justice.

The Social Justice Ministries Endowment Fund is a way for you to ensure that The United Methodist Church will continue

the visionary ministry of GBCS and its predecessors over the past 100 years into future centuries.

The Social Justice Ministries Endowment Fund, a joint endeavor of GBCS and the United Methodist Church Foundation, will ensure a future in which a strong and prophetic United Methodist voice for the poor and oppressed will be heard in the corridors of power. This endowment will enable GBCS to continue to educate, empower and equip new generations of United Methodists to live out their faith journey as witnesses for justice and to serve as the hands of Christ in transforming the world.

**“Speak up  
for those  
who cannot  
speak for  
themselves”**

As stewards of the Church's commitment to social holiness, the Social Justice Ministries Endowment Fund will help to ensure that work to halt social ills like gambling, nuclear weapons proliferation, and environmental degradation is not limited by Church budget constraints. We must see to it that operational cutbacks never threaten to silence the voice in the wilderness calling humanity toward God's righteousness for all of God's creation. It is essential that as new moral and ethical issues arise The United Methodist Church will respond.

What do you want your legacy of discipleship to be? Proverbs 31:8-9 states clearly our goal and what your support of the Social Justice Ministries Endowment Fund will enable: "Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves; defend the rights of the poor and needy."

Thank you for your faithfulness and please consider a generous gift!

- Jim Winkler, General Secretary,  
General Board of Church & Society



## ADDICTIONS

How the GBCS is fighting “predatory enterprises” that profit from alcohol, tobacco, gambling, drugs, pornography and other addictions.

The cause célèbre, battling “demon rum,” that led to the founding of the United Methodist General Board of Church & Society’s predecessor agency in the early 20th century ultimately convinced the denomination that its voice could and should be heard in the halls of power.

The General Board of Church & Society (GBCS) advocates on behalf of The United Methodist Church (UMC) as its international public policy and social justice agency. In that role, GBCS strives to help the kingdom of God come to fruition on earth as it is in heaven.

To accomplish this, the agency goes into those halls of power to lobby for the denomination on peace, justice and other pressing social issues, much as John Wesley himself did in the late 18th century. Today’s issues are mandated by the UMC’s top policy-making body, the General Conference, and stated in the Social Principles.

GBCS programs embrace “Civil and Human Rights,” “Economic and Environmental Justice,” “Population and Children’s Concerns,” “Peace with Justice” and “United Nations and International Affairs.” The marquee cause, “battling demon rum,” remains one of the core efforts of the agency in its work area on “Alcohol, Other Addictions & Health Care.”

Just as in the early 20th century, the denomination through its social justice agency, GBCS, is among the most outspoken advocates in the 21st century fighting “predatory enterprises” that profit from alcohol, tobacco, gambling, drugs, pornography and other addictions. Through its advocacy and education programs, GBCS assists the denomination in deepening its understanding of these critical issues of addictions, misuse of drugs and lack of health care. Probably most important, its resources are used on behalf of those afflicted and their families.

“The United Methodist Church considers each individual a person of inherent worth, created to be in a healthy and right

relationship with God, self and others,” says the Rev. Cynthia Abrams, who directs the work area. “Addictions create brokenness in the soul, body and mind of the individual in interpersonal relationships and in the fabric of community life.”

Addictions comprise much more than alcohol, Abrams emphasizes. These include misuse of drugs such as alcohol, tobacco, controlled and other mind-altering substances, but also gambling and pornography. She says the adverse effects on society of these are exacerbated by the lack of access to adequate health care.

GBCS efforts on addiction go well beyond the lobbying that demands constant vigilance. Abrams leads training events for United Methodists to engage in prevention efforts against alcohol and other products proposed by these predatory enterprises.

Abrams says these physical and social problems are ultimately spiritual challenges, denying their victims God’s promise of an abundant life.

GBCS’s efforts in the area of alcohol are indicative of similar endeavors where tobacco, drugs, gambling and pornography are concerned.

GBCS works cooperatively through coalitions to advocate for a ban on alcohol advertising, to strengthen existing laws and regulations on alcohol, and to advocate for raising alcohol taxes. The agency has met with members of Congress to implore them to enact legislation to curb underage drinking and to toughen labeling laws on alcoholic beverages. Through periodic action alerts, the agency has mobilized United Methodists to lobby legislators to prevent harmful legislation that would benefit predatory enterprises.

Abrams says that GBCS seeks to reduce the incidences of drinking and driving-related deaths. She says the board has successfully opposed legislation and other efforts to reduce the legal blood alcohol level for drivers.

GBCS was among the advocates for a global alcohol strategy at the World Health Assembly in Geneva. “GBCS’s consultative status enabled our denomination to have an impact on members of the assembly,” Abrams says.

In fact, the Rev. Liberato Bautista, head of GBCS’s office at the United Nations, became president of the Council of Non-Governmental Organizations this year, underscoring the important role the agency has played in promoting social justice and peace internationally.

GBCS opposes legislation to reduce U.S. federal excise taxes on liquor. It also has mobilized UMC members to defeat the repeal of the beer tax. "This legislation is proposed every year," Abrams says, "and has not succeeded due to the pressure by GBCS and other organizations that fight drinking, and in particular, underage drinking."

In the tobacco arena, probably one of the most satisfying accomplishments this year was the overwhelming vote in the U.S. House to move regulation of tobacco into the Food & Drug Administration. At press time, the Senate was expected to pass similar legislation by a veto-proof margin as well.

Unlike the early 20th century, though, when much of society's ills were laid at the feet of "demon rum," history has subsequently shown that societal predators don't limit themselves. They constantly probe at society's underbelly with new products, misleading labeling and ever more diverse forms of addiction to ensure their own profitability. Alcohol, tobacco, drugs, both prescription and not, gambling, pornography, the list expands inexorably. For example, a very recent GBCS effort has been to thwart Internet-based gambling.

Throughout the succeeding 48 years, GBCS has carried out the ministry against alcohol, tobacco, gambling, pornography and drugs, as well as the other ministries, pursued by its long-ago predecessor, the Board of Temperance.

The Social Justice Ministries Endowment Fund has been created to ensure that the visionary ministry of GBCS and its predecessors over the past 100 years continues for centuries to come. The fund will ensure a future in which a strong and prophetic United Methodist voice will continue to be raised in the corridors of power.

It is essential that as new moral and ethical issues arise – ones we cannot yet imagine – The United Methodist Church will have the ability to respond.

By contributing to the fund, you will enable GBCS to continue to educate, empower and equip new generations of United Methodists to live out their faith journey as witnesses for justice and to serve as the hands of Christ in transforming the world.

The Rev. Cynthia J. Abrams  
Director for the Alcohol, Other Addictions,  
and Health Care Work Area of  
The United Methodist General Board  
of Church and Society (GBCS).



## Leaving A Charitable Gift Legacy

*This illustration gives an example of how you can leave your legacy to the Church. Consider giving to the endowments of the UMC Foundation and we can tell your story!*

"How is the raking coming along?" Marcie asked her son Matthew.

"Fine Mom. We should be done in the next hour," Matt said.

Matthew and his son, Jake, were cleaning up the leaves in the front yard. Since Matthews's father, John, hurt his back it was a real help to have the younger generation pitch in. Jake had the leaf blower on the driveway.

Marcie said to Matthew, "Why don't you take a break for a moment."

They sat down together in the front porch. Marcie sat in her wooden chair and Matthew sat on the bench.

"Your Father and I have been doing some planning," Marcie said. John and Marcie had met with the gift planner at their favorite charity. They had been looking for a way to plan for a charitable legacy, reduce the size of their estate, translate long-term illiquid assets into income, increase tax deductions and pass some money on to Matthew and his sister Karen.

The gift planner discussed a number of options with John and Marcie. They discussed a variety of proposals including a Charitable Remainder Unitrust, a Charitable Gift Annuity and an outright contribution. John and Marcie plan to take the proposals to their lawyer, financial planner and accountant to work out which plan will be the best fit for their various objectives. Although their gift planner did not offer legal advice, financial planning or accounting, the consultation was free and informative.

When John and Marcie needed help with a yard full of leaves, they were able to call Matthew for help. When they needed assistance with charitable gift planning they called their favorite charity. You can call, too, for information on how to plan for a charitable legacy.

We are here to help you reach your future goals. Contact us at 615-369-2383 or by email: [sclopp@umcfoundation.org](mailto:sclopp@umcfoundation.org).



## GBCS helps anchor UMC

The General Board of Church & Society (GBCS) has helped anchor The United Methodist Church in the Wesleyan balance between piety and social action.

That assessment comes from the Rev. Schulyer Rhodes, pastor of Temple United Methodist Church in San Francisco. "People have been showered with a sense of empowerment by this Church agency," says Rhodes, who adds that he speaks from personal experience.

Rhodes points to two programs in which GBCS has changed people's lives during his more than 20 years as a pastor. One is the denomination's Peace with Justice ministry and the other is its seminar program.

"Lives were touched" by the seminar program, according to Rhodes. "I love to watch the faces of young people as they receive information that connects their faith with politics," he says. "It's like a light was going on somewhere."

Rhodes remembers a young person attending a seminar on Capitol Hill who got to talk to his member of Congress. After learning that the Congressman was a United Methodist, the boy proceeded to quote from the Social Principles about the denomination's stand on war. The boy

asked how the Congressman could be a United Methodist and vote the way he does. "The silence was deafening," Rhodes recalls.

GBCS has also touched the local congregation through its Peace with Justice ministry, which is a Special Sunday of the denomination. He declares that peoples' lives have been changed through that ministry. "There is no question about it," he says. "I was deeply involved with that from the very beginning, so I know something about it."

When GBCS produced a training manual for peace with justice coordinators, Rhodes says people responded and developed programs at the annual conference level. "Using the portion of the [Special Sunday] offering that stays in the annual conference, new ministries bloomed like flowers in the desert after a rain," he says.

Rhodes says he knows the work continues. "I see our own California-Nevada Peace with Justice coordinator Adrienne Fong working tirelessly to move the Church further and deeper into its commitment to the gospel of peace and justice," he says. "I see our own Conference Board of Church & Society moving and caring, and I see my own congregation engaging."

"We all do it together," Rhodes says. "It truly is the work of the connection." Rhodes says he is aware that budget constraints make GBCS staffing evermore restricted. As a result, he says that outreach to local churches is, "even with the best of resources and staffing," a difficult proposition.

"But keep it up," Rhodes encourages. "The board has done a good job of keeping the energy, power and resources flowing into the local churches."

It is recognition that the voice of The United Methodist Church on those issues crucial for transforming the world in the name of Jesus Christ may be muted by budget constraints that led to founding the Social Justice Ministries Endowment Fund. It is intended to ensure that the visionary ministry and strong, prophetic United Methodist voice of GBCS and its predecessors over the past 100 years continues for centuries to come.

By contributing to the Endowment Fund, you will enable the agency to continue to educate, empower and equip new generations of United Methodists to live out their faith journey as witnesses for justice.

**"It is truly  
the work of  
connection"**



## The Social Justice Ministries Endowment Fund

Your gift to the Social Justice Ministries Endowment Fund can ensure the prophetic voice of The United Methodist Church is heard into the future and provide you tax and retirement benefits at the same time. Two recent donations to the United Methodist Foundation underscore the fact that your options in giving go well beyond one-time donations paid by check or credit card. Recently, the fund received major gifts in two forms: appreciated stock and a charitable gift annuity.

Each of these gifts benefitted the Social Justice Endowment Fund and the donor, according to the Foundation, which established the fund in cooperation with the General Board of Church & Society.

A gift of stock offers donors and charities significant benefits. For example, if you sell stock and then write a check to a charity, you must pay capital gains tax on the stock. Only the amount remaining after paying the capital gains tax will be available for a gift to charity.

Alternatively, if you transfer stock directly to a charity and permit the charity to sell the stock, you avoid the capital gains tax. You make a larger charitable gift and receive a charitable deduction for the full fair-market value of the stock.

**Gift  
of  
Stock**

The Foundation shares an example of how this works: Sharon inherited stock from her grandmother. Sharon held the stock for several years before deciding to sell some this year. The stock had gone up in value, and her accountant informed Sharon that she would have a capital gain of nearly \$120,000 from the sale.

Sharon had always intended to make a charitable gift. The CPA reminded her that if she were to make a gift of the stock before year end, she would receive a charitable deduction on those shares. This deduction, by the way, would help offset the capital gain tax on the stock she sold earlier that year.

While you can take steps to secure a high annuity payment for the rest of your life, you can also achieve philanthropic goals. It is simple. You sign a Charitable Gift Annuity Agreement with the Foundation in exchange for your contribution, such as check, stocks or bonds. Once the annuity is established, income payments are made to you for life.

With the benefits of high payment rates, reduced taxes and an ultimate gift to charity, it is easy to see why so many consider the Gift Annuity to be the ultimate win-win proposition.

**Charitable  
Gift  
Annuity**

The Foundation has an example of how the gift annuity works: Jason and Brandy McQueen were preparing for retirement. Their stock portfolio had grown in value. The McQueens were looking for a way to sell their highly appreciated stock, generate income for the future and avoid paying high capital gains tax.

Through an e-mail from the Foundation, the McQueens learned they could transfer their stock to a charitable remainder trust and avoid capital gains tax. The trust would sell the stock tax free and provide the McQueens income for retirement.

The McQueens were thrilled with the added benefit of a charitable deduction and substantial tax savings simultaneously.

Thanks to the support of donors that recognize the importance of empowering the United Methodist voice on social justice into the future, the Social Justice Endowment Fund continues to grow. The Foundation is ready to assist you with options for making gifts that can benefit you and the denomination.

## Why not consider leaving the UMC Foundation in your will? *Here is how.*

*If you are interested in leaving a charitable gift to The UMC Foundation through your will please consider making arrangements with your estate planner. Following is an illustration of what steps you can take to leave your legacy through your estate.*

Margaret was in the last year of her battle with a long term illness. Coming to grips with this reality, she frequently spoke at luncheons about how she was dealing with this final phase of her life. In one of her speeches she noted a profound reality in our culture: "We are a death-denying society." Because of this fact we do not plan for death and cause confusion and heartache for those we leave behind. Saying goodbye to those we love is seldom easy. We need to be prepared to the best of our ability for the effect death will have on those we love and leave behind.

Another recent widow, Darlene, told

the story of her late husband John's preparation in view of his pending death. "He left no stone unturned in leaving me well-informed and well-prepared for the financial impact of his passing. While the emotional and spiritual impact of his departure was enormous, the financial ramifications were minimal." He had prepared all of the necessary information as follows:

- The location of his will and family trust with a brief explanation of its contents
- The name of their attorney, accountant and financial adviser
- Banking information including the name of their personal banker, account numbers, location of their bank statements, and cancelled checks
- Insurance policies including life, homeowners, auto and medical

- Investments, account numbers, brokers' names and phone numbers
- Important documents including the deed to their home and real estate investments, automobile titles, birth certificates, income tax information, keys, military records and passports
- Social security information
- Funeral/memorial service instructions

All of this information constituted John's version of his own "Memo to My Loved Ones Left Behind." Saying goodbye was not easy, but how grateful she was for his careful preparation.

If you are considering leaving one of our endowment funds in your will, we would be pleased to send you a free wills preparation guide. Please contact us at 615-369-2383 or by email: [sclapp@umcfoundation.org](mailto:sclapp@umcfoundation.org).

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