

Mission u 2018 *What About Our Money?*

Seven Steps You Can Take...

What About Our Money? A Faith Response explores what the Bible has to say about money; the systems that shape our lives; the way we spend, consume and give; and how we connect our faith to money and the economy. We are called to take action—from our personal choices to the way we engage in ministry, mission and advocacy—for a more just economy. United Methodist Women has a priority focus on economic inequality, to address the deep divide between the very wealthy and the majority. We can learn about the economic divide and address policies that keep it in place. We can also get involved in the United Methodist Women *Living Wage for All* Campaign.

Seven is the day and year of sabbath, seven times seven is the Jubilee! Here are seven steps you can take now and into the future:

1. **Educate:** Bring the Mission u studies on money for adults, youth and children back to your local church. Invite your pastor to preach on the issue and ask that Sunday school classes use the studies as curriculum, so the whole congregation can engage in the issue. Then take action together in your community and state. The studies and resources can be found at unitedmethodistwomen.org/mission-studies.
2. **Living Wage for All Campaign:** Go to the United Methodist Women Living Wage Map to find out about legislative issues and groups that are working for living wages in your state. Reach out to see how your United Methodist Women unit can get involved (unitedmethodistwomen.org/living-wage-map).
3. **Build Toward a Living Wage for Farmworkers:** Join United Methodist Women and the National Farm Worker Ministry in calling on Wendy's Corporation to sign a Fair Food Agreement with the Coalition of Immokalee Workers. The agreement would build toward a living wage and support steps to end violence against women in the fields by creating independent monitoring mechanisms. Sign a postcard to Wendy's leadership and distribute cards in your unit. United Methodist Women National Office will attempt to deliver the cards in person in fall 2018. You can get additional postcards by contacting Mission Resources Center at 800-305-9857 (use order number M5291) while supplies last. The postcard is also downloadable from the United Methodist Women website.



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4. **Practice Deep Solidarity:** What does it mean to work with groups facing precarious economic situations from a place of *mutuality* rather than charity? We have a great deal in common in terms of insecure economic futures. We can recognize poor people as leaders, not victims, in our ministries and in community campaigns (see “This Changes Everything” in May 2018 issue of **response** magazine). Find out if there is a Poor People’s Campaign group in your state. The campaign brings together faith communities and poor people’s organizations in state-based advocacy to address poverty—including living wages, militarism, racism and climate justice (poorpeoplescampaign.org).
5. **Stop Shopping:** Choose one item or more that you will not purchase this year, such as clothing. See what it’s like to shift from a focus on recreational shopping to only what you need. Consider forms of barter and exchange of goods and services; sharing tools; shared repair exchanges that save money, reduce purchases, reuse items and build community. Write checks to your church, United Methodist Women, and your favorite organizations with the money you save. Consider how the economy creates product “needs.” See how we as consumers can challenge this drive to produce more and more. Read Ann Patchett’s thoughts on this: nytimes.com/2017/12/15/opinion/sunday/shopping-consumerism.html.
6. **Invest:** Contact the New Economy Coalition Network to support local communities addressing economic and ecological crises by building local alternatives (neweconomy.net). Explore Transition Towns, which help communities transition to a new sustainable economy (transitionus.org). Support local cooperatives that are modeling worker-owned enterprises that pay living wages. Look into local efforts such as Cooperation Jackson (cooperationjackson.org; Jackson, Mississippi). Contact Green America to find a community bank (greenamerica.org). Look into Faith & Money Network for additional resources (faithandmoneynetwork.org).
7. **Connect with our Legacy:** Connect Chapter 5 on *Giving* to the Legacy Fund Endowment Campaign and the 1869 Society by donating or making a planned gift to the campaign and encouraging others to join you. Share the author’s writings on how giving through United Methodist Women “supports and reinforces service and advocacy.” For more information, contact the United Methodist Women’s Development Department or visit unitedmethodistwomen.org/150/home.

Keep in Touch: For ongoing information and action opportunities:

- Sign up for e-mail updates by contacting Livingwage@unitedmethodistwomen.org
- Follow the United Methodist Women Economic Inequality Initiative Facebook page facebook.com/UMWEconomicInequality
- Contact United Methodist Women Economic Inequality staff, Carol Barton: cbarton@unitedmethodistwomen.org