

## Tennessee 2025 Legislative Wrap-Up: A United Methodist Perspective

### Resources

The [United Methodist Church's Social Principles](#) rest on a rich theological foundation that weaves together Scripture, tradition, reason, and experience—the four components of the "Wesleyan Quadrilateral." These principles aren't simply policy statements or ethical guidelines but deeply theological expressions of how Methodists understand God's work in the world.

*The United Methodist Church believes God's love for the world is an active and engaged love, a love seeking justice and liberty. We cannot just be observers. So we care enough about people's lives to risk interpreting God's love, to take a stand, to call each of us into a response, no matter how controversial or complex. The church helps us think and act out of a faith perspective, not just respond to all the other 'mind-makers-up' that exist in our society."*

The Social Principles are not church law. Instead, they represent the prayerful and earnest efforts of the General Conference to speak to issues in the contemporary world from a sound biblical and theological foundation that is in keeping with the best of our United Methodist traditions. The Social Principles are thus a call to faithfulness and to social engagement and intended to be instructive and persuasive in the best of the prophetic spirit. Moreover, they challenge all members of The United Methodist Church to engage in deliberative reflection and encourage intentional dialogue between faith and practice. (See ¶ 509.)

The Social Principles are also a living document. In recognition of the important changes that have taken place in The United Methodist Church over the past 50 years, including significant developments in Africa, Europe and the Philippines, the 2012 General Conference mandated that the Social Principles be revised to increase their theological grounding, succinctness and global relevance.

[Find Your Legislator](#)

[Bill Tracker](#)

[Public Acts Search](#)

1- Go to the Secretary of State website here:

<https://tnsos.org/acts/PublicActs.114.php?showall><<https://tnsos.org/acts/PublicActs.114.php?showall>>

2- Under "Look for" put in the 4-digit number of the bill (Don't put in either "HB" or "SB," but if you can't find it under the Senate number, try the House number)

3- Next to this, under "Select Field," click "Bill Number" in the drop-down menu and hit "Search"

4- Click on the "Chapter Number" to the left that fits the bill the "abstract" description (there could be more than one), and the full text of the law pops up.

## [How A Bill Becomes A Law](#)

**Additional Organizations to Follow:** ACLU, TIRRC, Harpeth Conservancy, TNEP, The Remix, TNJFON (link to each organization)

### **15 WAYS TO BE ACTIVE AGAINST HARMFUL LEGISLATION**

#### **Direct Political Action**

1. Contact elected representatives through phone calls, emails, and letters expressing your faith-based concerns about specific bills
2. Attend (or organize!) town halls and public forums to ask questions and share your perspective during comment periods
3. Vote in all elections - local, state, and federal - and encourage fellow congregants to participate in the democratic process
4. Support candidates who align with your **values** through volunteering, donations, or grassroots organizing

#### **Community Organizing**

5. Partner with interfaith coalitions to present a united religious voice on issues of mutual concern (Like NOAH)
6. Organize letter-writing campaigns within your faith community to amplify your collective voice
7. Host educational forums in your congregation to inform members about pending legislation and its potential impacts
8. Coordinate with other houses of worship to plan joint advocacy efforts and share resources

#### **Public Witness**

9. Participate in peaceful protests, vigils, or prayer gatherings that demonstrate religious opposition to harmful policies
10. Testify at legislative hearings, drawing on religious teachings and moral principles to oppose harmful bills
11. Write opinion pieces for local newspapers connecting your faith tradition's values to current policy debates
12. Use social media platforms to share educational content and mobilize your faith community around specific issues

#### **Long-term Engagement**

13. Build relationships with legislators and their staff through regular meetings and ongoing dialogue
14. Engage in voter registration drives within your community, particularly focusing on underrepresented populations
15. Support or volunteer with faith-based advocacy organizations that work on issues important to your community