

A SOCIAL CREED FOR THE 21st CENTURY



Remembering the prophetic Social Creed of the Churches of 1908, we respond to God's call to transform our social order toward justice and peace, and address the 21st century's great challenges of globalization and sustainability. Hearing also concerns of churches and peoples around our globe, we pledge ourselves to specific practices of personal and social responsibility that reflect our Triune God's gracious will for all creation. We rejoice in the Biblical vision where all "shall long enjoy the work of their hands" and "not labor in vain or bear children for calamity" (Isa.65: 22-23).

In faith, we celebrate the full humanity of each woman, man, and child, all created in God's image, by working for:

- Employment for all, at a family-sustaining living wage.
- Protection of workers from dangerous occupational conditions, injuries, and death.
- Full civil, political and economic rights for all people, protected by new governance structures.
- Abolition of forced labor, human trafficking, and the exploitation of children.
- The rights of workers to organize, and to share in workplace decisions and productivity gains.
- Adequate time and resources to care for families without fear of work penalties.
- High quality public education for all, free from racial, gender, or economic disparity.
- A fair, de-racialized criminal justice system, based on restorative justice and rehabilitation.

In the love taught by Jesus, despite the world's sufferings and evils, we honor the deep connections within our human family and seek to awaken a new spirit of cooperation by working for:

- Abatement of poverty and enactment of policies benefiting the most vulnerable.
- Universal healthcare.
- Safe, affordable housing, served by adequate public transportation.
- An effective program of social security during sickness, disability and old age.
- Tax and budget policies that reduce disparities between rich and poor, strengthen democracy, and provide greater opportunity for everyone within the common good.
- Just immigration policies that protect family unity, safeguard workers' rights, require employer accountability, and foster international cooperation.
- Public service as a high vocation, with integrity in voting, campaign finance and lobbying.

In hope, sustained by the Holy Spirit, we pledge to keep and heal the environment, recognizing our responsibility for its health and our interdependence with Creation and one another, by working for:

- Adoption of simpler lifestyles, resisting the powerful institutions that shape our choices
- Access for all to healthy food, clean water and air, with wise and equitable land stewardship.
- Sustainable use of all resources and promotion of alternative energy sources.
- Equitable global trade that protects local economies, initiatives, cultures and livelihoods.
- Peacemaking through international cooperation and rule of law, mutual security rather than unilateral force, nuclear disarmament and a strengthened United Nations.
- Redirection of military spending to more peaceful and productive uses.
- Relationships of mutuality among the world's churches and faith communities.

With all those who labor and are heavy-laden, we commit ourselves to a culture of peace and freedom that embraces non-violent initiatives, human dignity and greater equality, with a deeper spirituality of inward growth and outward action. By these means, we witness to our hope in the God who makes all things new, whom we know in Jesus Christ.