

Why Voting Shows Your Faith!

METHODIST CHRISTIANS HAVE A LONG HISTORY OF CONNECTING FAITH AND SOCIAL ACTION.

AS WE COMMEMORATE THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE IN AUGUST, MOVE TOWARD THE GENERAL ELECTION IN NOVEMBER, AND RECKON WITH ONGOING RACIAL INEQUITY IN OUR COUNTRY, IT IS WORTH CONSIDERING THE ROLE OF OUR FAITH IN PUBLIC LIFE. WHAT PLACE DOES IT HAVE?

LET'S START WITH THE BIBLE. LOVING GOD AND LOVING OUR NEIGHBOR (THE GREAT COMMANDMENT DEUTERONOMY 6:5, LEVITICUS 19:18, MATTHEW 22:36-39)

NOT

ONLY MEANT FEEDING HUNGRY PEOPLE, TENDING THE SICK, VISITING PRISONS AND BEING GENEROUS WITH THE POOR, IT ALSO MEANT WORKING FOR JUST POLICIES WHICH RESULT IN FEWER HUNGRY, SICK, IMPRISONED AND POOR PEOPLE. WHEN JESUS WAS FLIPPING TABLES IN THE TEMPLE HE WASN'T FORBIDDING THE YOUTH MINISTRY FROM HAVING A FUNDRAISER AT THE CHURCH BUILDING, HE WAS CHALLENGING THE ABUSIVE POLICIES OF THOSE WHO HELD POWER.

"EVEN THOUGH YOU MAKE MANY PRAYERS, I WILL NOT LISTEN; YOUR HANDS ARE FULL OF BLOOD. WASH YOURSELVES; MAKE YOURSELVES CLEAN; REMOVE THE EVIL OF YOUR DOINGS FROM BEFORE MY EYES; CEASE TO DO EVIL, LEARN TO DO GOOD; SEEK JUSTICE, RESCUE THE OPPRESSED, DEFEND THE ORPHAN, PLEAD FOR THE WIDOW." ISAIAH 1:15-17

JESUS HELD PEOPLE IN POWER ACCOUNTABLE TO ACT IN WAYS THAT THAT RECOGNIZED AND INCLUDED EVERYONE'S SACRED WORTH. IN HIS MINISTRY, JESUS CONSISTENTLY ELEVATES THE LIVES AND EXPERIENCES OF PERSONS WHO HAVE BEEN OVERLOOKED AND NEGLECTED.

IN OUR DAY, NOTHING IS MORE FUNDAMENTAL TO RECOGNIZING THE VALUE OF EVERY HUMAN LIFE THAN THE RIGHT TO VOTE IN FREE, FAIR AND SAFE ELECTIONS. TODAY, AS WE JOIN JESUS IN ELEVATING THE CONCERNS OF THE POOR AND PEOPLE OF COLOR WHO ARE FAR MORE LIKELY TO FACE VOTER SUPPRESSION, WE COMMIT OURSELVES TO DISMANTLING POLICIES THAT PRODUCE AND PERPETUATE RACIAL INEQUITY, AND JOIN THE WORK TO ENSURE FREE, FAIR AND SAFE ELECTIONS IN OUR COUNTRY.



HERE ARE SOME PRACTICAL
WAYS TO PUT YOUR FAITH IN ACTION:

MAKE SURE YOU ARE REGISTERED TO VOTE AND THAT YOUR NAME HAS NOT BEEN PURGED FROM VOTING ROLLS OR DESIGNATED "INACTIVE." THE DEADLINE FOR REGISTERING TO VOTE IS OCTOBER 5, 2020.