

United Methodists at Work: Changing lives through leadership

When Scott Jones became a bishop, he saw an opportunity to help United Methodists in Kansas connect their faith with the issues they face in everyday life. His efforts to spark dialog and participation in the political process have included public education, health care and the death penalty.



Bishop Scott Jones, left, is interviewed by members of the media at the Bishops' Conference on Public Education and the Common Good.

“I am an activist,” Jones said. “We Christians need to make our voice heard on issues that affect the poor, children, immigrants, health care and other issues like gambling with which our leaders struggle.”

Jones hopes every local church pastor will encourage members to vote out of Christian duty, host candidate forums and invite all candidates for office to participate, and speak about issues where the church has a clear stance.

Methodism’s founder, John Wesley, said, “You cannot be holy except as you are engaged in making the world a better place. You do not become holy by keeping yourself pure and clean from the world but by plunging into ministry on behalf of the world's hurting ones.”



United Methodists live their faith every day. The Book of Discipline, the Book of Resolutions and the United Methodist Church’s Social Principles offer guidance on the church’s position on many issues including the death penalty, immigration, public education and health care.

With nearly 8 million members in the United States, United Methodists have the potential to greatly affect public policy. To facilitate and encourage United Methodists to be active in the political process, the General Board of Church and Society monitors issues of concern to the church.

“In my conversations with political leaders, our contributions have frequently been welcomed,” Bishop Jones said. “Several have wished we spoke more often, more clearly and more forcefully than we have been doing.”

Learn more about the issues of greatest concern to the United Methodist Church at:

Church and Society site: www.umc-gbcs.org

UMPower site: www.UMPower.org

Legislative Updates: www.kswestumc.org/newsletter_find.asp
(choose Legislative Update)