

"Our involvement in political systems is rooted in the gospel imperative to love our neighbors, to do justice, and to care for the vulnerable. As United Methodists, we acknowledge that love requires responsible political action and engagement aimed at the betterment of society and the promotion of the common good."

Book of Discipline 2020/2024, ¶ 164, "The Political Community"

"Voting rights, freedom of speech, and equal access to civic life are not merely political conveniences or social contracts. They are expressions of our recognition that every person possesses inherent dignity that must be honored in the structures of our common life."

The United Council of Bishops, *Building Beloved Community: The Courage to Love in the Face of Tyranny*, Abingdon Press, 2026, p. 66

A Responsive Prayer for Blue Ridge District Day of Voting

For morning worship, Sunday, October 25

- LEADER** Gracious God, you created every person in your image and called each one beloved.
- PEOPLE** Teach us to honor the dignity you have placed in every neighbor.
- LEADER** Jesus calls us to love our neighbors, to do justice, and to care for the vulnerable.
- PEOPLE** Let that love go with us from this sanctuary into our communities and our polling places.
- LEADER** We give thanks for the gift of the vote, for freedom of speech, and for every open door into our common life.
- PEOPLE** Help us to treat these not as conveniences, but as signs that every person matters to you.
- LEADER** We pray for all who will cast a ballot, and for those who find it hard to be heard.
- PEOPLE** Make us advocates for fairness, so that every voice may count.
- LEADER** We pray for those who seek public office, for those who serve in it, and for the poll workers and volunteers who make elections possible.
- PEOPLE** Grant them integrity, wisdom, and a heart for the common good.
- LEADER** When we disagree, remind us that our neighbor is still our neighbor.
- PEOPLE** Keep us humble, fill us with compassion, and bind us together in love greater than any division.
- ALL** God of justice and mercy, as we prepare to vote, guide our hearts and our choices. Help us seek not only our own good, but the good of all, especially the vulnerable. Whatever the outcome, keep us faithful to your call to love. In the name of Jesus Christ, we pray. Amen.

Let's join United Methodists across Buncombe County in living out our faith and showing that faithful participation in democracy can be an expression of our love for one another and our community.