

THE BOARD OF CHURCH AND SOCIETY

One of the scripture verses displayed inside the entrance of The United Methodist Church Building on Capitol Hill comes from the book of the prophet Micah: "What does the Lord require of you but to do justice, to love kindness and walk humbly with your God" (6:8). This verse provides guidance for the ministries of your Board of Church and Society as we seek to serve in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. We recognize the need for those of us who are disciples of Jesus to speak prophetically on issues of church and society in our world today. While we cannot address every pertinent issue, we can speak forth the mind of God on those issues He impresses upon us.

We continue to be concerned with the predatory lending industry. While claiming to serve the needs of those persons with special economic conditions, we believe this industry exasperates the financial realities of those who are its customers. The interest rates charged by predatory lenders are unreasonably high and disastrous for those who take their loans. Therefore, we ask that you continue to follow through with the directives of the resolution adopted at our Annual Conference last year by contacting your representatives to let your voice be heard.

Our board has decided to spend this year focusing on the educational needs of the children of South Carolina. We are currently involved in some initiatives that we hope to present at Annual Conference. We are encouraged by all the ways that United Methodists in South Carolina are helping to ensure that our children receive not just a minimally adequate, but a quality education. Our board would appreciate your proposals of models for ministry local congregations can undertake with local schools. Together, we can make a difference in the lives of our children. Additionally, by our willingness to serve others without asking anything in return we advance the cause of Christ by enhancing opportunities to make disciples of Jesus Christ. Speaking out on social justice issues and evangelizing the lost are both necessary components of our ministry as disciples of Jesus Christ. When we actively work to alleviate the suffering in our world, our message of salvation through Jesus Christ, the Son of God, is more aptly received by those who need to hear the Gospel.

I appreciate the opportunity you have given me to serve as the chair of this board for the last six years. I have done my best to guide this board to be prophetic without using pejorative language or being partisan or unnecessarily confrontational.

May God be glorified in all we do.

Scott H. Wachter, Chairperson