

Examples of Ways to Address Economic Inequality

Macro Level (focuses on change at a policy level)

- Become familiar with your city commission's policy on housing. Are the policies biased toward race, gender, sexual orientation, income.
- Determine if there is a plan for new housing in your community. Mixed income is the better model of housing. Check out The Harrison Circle and The Creamery Project in Kalamazoo, Michigan. Both are mixed income housing developments.
- Become familiar with the work of Habitat for Humanity in your community. Find out how you can become involved.
- Identify programs in your community that focus on job training of persons who are "returning citizens" from the prison system. Every community has programs that are seeking to help adults re-enter their communities.

Mezzo Level- (a combination-focus on working with individuals and institutions)

- As a congregation, adopt a family who becomes a first time homeowner through Habitat for Humanity. The first year of homeownership for anyone can be a "make or break" event as they move from renter to homeownership mentality.
- Discover ways to educate your congregation on the living wage campaigns.
- Provide scholarships for a childcare spot at a childcare center near your church.
- Get to know a family in your congregation who utilizes childcare and discover how those cost impact their families.
- Identify issues that are coming before your local city commission that impacts families and educate yourself and the congregation on the issues.

Micro Level-working directly with a family or individual

- Contact an agency that serves seniors to see who could use prescription support. Many seniors struggle with buying good food or prescriptions.
- Identify Adult Foster Care homes near your church or within the community and get to know the owners. Many assume that persons in an AFC have all their needs met. Adoption of persons in an AFC could make a difference.
- Utilize your church kitchen as a resource to teach basic cooking skills for families that struggle with food insecurity. Check with your local 4-H or Girl Scouts program
- Create several groups in the church to read the books on the UMW Reading program and have ongoing discussions on the issues. Ask the hard questions to help the membership increase their awareness of the issues that create inequality.