

Litany for God's Economy of Graceⁱ

All: Creator God,

Left: You are the God of Manna—enough for all, not over-abundance for a few.

Right: We reaffirm the United Methodist Social Principles, that “Every person has the right to a job at a living wage.”ⁱⁱ

Left: You are the God of Jubilee! Every 50 years the people of God were instructed to practice a Jubilee, where land was to be returned to its original owners, debts canceled, slaves and prisoners freed. This was a giant “reset” button to assure that no one accumulated too much wealth at the expense of others and that the land could be restored.

Right: Today in the United States, the wealthiest three individuals have as much wealth as the bottom half of the U.S. population combined.ⁱⁱⁱ

Left: You are the God of Abundant life! Jesus said, “I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.”^{iv}

Right: A living wage is the amount necessary for a family to meet the basic needs of housing, food, transportation, childcare and utilities in their community.^v One calculation for the national living wage is \$67,000 per year before taxes for a family of four with two workers. Yet minimum wage for two workers pays only \$30,000 per year.^{vi}

Left: You are the God of Good News! Jesus began his ministry saying, “The Spirit of the Lord ... has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free. To proclaim the year of the Lord's favor.”^{vii}



United
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Right: United Methodist Women’s Living Wage for All Campaign includes advocacy for Paid Family and Medical Leave for All.^{viii} Members are mobilizing to pass the federal FAMILY Act so that all workers can care for themselves and loved ones without risking loss of income, savings or jobs.

Left: You keep reminding us that our expression of love of neighbor is to be tangible and concrete—all are to be included at the table—and there is enough for all, if we share the resources we have been given.

Right: United Methodist Women President, Shannon Priddy, invites us to pray, “Fill our eyes with your vision of a just world and fill our hearts with passion to act. Help us to begin by advocating for a Living Wage for All across the nation. Help us to be part of a modern Jubilee that brings fairness and dignity to all of your people.”^{ix}

All: Now, let justice roll down like a river, and righteousness like a never-failing stream! Amen.

i By Carol Barton, United Methodist Women National Office, July 17, 2019.

ii *The Book of Resolutions of The United Methodist Church—2016*, ¶ 163C. Copyright © 2016 by The United Methodist Publishing House. Used by permission.

iii inequality.org/great-divide/bernie-3-billionaires-more-wealth-half-america

iv John 10:10 NRSV.

v See unitedmethodistwomen.org/living-wage-map to find out the living wage in your state.

vi livingwage.mit.edu (calculations are before taxes).

vii Luke 4:18-19 NRSV.

viii unitedmethodistwomen.org/paid-family-leave

ix Shannon Priddy, President, United Methodist Women, Living Wage for All Rally, May 17, 2018, Columbus, Ohio.