



## Social Advocacy and Our Church

*... and what does the Lord require of you: but to do justice, and to love kindness,  
and to walk humbly with your God" (Micah 6:8)*

Dear Congregation,

What does it mean to be faithful to our values in today's world? What role should our church play in advocating for policies that support what we believe are the teachings of Jesus?

At a luncheon on December 7th, we invite you to a full church discussion of these issues. We want you to bring your thoughts, concerns, fears, and convictions. For those of you who are unable to attend in person, we will arrange a Zoom discussion.

Our Mission and Social Justice Committee and others in our church work to help those in need in our community. With today's political environment, a new group has formed in our church (under the direction of MSJ) to advocate for social policies that we believe are in keeping with our faith. (See "Roadmap to Resistance: What We Stand For" on our website.)

The social policies so far articulated are a modern interpretation of Matthew 25:

- **Feeding the hungry**—Ensuring that all people have access to adequate, nourishing, and safe food. Mitigating climate change (important to feeding people in the future).

- **Giving drink to the thirsty**—Providing clean uncontaminated water to all. Conserving water so there will be enough for all. Also adding to this the need for clean air for all.
- **Welcoming the stranger**—Supporting fair and compassionate immigration policies and caring for the physical and psychological needs of immigrants and refugees.
- **Clothing the naked**—Using the interpretation of “naked” as exposed, not only providing clothing for those in need but also providing adequate and safe housing.
- **Taking care of the sick**—Supporting policies that provide adequate health care for everyone, that use medical prevention and treatment practices based on the best knowledge we have today, and that eliminate racial, social, and socioeconomic barriers.
- **Visiting [caring for] the imprisoned**—Supporting just and unbiased laws, their proper execution, and legal assistance for the accused. Providing clean and safe living areas for those who are detained. Seeking the liberation of those who are not socially, economically, and/or psychologically free due to oppressive systems.

AND

- At this time in our nation’s history the movement toward autocracy is threatening the policies and programs that would support what we believe Jesus would have us do. Therefore, we believe we need to be **resisting the dismantling of democracy** and further supporting and advocating for policies that recognize the human dignity of all persons, who we know are beloved children of God.

Our Session and MSJ want to hear your thoughts on social justice advocacy and our church. Please ponder the following questions and enter into the discussion on December 7th:

1. What do you feel God calls us to do in this time?
2. What is your reaction to the modern interpretation of Matthew 25? Do you see things that should be added or removed?
3. What are your convictions and concerns about being “visible” and “public” about our support of policies that may be in conflict with the current administration?

We hope you can join us in this important discussion.

Yours in Christ,  
The Session