



RAISE YOUR POVERTY IQ: An EngageMI LEARN Resource

The “Poverty IQ” of an individual, organization, congregation, community, or nation is *the level of factual understanding of the complexity of poverty that includes: root causes; the impact of the experience of poverty on individuals, the family and the greater community; and the systemic barriers that prevent those experiencing poverty from lifting themselves out of it.*

GET SOME EXPERIENCE

- **Host and Attend a Poverty Simulation.** An excellent starting point, this three-hour, experiential workshop helps participants begin to understand what it might be like to live in a typical low-income family trying to survive from month to month. To find a Simulation near you, google “poverty simulation [*insert your county/city*]”, and host one at your church for members and your community.
- **Take the SNAP Challenge.** Begin to understand the food choices that under-resourced Americans must make with the food stamp benefits they receive. Organize a group to find ways to eat well for a month on about \$30 per person per week. Try as a meaningful practice for Lent. Go to www.snap-challenge.com for guidance.

READ, REFLECT, AND DISCUSS

Consider offering a discussion group that includes both youth and adults.

- *Compassion, Justice and the Christian Life: Rethinking Ministry to the Poor*, 2007. Robert D. Lupton. An essential primer on the theology of ministry with persons living in poverty.
- *Barking to the Choir: The Power of Radical Kinship*, 2017, and *Tattoos on the Heart: The Power of Boundless Compassion*, 2010, Gregory Boyle, SJ. Stunning, beautiful essays on universal kinship, mutuality, and redemption drawn from Boyle’s ministry with gang members.
- *Seeking Shalom: The Small Group Experience*, 2018, Shawn Duncan. “The opposite of poverty isn’t wealth, it’s shalom.” Six-session, video-enhanced series for small groups with Leader Guide, DVD, and Participant Workbook. www.luptoncenter.org/seekingshalom/
- *Poverty: A Mission Study*, 2012 UMW Mission U Study Book, Jack A. Keller, Ed. Brief, comprehensive, engaging essays addressing poverty through Scripture, Wesleyan heritage, root causes, and the movement from compassion to advocacy and action. <https://www.amazon.com/Poverty-ebook/dp/B00936UFEI>
- *Charity Detox: What Charity Would Look Like If We Cared About the Results*, 2015. Robert D. Lupton. A guide to evaluating ministry in terms of outcomes/results instead of output/activity.
- *Not Just a One-Night Stand: Ministry with the Homeless*, 2010, John Flowers, Karen Vannoy. “Ministry with the poor isn’t just eating a meal together – it demands relationships of trust.” Brief, friendly, challenging invitation to mutual transformation.

VISIT WEBSITES

United Way Report on Financial Hardship (Michigan)	www.UnitedWayAlice.org
General Board of Global Ministries	www.UMCMission.org ; www.ministrywith.org
Ubuntu resources	www.MinistryWith.org/ubuntu toolkit web.pdf
Circles USA	www.CirclesUSA.org
Circles Grand Rapids	www.CirclesGR.org
Circles Newago County	www.TrueNorthServices.org/circles-newago-county
Circles Ottawa County	www.GoodSamMinistries.com/what-we-do/circles/
Circles Washtenaw County	www.FriendsinDeedmi.org/circles/
The Chalmers Center	www.Chalmers.org
The Lupton Center	www.LuptonCenter.org
Poor People's Campaign: A National Call for Moral Revival	www.PoorPeoplesCampaign.org

LEARN MORE ABOUT CIRCLES IN MICHIGAN

CONTACT A CIRCLES CHAPTER NEAR YOU to learn more and to find specific ways your congregation can become involved. If you don't live near an existing Chapter, please contact Rev. Julie Liske in Grand Rapids.

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