

Ohio Mennonite Conference Reduce Poverty Resource Team

PROCESS: TO CREATE A CHURCH BULLETIN BOARD ON POVERTY

PURPOSE: To better identify and define poverty (local, regional, national and world-wide) and activate your congregation to work to reduce it.

- 1. Create a specific Church bulletin board dedicated to the topic of poverty and the Church's efforts to reduce it (Need 2 to 3 people committed to maintaining this ACTIVE bulletin board).**

- 2. Define Poverty:** Poverty may be defined as the lack of basic necessities of life such as food, shelter, clothing, health care, education, security and opportunity. **Post articles on poverty-related issues around the world, update bi-weekly / monthly.**

- 3. Define poverty in "everyday terms" to connect with your congregation.**
 - a. Lack of food (daily lunch, etc.)
 - b. Lack of shelter (homelessness, transient areas, etc.)
 - c. Lack of clothing (work clothing, dress clothing for job interview, etc.)
 - d. Lack of health care (no insurance, use of neighborhood clinics, etc.)
 - e. Lack of education (no GED, college opportunity, etc.)
 - f. Lack of security (local crime rate, unsafe areas to walk in, etc.)
 - g. Lack of opportunity (limited entry-level jobs, hopelessness)

- 3. Identify existing, local services / resources that are available to meet the locally identified needs and post information for congregational reference.**
 - a. Define existing services that specifically address these needs in that area or that area available to meet these needs, even in a partial way.

 - b. Identify all contact information for local resources to meet any needs within the congregation or for referral to others.

- 4. Communicate current and proposed, diverse Church efforts to reduce poverty with continuous invitations to participate in donations and / or volunteer activity.**
 - a. Post with a focus on the activity and the member participation to spark additional interest from the congregation.