

them their due.” What is due to our God, our loving creator of all that exists? How do we return to God what is God’s? The Pharisees and Herodians both seemed speechless and went away. Are you satisfied with Jesus’ words as settling the matter and answering the Pharisee’s question? Contemplate these questions and write your thoughts here.

### **Thursday, May 22**

When we look at the responsibilities listed under the heading of Government Responsibilities, we read about the relationship between Church and Government, Civil Disobedience, Restorative and Criminal Justice, War and Military Service. At little information was offered on the actual stance written in the Social Principles on these issues. Look over your notes and if you picked up a copy of the Social Principles, read this part of the document. What are your thoughts? What are your reactions to these concepts are presented? Are you in agreement or disappointed? What would you change? Consider your response to these questions and write your ideas here.

### **Friday, May 23**

Please review the “long list of Basis Rights and Freedoms toward the end of your message notes. Do you agree with none, some or all of these issues as rights and freedoms? Which issues do you believe are not basic rights but more earned privileges? Which issues concern you the most? What kind of conversations do you believe would be helpful in creating a better world? What responsibilities do you believe we followers of Christ have in our interactions within the Political Community. Think about these questions and write your responses here.

## **Message Notes May 25, 2025**

### ***Our UM Social Principles – The Thin Line of Politics\****

- I. The Social Principles views our life together through the lens of living together as a Community of \_\_\_\_\_, The \_\_\_\_\_ Community, The \_\_\_\_\_ Community and The \_\_\_\_\_ Community.
  - A. Today we are considering The \_\_\_\_\_ Community.
  - B. The preface to this part of our Social Principles: “Our involvement in political systems is rooted in the Gospel imperative to \_\_\_\_\_ our neighbors, to do \_\_\_\_\_, and to \_\_\_\_\_ for the vulnerable.”
  - C. As followers of Jesus the Christ, we must deal with political \_\_\_\_\_ in our world.
- II. We have a \_\_\_\_\_ citizenship as citizens in this country or whatever country in which you are citizen and we are citizens of the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_.
  - A. The precursor of our scripture lesson from Matthew’s Gospel today is Jesus is on the \_\_\_\_\_.
  - B. What we read about today is the counter attack of the \_\_\_\_\_, asking Jesus a carefully formulated question: Is it \_\_\_\_\_ to pay taxes to the emperor, or not?”
- III. Many look at this scripture as the reason for the \_\_\_\_\_ of church and state.

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\*Matthew 22:15-22

- A. Our Social Principles state, “We affirm that both church and state have \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ roles in relation to the larger society; we advocate for a relationship of \_\_\_\_\_ in which neither institution seeks to dominate or unduly influence the other.”
- B. Indications of the \_\_\_\_\_ expressed in the document.
  1. We support \_\_\_\_\_ when all other legal avenues have been exhausted.
  2. We support and put a premium on \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. We oppose and call for the abolition of the \_\_\_\_\_.
  4. When it comes to \_\_\_\_\_ we believe offenders need to held accountable but that the conditions of prisons must be held to a higher standard.
  5. Concerning \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ Service we support both those who with good conscience are willing to serve in combat and those who will not pick up arms.
- C. A long list of Basic \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.
  1. Health Care, the well-being of \_\_\_\_\_ and Young People, the well-being of Elders and the \_\_\_\_\_, of Women and Girl, of Men and Boys, of indigenous, \_\_\_\_\_ and Aboriginal Communities, of Migrants, \_\_\_\_\_ and Refugees.
  2. We support, accept and protect the value and dignity of People with \_\_\_\_\_, people of all Sexual \_\_\_\_\_ and Gender Identities and \_\_\_\_\_ Minorities.
  3. From our Christian perspective we should seek \_\_\_\_\_ for all, remembering Jesus’ words, “Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.”

## ***Daily Devotional Guide***

The following is a daily devotional and study guide meant to enhance your understanding of the message and grow as a Christian.

It is offered for your personal reflection or to share with others.

### **Monday, May 19**

What do you think of when you hear the word politics? What do you think of when you hear the word political? Do you cringe? Roll you eyes? Avoid conversations about politics at all cost? Consider your action to these words and write a few thoughts here.

### **Tuesday, May 20**

The concept of dual citizenship was mentioned during the message and the thought that we are encouraged to “affirm that both church and state have vital and distinct roles in relation to the larger society. We also “advocate for a relationship of mutual respect in which neither institution seeks to dominate or unduly influence the other.” How do you receive and understand these ideas? Do you view the government as a necessary evil or generally a pain in your backside? Do you value and respect government? Contemplate these questions and write your reflections here.

### **Wednesday, May 21**

Read Matthew 22:15-22. Having heard the message, we know that Jesus finds himself in a trap created through the cooperation of the Pharisees and Herodians. Jesus handles himself well within the historical context in which he lived with the foundational belief that all that exists belongs to God. We are forced by law to “give to the emperor the things that are the emperors. But what do we give to God? Sometimes these phrases are translated “give