

REPORT OF THE SOCIAL CONCERNS COMMITTEE

To: Dr. Tom Armiger, General Superintendent
Rev. Jerry Lumston, District Superintendent
Ministerial and Lay Delegates of the Thirty-Third Session of the North Carolina
West District Conference

As a Social Concerns Committee, we want every church in the district to act on their God-given call to impact their community for Christ. We are called to be a “*Holy people*”; however, if that Christlikeness is not seen in our day to day lives, it is not the Christ-like, holiness of the Bible. It is essential that the church of the 21st century rise up to become more active in the social issues facing our individual communities and our nation. The Wesleyan Church, especially, has in its DNA what Wesley called “*social holiness*”. In fact, John Wesley said, “*The Gospel of Christ knows no religion but social, no holiness but social holiness*”. “*Social holiness*” is simply being proactive as individuals and as the church, to obey the Great Command and to make it a reality in their everyday life. And it is also using your Godly influence to impact your communities with the love of Jesus Christ. As one writer declares, “*We are called to be a holy people—set apart, which means to love as we have been loved. So, holy living is simply showing others that we are loved by God to love them. That is the Wesleyan vision of social holiness. It is a vision that once changed the world. And if will live it out, it will change our world, too. Amen.*” (www.umcchrist.org/sermons/2011-02-20.pdf)

The Social Concerns Committee would like to challenge each church to become “engaged” in its society and begin to live out Wesley’s “*social holiness*” in the world today. A couple of simple things that can be done right away are:

- Participate in the Family Research Council’s Call-2-Fall. The Call 2 Fall is nothing fancy. No slick program. No big production. Just setting aside a definite time during worship on July 3, 2011 when you call your people to get on their knees and faces before the Lord in repentant prayer for God to reshape our lives and renew our land. (Resource: www.call2fall.com)
- The Social Concerns Committee has compiled information on a number of topics and social issues facing our churches today. We have provided this information on a resource table at District Conference and would encourage each pastor and delegate to visit the table before the end of conference. The resources available will help support the action you can take in your church to impact your community and confront the social issues of the day and possibly even change our world with the holiness of Christ.

THANK YOU to our 2010-2011 District Social Concerns Committee. Members are:
Bob Allred, David Alm, Jesse Garmon, Scott Howard, Don Jewell, Trent Patterson, Bill Tietje
and District Superintendent Jerry Lumston.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rev. Scott Howard, Social Concerns Chairman