



VISION & VOICE

FAITHFUL CITIZENS AND HEALTH CARE

Claiming Our Vision:
The Faith Community as Healer

PARTICIPANT MANUAL SESSION TWO

OUTCOMES FOR SESSION TWO

You will leave this session with a(n):

- Recognition of ways faith communities provide healing.
- Assessment of the sufficiency of these healing activities in meeting the needs of our nation’s health care future.
- Greater awareness of faith teachings so that they can state a moral case for change in health care.

SOME ASSUMPTIONS OF THIS SESSION

- Our faith communities have been generous in providing health care services that bring healing to people who are ill. Faith communities have been less involved in working to make changes in the U.S. health care system.
- Our faith traditions offer a moral lens for looking at health care. This lens can help us talk about health care in a way that is different from “politics as usual.”
- Our Faith Values + Our Active Citizenship (learning about issues, voting, etc.) = Power for Change

VIDEO: FAITH LEADERS & HEALTH CARE

As you watch and listen, consider four moral themes that arise out of our faith traditions and help us think about how we do health care in the U.S.

- Human dignity / Image of God / sacredness of life
- Common good / community / brother’s/sister’s keeper / love of neighbor
- Preferential option for people who poor / the “least of these” among us
- Scarcity and abundance / fair distribution of resources



Following the video, we will do some sharing around several questions:

1. What theme or idea especially caught your attention?
2. Which theme seems like it would be useful to you in talking with other people of faith about health care?
3. What would be one way to communicate this theme to candidates in the upcoming election and beyond?

WHAT TO DO BETWEEN THIS SESSION AND NEXT

Reflecting on the health care needs of our children:

1. Help this group learn about what we see as important in terms of health care for children. Take the survey on priorities for children's health care at www.wewanthekids.org; use the code for your group so your facilitator can gather your group's results. Your code is _____ .
2. Take home and use the Prayer Tent for Children's Health Care and the accompanying one-pagers as a daily reflection.
3. On your dining table, or another spot you see often, set up pictures of children who are important in your life. As you go through the week, reflect upon this question: What is needed to make possible a "healthy next generation"? Bring a picture to post on "The Road to Our Health Care Future."
4. Look / listen for stories of children who do not have health care. You will find some of these at www.covertheuninsured.org stories. Look for stories about children as well as SCHIP (State Children's Health Insurance Program). Identify and learn more about a current national or state legislative action focused on children.
5. Research what faith leaders in your area are doing to help address the issue you researched.
6. Find out if your faith community is working on this issue; if so, learn how you could get involved; if not, determine what actions your faith community could take to be part of this effort.

FOR FURTHER STUDY

- Learn how well your state is meeting the needs of children. See how it stacks up against other states and the U.S. as a whole. Visit the interactive website www.statehealthfacts.org/children
- Visit the resource section of the Vision and Voice website and listen to the full interviews with faith leaders featured in the video for this session www.VisionandVoice.org.

WHAT IS 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.



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 participants and communities 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 with elected officials as they engage in health policy 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.



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