

Water Justice for All

Fifteen years ago, delegates to the 2001 Annual Meeting of the Michigan Conference adopted a ***Resolution in Regard to the Stewardship of Water***. It called for laity and clergy in Local Churches, Associations and Conference Boards to be responsible stewards of the precious resource of water and work to keep it from being contaminated in any way.

In 2014, delegates affirmed water as a basic human right, and endorsed a resolution calling for ***Fresh, Potable, Life Sustaining Water for All***. This resolution called upon the Michigan Conference to support efforts ensuring access to fresh water through a system that is priced fairly for all people; restoring service for those whose water was disconnected due to inability to pay; establishing fair due-process on delinquent accounts; creating programs to assist with special financial needs; holding accountable corporations and other high volume users to pay their fair share; ensuring that water departments not be privatized; and advocating for water education and access.

Since the summer of 2015, Michigan Conference staff, local churches, and the Board of Directors have supported Woodside Church's efforts to be a safe-water site, and advocated for a remediation of the water delivery source and system that caused the lead poisoning of Flint residents.

In the spirit of those two resolutions, and subsequent action and advocacy, the Prophetic Integrity Mission Area Team encourages this reaffirmation:

- Stop Water Shutoffs – declare a moratorium on water shutoffs in Detroit, and a reimbursement of Flint water bills that were paid for poisoned water.
- Restore Water Service – to those who have been shut off, especially the elderly, those with young children, and patients recovering from illness or injury.
- Fully implement the 2005 Detroit Water Affordability Plan and the recommendations of the Flint Water Task Force.
- Support Water as a Human Right Legislation
- Protect Water from Privatization – water for people, not profit.
- Advocate for ongoing remediation of the lead service lines in Flint and the funding of long-term medical care and social services for all residents poisoned by the drinking water.