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Cal-Nev Climate Justice Ministries - Non-Partisan Election Resources

"Climate justice through faith-inspired connection, education, advocacy, and action"



Election Special Issue

Election Day on November 5th is drawing near. Those of us who are eligible to vote in US elections have the opportunity now to express our faithful values through voting.

- How can our votes this year protect our sacred earth and create a better world for current and future generations?
- How can Christians and Churches engage in the electoral process faithfully and effectively?
- What are congregations allowed to do or not do?
- How can we get the vote out and help people register to vote and find out more about their ballot?
- How can our [newly revised United Methodist Social Principles](#) inform our moral decisions during this US election season?

- What are the Presidential Candidates stances on creation justice?
- What are the Democrat and Republican parties saying about climate change?
- What worship, sermon and book study resources are there?

Below you will find articles that address these questions and links to places with more information.

Together, let us support democracy and get out the vote.

Blessings,

Rev. Joan Pell

Chair, California-Nevada Climate Justice Ministries Task Force

How to Check Your Voter Registration

Voter rolls are regularly purged or marked inactive. Check you are registered correctly or update your registration ahead of time.

You can use these government sites directly to check your registration or to register or update your information and know your voting rights.

USA Gov

Vote.gov

Alternatively, you can use this one-stop-shop information for voters.

FaithVotes is a non-partisan campaign of Interfaith Power and Light (IPL) who have partnered with BallotReady to enable people to get ready to vote and to be informed about their entire ballot.

Click on the box to see:



- If you are registered to vote at your current address
- Who and what is on your ballot
- When and where you can vote in-person
- How to get a mail-in ballot if you want one

Faith Votes

Casting Our Votes with Creation Justice in Mind including Creation Justices Stances of the Presidential Candidates

The upcoming election with candidates running at all levels, from President to City Council Member, is an opportunity to be mindful of how our voting can impact care for God's good creation. In this article you will find a **description of key provisions related to creation justice just passed at the UMC 2024 General Conference**. You will then find **a table that compares the creation justice stances on key issues of the two presidential candidates** with documentation at the end of the article. After the table, there are **words of encouragement** and **practical tips on making sure that you will be able to cast your vote**. We hope that you find this helpful.

Written by: Rev. Becca Richards, Rev. Keith Sexton, and Rev. Paul Slentz
State and Federal Policy Advocacy Team - UM Creation Justice Movement

Casting Our Votes with Creation Justice in Mind

Marching to the Polls

As a congregation, you could march to the polling station together, or take a group to dance and sing to the mailbox. And of course, you can pray.

Blessing of the Ballots

Rev. Richenda Fairhurst from the UM Creation Justice Movement has written these three prayers and a voting litany.

1. Getting Started - Prayer of Invocation:

Divine One, God of All and Bringer of Life, your Earth is a wonder of crystal water, pine forests, and wind-swept plains. In a moment I will mark my ballot. Grant me a heart of faith and discernment as I participate in this public process of voting. Let the light rise within me. Amen.

2. Delivering your Ballot - Prayer at the Ballot Box:

Creator, Deliverer, Light of lights. As I post/submit my ballot, let there be hope! Bless this ballot and the ballots of my neighbors. Let our choices rise with justice, kindness, and peace. Let us bring joy to this nation. Let our neighborhoods, our families, and the whole community of creation be blessed. In this public space, in this public act, let my ballot and my faithful citizenship be a mark of hope. For I am rooted in the good of this Earth and the love of God. Amen.

3. Prayer in your faith community - Prayer for concluding a shared conversation:

Creator, Deliverer, Light of lights. Let there be hope! Let the outcome of this election bring hope to many. Let our choices rise with justice, kindness, and peace. Let our discernment be a blessing for our neighbors. Let us bring joy to this nation. Let our neighborhoods, our families, and the whole community of creation be blessed. In this public space, with this public act, let our ballots and our faithful citizenship be a mark of hope. For we are rooted in the good of this Earth and the love of God. Amen.

4. A Voting Litany For the Faithful

Click on the link below for the voting litany and a copy of the three prayers reprinted above.

Blessing of the Ballots

Sacred Votes: A Guide to Election Participation, Justice and Social Transformation



Compiled by The United Methodist Church General Board of Church and Society, The Baltimore-Washington Annual Conference, and Strengthening the Black Church for the 21st Century, is a comprehensive voter toolkit that is designed to equip voters with the tools and knowledge necessary to engage in the electoral process faithfully and effectively.

There's some great ideas in here about what individuals and churches can do. It also includes a link to sign the **'Our Votes Matter' pledge** and it has some **sermon resources** and **book study ideas**.

Voter Toolkit

Remaining Non-Partisan

Churches must remain non-partisan. As well as the one-stop shop for voters mentioned above, FaithVotes has a resource section that includes a *Guide to Rules and Regulations on Political Activity by Religious Organizations*. You will also find some worship and preaching resources here and information on how to run a Voter Information Booth.

FaithVotes Resources

FaithVotes Preaching

Movement Cafés - Preparing for the Election

The United Methodist Creation Justice Movement runs monthly *Movement Cafés* (webinars/discussion) on the 2nd Wednesday of the month at 2 pm PT. In September there was also a bonus café.

The September cafes were to help churches prepare for the election and both were recorded.

The bonus café earlier in September, led by the Western Jurisdiction group was entitled *Faith Votes and the Environment*. Watch it here:

Faith Votes and the Environment Café Recording

The September café was about *Politics, Methodists and Environmental Holiness*.

The café included Rev Keith Sexon, advocate for Creation Justice Advocacy in the North Carolina Annual Conference and a member of the UM Creation Justice Movement Advocacy Team, speaking about the research that they had done on Democrat and Republican quotes and policy statements relating to the climate. His presentation begins at about 18 minutes into the recording.

Rev. Richenda Fairhurst also spoke about the Revised Energy Policy Statement that passed at General Conference and the positions that we support as United Methodists. Her presentation begins about 35 minutes into the recording.

Politics, Methodists, and Environmental Holiness Café Recording

Slides on Democrat and Republican Climate Quotes

Slides on General Conference 2024 Energy Statement

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