



Justice-seeking.
People of faith.



Plumbline: End of Life Rights and Care

Methodist Federation for Social Action

www.mfsaweb.org

Facebook: MFSAVoices or Twitter: @MFSAVoices

“I am setting a plumbline in the midst of my people...” - Amos 7:8

Resources:

[End of Life: Helping with Comfort and Care](#)

[Compassion and Choices](#)

[Current United Methodist Statements on End of Life Rights and Care](#)

Suggested Amendment to CB 60470:

On pages 357 and 358, under the heading “Affirming Life,” amend the sentences beginning with : “In providing counsel, we affirm” and ending with “to consider unacceptable means to end the suffering of the dying.”

Rationale: As a public witness, this statement, in essence, derails conversations by faithful United Methodists who need to be able to have open and honest conversation at life’s most critical moments.

Values at Stake

MFSA believes one of the greatest gifts God has given us as humans is the freedom to live in dignity according to one's own beliefs and faith. At no time is this more important than when we address questions as to how we treat and care for the elderly amongst us.

As individuals approach their senior years they are being offered an increased opportunity to ponder an important question: "What is the meaning of my life?" For many, this is a profoundly spiritual question, and answers come, not when they are consumed by a flurry of doctor's appointments, treatments or tests, but

rather in the comfort of solitude or in the company of family, friends and their faith community where they can feel at peace individually, in community, and with God.

There is no question that disease and illness represent less mystery now and are more associated with scientific and technological problem solving. While many faith traditions adhere to ancient traditions and understandings of a physical life's journey, modern medical technology has provided new information opening the door for faith leaders to actively reconsider some previous held beliefs.

MFSA supports our United Methodist Social Principles' affirmation of laws and policies that protect the rights and dignity of the dying. While recognizing there is no clear biblical stance on end of life issues and that some faith traditions have embraced the concept of allowing death with dignity as the ultimate act of compassion while others have rejected it, MFSA supports existing and developing efforts to educate people of faith, including United Methodists, about the rights and dignity of those who find themselves at the end of life.

Key Legislation: DO NOT SUPPORT

CB 60848 : Assisted Suicide and Euthanasia

Key Legislation: SUPPORT

CB 60690 : End of Life Options

CB 60466 : Abuse of Older Adults

CB60647 : Aging in The United States—The Church’s Response

CB 60469 : Healthcare for All in The United States

CB 60252 : UM Response to Hospital Mergers in The United States

Key Legislation: SUPPORT WITH CAUTION

CB 60470 : Faithful Care of Persons Suffering and Dying