

## Chalice Circle: Poverty

### **OPENING WORDS:**

There is no quick fix here—no one measure or piece of legislation that will set things right and retire the “working poor” to the status of an oxymoron. Ours is an economic culture that reflexively rewards and flatters the prosperous while punishing and insulting the poor, no matter how hard they work. Turning this around is the task of a lifetime, at least. ~Barbara Ehrenreich

### **CHECK IN/SHARING**

- Current state of physical or spiritual health
- Joys or concerns about loved ones
- What is happening in your life

### **DISCUSSION:**

What experiences have you had confronting poverty?

Have you, a family member, or close acquaintance ever personally experienced poverty? How was it managed?

Are some people resistant to help? Reluctant to seek or accept help? Is there a poverty mentality? What can cut through it?

What can be done as a community, church/ other social justice organization, or individual to ease or combat poverty? What measures are band-aids and what are longer term fixes? What approaches work or don't work? What hasn't yet been tried that needs to?

Is there a continuum of people's ability to benefit from help? How do we determine what is the proper type or level of help?

Is everyone who lives in poverty unhappy? Is living in poverty always bad?

Should we always feel guilty about not being in poverty when others are?

### **CHECK OUT**

What have you gained from this meeting? Are you angered, informed, inspired?

### **CLOSING WORDS:**

Nobody can do everything, but everyone can do something. ~Author Unknown

Wherever a man turns he can find someone who needs him. ~Albert Schweitzer