Baltimore-Washington Conference
The United Methodist Church

LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY TEAM

Greetings, Beloved Community,

Across the Baltimore-Washington Conference, our congregations are strengthening their connections through regional ministry hubs, working collaboratively to serve our neighbors, respond to community needs, and put our faith into action.

Recently, the Greater Gaithersburg Hub gathered to discern how we might deepen this collective work. As they considered longer-term commitments, they identified one immediate and consequential opportunity for faithful civic engagement: exercising our right and responsibility to vote.

As United Methodists, we affirm the separation of church and state, recognizing that no religious tradition should exercise governing authority over our diverse democracy. Yet, separation of church and state does not require the separation of faith from our public witness. Our Wesleyan heritage calls us to a faith that is lived, not merely professed, a faith that pursues justice, defends human dignity, and seeks the common good.

Our church does not tell you which candidates to support or how to cast your ballot. Rather, we encourage every eligible voter to approach this sacred civic responsibility with prayerful discernment, informed judgment, and a commitment to the well-being of our neighbors, particularly those whose voices and needs are too often marginalized.

Voting is not the entirety of our Christian witness, but it is one important expression of our commitment to justice, equity, and the flourishing of all God's people. Our advocacy must continue before, during, and long after any election.

With Election Day approaching on Tuesday, November 3, I invite each of us to consider:

- Have you voted, or do you have a plan to vote? Whether by mail, ballot drop box where authorized, early in-person voting, or on Election Day, know your options and make a plan.
- Are you informed and prepared? Verify your registration, polling location, voting hours, and identification requirements through your state or local election office.
- Are there barriers preventing you or someone in your community from voting? Whether transportation, accessibility, misinformation, or uncertainty about voting procedures, please reach out so that we can help connect you with appropriate, trusted resources.
- Who are you going with to vote, and who are you helping to create a voting plan?

As the Advocacy and Action Ministry of the Baltimore-Washington Conference, we understand that our calling does not end at the doors of our sanctuaries. We are called to be agents of justice in the communities we serve, advocating for a democracy in which every eligible person can participate freely, safely, and without discrimination.

In these final days before the election, may we be intentional in our preparation, faithful in our discernment, and steadfast in our commitment to one another. Let us exercise our voices, protect the dignity of our neighbors, and participate fully in the civic life of our communities.

In faith and solidarity,
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