



# VISION & VOICE

FAITHFUL CITIZENS AND HEALTH CARE

Claiming Our Vision:  
the Road to Our Health Care Future

P A T I C I P A N T M A N U A L S E S S I O N O N E

## YOU WILL LEAVE THIS SESSION WITH:

- A description of dialogue so that you have a tool for helping talking about things like change in health care.
- An understanding of what success will look like for these sessions so that you can consider the role of individuals and your faith community in health care change.
- Knowledge of the common gaps in U.S. health care.
- An action you can take before the next session to learn more about faith-based work on health care reform.

## SOME ASSUMPTIONS OF THIS SESSION

- Some of us know a lot about the U.S. health care system. For some, thinking about the U.S. health care system is new. All of us have experience—our own, that of family and friends—with health care that we can draw upon.
- Our Faith Values + Our Active Citizenship (learning about issues, voting, etc.) = Power for Change
- U.S. Health Care isn't working for a lot of people, and we each know some of these people.

## WHAT IS DIALOGUE?

As you listen to this description, take just a few minutes to think about this:

1. What is one thing you already do well?
2. What is one thing you could work on during these sessions to improve your own practice of dialogue?

This is for your own reflection. We won't ask you to share your answers.



## Description of Dialogue

In dialogue, we pay attention to the wisdom of the group. We listen for new thinking and ideas that help us address complex and challenging issues. A conversation is a dialogue when people in a group agree to:

- Listen deeply to one another, giving full attention to each other, looking for common ground.
- Respect the ideas and viewpoints of each person, trusting that others have part of the answer.
- Give voice to their own ideas and thinking.

In dialogue, each person also monitors her/his participation, taking responsibility for getting her/his ideas out there, while making sure that others in the group have both the clock time and a respectful environment in which to share their ideas. In dialogue, we see changes in thinking and often see new ideas emerge.

Dialogue is usually in danger when people defend their point of view, assume there is one right answer, criticize others' thinking, ask questions that are really opinions or judgments, and look only for conclusions that agree their thinking.

Quoted from [www.OurHealthcareFuture.org](http://www.OurHealthcareFuture.org).

## WHAT WILL SUCCESS LOOK LIKE?

Here is what success will look like for these Vision and Voice sessions:

- People of faith who participate in these sessions will have a deeper understanding of moral issues related to U.S. health care.
- Individuals and faith communities will have some tools to help them talk about the future of U.S. health care in a way that reflects the values of their faith traditions.
- Communities of faith will learn ways to share these messages in the media and election events. For those who are ready to take action, success for these sessions might also include:
  - Your/our faith community—or a group of individuals within it —

will commit to activities that will help keep health care front and center as health policy reform is being considered and to hold elected officials accountable for implementing health reform.

- Your/our faith community—or a group of individuals within it—along with other faith groups will take action to help keep the conversation on health care active and growing in your faith community, local area, state and the nation.

## WHAT TO DO BETWEEN THIS SESSION AND NEXT

Options for action:

1. Watch for stories about health care in your community—local, state and national—and health care in the news. Clip articles, make note of news stories, and bring your research or a summary of it to the next session.
2. Check out some faith-based, policy or advocacy organizations that are doing work on health care reform. Sign up for at least one Listserv as a way to learn more about what is happening.
3. Talk with other people about health care and health care reform in our country. Pay attention: Whom do you know who regularly encounters the red and yellow lights along the road? What are the circumstances creating those challenges?.

### List of Selected Faith-Based, Policy and Advocacy Groups Working on Health Care

#### National Faith-Based Organizations:

- Catholic Health Association - [www.chausa.org](http://www.chausa.org) (search Covering a Nation)
- Evangelical Lutheran Church in America — [www.elca.org](http://www.elca.org) (search health care)
- Faithful Reform in Health Care — [www.faithfulreform.org](http://www.faithfulreform.org)
- Center fo Healthcare Reform, Center of the St, Joseph Health System — [www.stjoechr.org](http://www.stjoechr.org)



## COMMUNITIES OF FAITH RAISING VISION AND VOICE

- NETWORK: A National Catholic Social Justice Lobby — [www.networklobby.org](http://www.networklobby.org) (Issues: economic equity)
- Presbyterian Church USA — [www.pcusa.org](http://www.pcusa.org) (Issues: health care)
- Union of Reform Judaism — [www.urj.org/csa/projects/healthcare](http://www.urj.org/csa/projects/healthcare)
- United Church of Christ — [www.ucc.org](http://www.ucc.org) (Issues: health care)
- United Methodist Church General Board of Church and Society — [www.umc-gbcs.org](http://www.umc-gbcs.org) (Issues: the social community/health care)
- United States Conference of Catholic Bishops [www.usccb.org/sdwp/national](http://www.usccb.org/sdwp/national) (see health issues)

### Research and Information

- Cover the Uninsured Week — [www.covertheuninsured.org](http://www.covertheuninsured.org)
- Commonwealth Fund — [www.cmwf.org](http://www.cmwf.org)
- Families USA — [www.familiesusa.org](http://www.familiesusa.org)
- Kaiser Family Foundation — [www.kff.org](http://www.kff.org)

### Information about state-based health care justice organizations

- Universal Health Care Action Network — [www.uhcan.org](http://www.uhcan.org)

## FOR FURTHER STUDY

- Learn the health care story of your state. Compare it with other states and the entire country. Visit the interactive website [www.StateHealthFacts.org](http://www.StateHealthFacts.org).
- Read a “report card” on U.S. health care from a respected, independent organization, The Commonwealth Fund. See “Mirror, Mirror on the Wall: An International Update on the Comparative Performance of American Health Care” at [www.commonwealth-fund.org/publications](http://www.commonwealth-fund.org/publications)
- See what health policy reform the administration is proposing to address the health challenges highlighted during this session
  - [http://www.whitehouse.gov/issues/health\\_care](http://www.whitehouse.gov/issues/health_care)



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