

Our Social Principles on ...

Political Responsibility

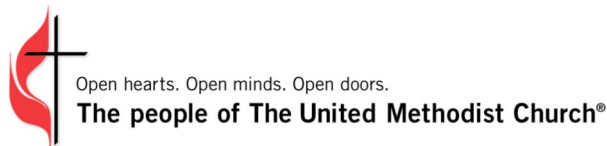
The strength of a political system depends upon the full and willing participation of its citizens.

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The church should continually exert a strong ethical influence upon the state,

- **supporting** policies and programs deemed to be just and
- **opposing** policies and programs that are unjust.

—*United Methodist 2012 Book of Discipline*
V. The Political Community ¶164
B) “Political Responsibility”



Our Social Principles on ...

Church & State

The United Methodist Church has for many years supported the separation of church and state.

In some parts of the world this separation has guaranteed the diversity of religious expressions and the freedom to worship God according to each person’s conscience.

Separation of church and state means no organic union of the two, but it does permit interaction.

The state should not use its

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authority to promote particular religious beliefs (including atheism), nor should it require prayer or worship in the public schools, but it should leave students free to practice their own religious convictions.

We believe that the state should not attempt to control the church, nor should the church seek to dominate the state.

The rightful and vital separation of church and state, which has served the cause of religious liberty, should not be misconstrued as the abolition of all religious expression from public life.

—*United Methodist 2012 Book of Discipline*
V. The Political Community ¶164
C) “Church & State Relations”

