In order to provide basic needs such as food, clothing, shelter, education, health care and other necessities, ways must be found to share more equitably the resources of the world.” When this is not the case, people always have, and will, move to survive.

—Social Principles, The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church, ¶163E.

The Charter for Racial Justice, first adopted in the 1980 General Conference, calls on us to challenge systems that institutionalize racism and cause unequal outcomes regardless of intent. We call on the church to actively work to dismantle these systems of white privilege and institutional racism.

In The United Methodist Church’s Social Principles¹ United Methodists are called to practice restorative justice. United Methodists are called to seek alternatives to retribution when people commit crimes. In seeking to restore right relationships among all God’s people, we commit to looking at global distribution of wealth, power and racial privilege, which lie beneath poverty, inequality, punitive criminal justice policies and global migration.

¹The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church 2008, ¶164H, “Criminal and Restorative Justice.”