



VOTE NO ISSUE 3

Protect our Families!

As people of faith, we oppose predatory gambling because we know it always does more harm than good. We can be evangelists of Christ's love by helping to insure that gambling never comes into our state.

Actions for this week:

1. Talk with people about how gambling destroys people and communities. Your voice matters!
2. Write a letter to the editor of your newspaper. You can go to www.westhioumc.org/nocasinos to find other facts and information. Bishop Ough's statement at the press conference can also be found there.

"Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?" Jesus said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets." - Matthew 22:36-40

3. How Gambling Destroys People & Communities

1. Studies show that gambling addiction rates increase the closer casino gambling is to where you live.
 - a. The chances of becoming addicted increases to 50% if gambling is within 50 miles of where you live.
 - b. The chances of becoming addicted increases by 90% if gambling is within 10 miles of where you live.
 - c. The chances of becoming addicted increases by another 67% if the community is poor. (Ohio is the only state in the union to have 3 of the poorest cities in the country-Cleveland, Toledo and Cincinnati.)
2. Bankruptcy rates-a national study shows that bankruptcy rates are 100% higher in every county with casinos than in counties without casinos. Ohio has one of the highest bankruptcy rates in the country.
3. Crime stats- Comprehensive studies indicate that crime increases 10% yearly.
 - 7.9% of total crime is due to gambling (according to the FBI)
 - 7.7% of property crime
 - 10.3% of violent crime

- For an average county with 100,000 population, this implies 772 more larcenies, 357 more burglaries, 331 more auto thefts, 12 more rapes, 68 more robberies and 112 more aggravated assaults.
4. In addition to increases in bankruptcies and crime, gambling addiction leads to divorce, suicide, and child abuse and neglect.

Gambling is ALWAYS bad for families and communities. You have incredible power to influence those you know.

Statistics are from the National Gambling Impact Study

Yard Sign Update: Yard signs are due to be delivered to the West Ohio Conference Office by the end of this week or the beginning of next week. Dee Stickley-Miner is currently organizing a grid of volunteers who have expressed desire to make sure signs get displayed in church yards. We need help throughout the Northwest Plains District. Please let Dee know if you are able to help.

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UNITED METHODIST SOCIAL PRINCIPLE ON GAMBLING

"Gambling is a menace to society, deadly to the best interests of moral, social, economic, and spiritual life, and destructive of good government. As an act of faith and concern, Christians should abstain from gambling and should strive to minister to those victimized by the practice. Where gambling has become addictive, the Church will encourage such individuals to receive therapeutic assistance so that the individual's energies may be redirected into positive and constructive ends. The Church should promote standards and personal lifestyles that would make unnecessary and undesirable the resort to commercial gambling—including public lotteries—as a recreation, as an escape, or as a means of producing public revenue or funds for support of charities or government." - United Methodist Discipline, Paragraph 163, G.