

Martin Luther King Jr. Peace and Justice Committee  
Report to Church Council – February 21, 2017

Our Committee will sponsor Adult Classes on The Social Principles of the United Methodist Church on the three Sundays following Easter: April 23, 27, and May 7 at both the 9:00 am and 10:30 am hours, in the Fireside Room. Proposed teachers are Lyn Arscott, Nancy Benvenuto, Debra Carter, Dave Coombs, Lea Hickman, Joyce Kayser, Tom Kring, and Bill Rust. OTHERS who are interested are DEFINITELY WELCOMED! There will be a meeting of the Committee and these and any other teachers WEDNESDAY, Feb. 22, 10:30am to noon here in the Fireside Room. All interested, please come.

**Consideration Re: Alcohol Use at SRVUMC:**

Here is an example of one of the issues raised by The Social Principles!

The Social Principles 2013-2016, Sec. III (L) Alcohol and Other Drugs, states: "We affirm our long-standing support of abstinence from alcohol as a faithful witness to God's liberating and redeeming love for persons....Since the use of illegal drugs, as well as illegal and problematic use of alcohol, is a major factor in crime, disease, death, and family dysfunction, we support educational programs as well as other prevention strategies encouraging abstinence from illegal drug use and, with regard to those who choose to consume alcoholic beverages, judicious use with deliberate and intentional restraint, with Scripture as a guide."

**Some Background:**

As part of the introduction to The Social Principles 2013-2016 edition, it states, "From the beginning the United Methodist Church understood the gospel of Jesus Christ to be both social and personal." "They [Social Principles] are a prayerful and thoughtful effort on the part of the General Conference [Worldwide] of the United Methodist Church, meeting every four years, to speak to the human issues in the contemporary world from a sound biblical and theological foundation." Since 1972, they are combined with the statement of Basic Beliefs Regarding Social Issues and Moral Standards of the Evangelical United Brethren Church which joined with the Methodist Church in 1968 to become The United Methodist Church. "Only the General Conference may officially speak for The United Methodist Church." "No one will come around with a copy of the...Social Principles and demand that you...sign your name to the document...if you wish to remain within the United Methodist Church"!!! They "shall be considered an essential resource for guiding each member of the Church in being a servant of Christian mission."

**Our Purpose for the Classes:**

“It may be helpful to look at each Social Principle as an expression of a public position. While we may not all agree with each of these positions they are a starting point for further dialogue.” AND DIALOGUE IS WHAT WE AIM TO FACILITATE. “The Social Principles are principled, but not ideological because the church is not aligned with political parties. Neither does the church adopt partisan positions.” As the MLK Peace and Justice Committee of SRVUMC we believe in and intend to encourage the thoughtful alignment of our faith with our voices and actions in the society we live in but, as United Methodist Christians, may be apart from.

**“May 'they' [and we!] know we are Christians by our LOVE”!**

Prayerfully submitted by Laura Sanchez,  
for Members of MLK Peace and Justice Committee