

Our Social Principles on ...

Death Penalty

We believe the death penalty denies the power of Christ to redeem, restore and transform all human beings.

The United Methodist Church is deeply concerned about crime throughout the world and the value of any life taken by a murder or homicide.

We oppose the death penalty and urge its elimination from all criminal codes.

We believe all human life is sacred and created by God and therefore, we must see all human life as significant and valuable.

When governments implement the death penalty (capital punishment), then the life of the convicted person is devalued and all possibility of change in that person's life ends.

We believe in the resurrection of Jesus Christ and that the possibility of reconciliation with Christ comes through repentance.

This gift of reconciliation is offered to all individuals without exception and gives all life new dignity and sacredness.

For this reason, we oppose the death penalty (capital punishment) and urge its elimination from all criminal codes.

—¶164G. *The Death Penalty*
(2012 Book of Discipline)



Open hearts. Open minds. Open doors.

The people of The United Methodist Church®

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