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FAITH in action

News and Views from the United Methodist Board of Church and Society

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Word from Winkler

September 6, 2011

Our best hope

By Jim Winkler, General Secretary, General Board of Church & Society

[Word from Winkler](#)

Can church-related higher education produce socially conscious leaders for already know the answer: "Yes." We have done so and we must continue to

[Shoulder to Shoulder](#)

[World-changing events](#)

Dr. Paul Fonteyn, president of Green Mountain College in Vermont, said this best hope. We must produce socially conscious leaders for a diverse cultur

[Alabama immigration law put on hold](#)

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As a privileged son of the white suburbs of Chicago, I can assure you much resulted from experiences and learnings during my higher education. In ad United Methodist Church have placed me for the past 30 years in a work life anti-racism.

[Only Sunday worship allowed in Fiji](#)

[Joseph](#)

The values of The United Methodist Church have placed me for the past 30 years in a work life dedicated to diversity and anti-racism.

Many times the church has had to be screaming to the table of the social jus the teachings of Christ. I am here to te movements for social justice want us movements often are depicted as sec core are moral and spiritual movemen

[9/11: 10 years later](#)

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We have so much more to do. Our pe consumerism, materialism and nation economic progress include pollution, t packaging, hospital care for 'be killed or wounded by the innumerable we for violent toys, games, movies and television shows, and rainforest and mc

[The Church & the Death Penalty](#)

[Breaking the Chains of Poverty](#)

['Preaching to Save Lives'](#)

Interlocking demonic systems

[DREAM Sabbath toolkit](#)

The earth is in the grip of three interlocking, intertwining demonic systems c They are hunger-making, war-making and desert-making.

[World Communion Sunday](#)

[On 9/11 commemoration](#)

This summer, on the front lawn of the United Methodist Building, which is across the street from the U.S. Capitol and the Supreme Court, I joined Jewish, Christian and Muslim leaders for a prayer vigil on the federal debt crisis. We also sent a delegation to meet with President Obama. Additional delegations met with congressional leaders.

Our faith traditions compel us to step forward. We know those who will suffe Medicare cuts: the disabled, the elderly, the inner city youths. These are ou our leaders to end the bitter rancor, to

Our faith traditions compel us to step forward.

We need to change things.

3 kinds of people

My father, Gene Winkler, tells this story:

"My Uncle John was a 'shrewd saint.' He owned the Gulf station one town square in DeWitt, Ark., when I was growing up in the 1930s and John was too ambitious to stay in a small town and run a service stat into one entrepreneurial enterprise after another. He moved all over t

"In his last year, Uncle John owned hundreds of gumball machines, t service stations, grocery stores, small shops and drug stores. He wo with many, many boxes of gumballs, travel around, unload the nickel quarters from his machines, massage the egos of those small-town s reload the glass balls with gum.

"He said, 'Gene, you would be surprised how little the IRS knows abc spent in gumball machines.'

"Uncle John used to say, 'There are three kinds of people in the world: those who make things happen, those who watch things happen, and those who stand around and ask, 'What happened?' I intend to make things happen.'"

Called to ministry

The great preacher William Sloane Coffin once said, "A career seeks to be successful, a calling to be valuable. A career tries to make money; a calling tries to make a difference. A career demands technical intelligence to learn a skill, to find out how to get from here to there. A calling demands critical intelligence to question whether 'there' is worth going toward."

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