

# 2020 POLICY AGENDA

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## Civic and Voter Engagement

Elections are the cornerstone of democracy. Mobilizing communities to vote will increase our access to elected officials and political power, putting us in a stronger position to advocate for the issues we care about.

Alongside elections, the decennial census is hugely important to the political representation and federal funding allotment of our communities. The OCC will work to ensure a fair and accurate census that counts every person, especially hard-to-count communities, immigrants, children and non-homeowners.

## Economic Justice

We recognize that there are systems and root causes that lead people to experience the oppression of poverty and food insecurity. Therefore we support solutions that reduce or eliminate poverty. We work to ensure that people living in poverty, especially communities of color, are not punished or exploited because of their economic status. We support policies that improve access to services and supports for people in poverty and remove barriers to economic opportunity for each person.

## Environmental Justice

As good stewards we are called to take actions on behalf of creation that we might honor God, preserve Earth and its rich variety and bio diversity, and find delight in this place we call home. We call for a collective sense of responsibility for the ways we use and abuse the natural resources entrusted to us.

## Restorative Justice

Because each human being is created in the image of God and therefore enjoys the gift and possibility of redemption, the use of capital punishment is unacceptable and should be condemned. Our communities are safest when the criminal justice system respects human dignity. That means achieving justice for victims as well as ensuring that people leaving prison have opportunities to succeed on the outside. We support reforms that improve communication between police and citizens and that reduce recidivism by removing barriers to opportunity.

## Sustainable Communities

A community marked by justice and compassion is a community that welcomes the stranger, includes an affordable place to live, and the security that offers peace of mind.

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*“learn to do good;  
seek justice,  
rescue the oppressed,  
defend the orphan,  
plead for the widow...”*

*- Isaiah 1: 17 NRSV*

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**Our Mission:** To be a transformational church body that makes visible the unity of the church; engages in worship, education and fellowship; and proclaims Christ's love and justice ethic through public witness.