

**To: The East Tennessee Annual Conference**

**From: Social Action Committee**

### Social Action

**We have a chaotic and dysfunctional government led by an egomaniacal and power-hungry man who thinks that he is greater than God. Add to this, a congress whose majority members are more focused on and concerned with the party rather than the people. This equals to a troubled state of the country.**

**So, what are some of the troubling issues:**

- **The Economy – A survey conducted by the National Association for Business Economists reports that nearly 3 of every 4 U.S. business economists are expecting a recession in the U.S. by the end of 2021, based on the risk of some of Donald Trump’s economic policies:**
  - **Tariffs on Chinese imports**
  - **Higher budget deficits**
  - **Mandated drop in the Federal Reserve benchmark rate**
  
- **Immigration – Thousands of immigrants have been deported. Many have been separated from their families and been locked up in holding areas with insufficient space, food or other resources necessary for a life with dignity.**
  
- **Gun Violence - In the United States, gun violence results in tens of thousands of deaths and injuries annually. There have been 99 mass shootings in the U.S. since 1982. In 2017 alone, 11 mass shootings caused 117 deaths.**
  
- **Healthcare – Repeal of Obama Healthcare without any acceptable replacement has left many Americans scrambling for adequate medical care in the midst of escalating and skyrocketing drug and hospital costs.**
  
- **Foreign Relations**
  - **Flailing relations with North Korea who has launched 2 missiles – its 7<sup>th</sup> weapons test in a month.**
  - **Trade wars with China – Imposed tariffs and embargos on imports which will ultimately impact the price that we pay for goods and services.**
  - **The Escalating rift with France**
  - **High and upwardly spiraling tensions with Iran**

- **Climate Change**
  - **Antarctica is melting**
  - **Glacier melt in Greenland is resulting in more long-term sea level rise**

**So, what do we do as Christians and as a church? God has put man over the earth to be good stewards of all that He has made, but man has continued to misuse and abuse our abundant resources. Thus, we are face with soil erosion, water sources such as oceans and rivers that has been polluted with discarded plastic containers and other debris. Fish and other Marine life have been severely diminished and contaminated.**

**We must become advocates of the Earths resources. It is important that we protect and care for what God has placed us in charge of. The church must not be silent any longer. We must take a stand and do our part as Christian stewards.**

**Recommendations:**

- 1. Participate in recycling programs**
- 2. Vote – There are organizations within the city, state and nation that we can join; voter registration movements that will allow our voice to be heard through our participation. Churches can initiate or become involved in local efforts to support and encourage all eligible people, especially people of color, to vote.**
- 3. Intentionally teach our children the importance of protecting and caring for the water and land resources that God has created for us to live off of and on.**
- 4. We know where we are and what we do with it is left to us. As we moved forward, we need to push forward and pray as a church for change.**

**Submitted By:**

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