



Circles[®] Orange County
Thriving Families, Thriving Communities

ALLY TRAINING DESCRIPTIONS 2017

Bridges out of Poverty

This is a research based course designed to help people better understand how socioeconomic class has affected them. Bridges covers the "hidden rules" of class (poverty, middle, and wealthy) and helps people from all walks of life to better understand and communicate with people from a diversity of backgrounds. Bridges also assists participants with understanding how to suspend their assumptions so as to begin building meaningful relationships across socioeconomic lines. On this date, we are offering the introductory session of Aha! Process' Bridges out of Poverty training. A follow-up session of 4 hours will be offered at a later date.

Cost of Poverty Experience (C.O.P.E.)

The Cost of Poverty Experience is designed to help participants begin to understand what it might be like to live as a typical low-income family in the U.S. It is a two hour simulation and debriefing that provides a brief glimpse into what it feels like to walk for a month in the shoes of families trying their best to just survive with incomes between 100% and 200% of the federal poverty level. C.O.P.E. is an invaluable experience for people who, instead of merely talking about poverty as a problem, choose to be part of the solution to end poverty. This training is appropriate for middle school age and older individuals and for everyone serving locally. *** **Pre-Registration is appreciated but not required*****

Lead Organization: St. Luke's United Methodist Church
4851 South Apopka-Vineland Road, Orlando, FL • 407.876.4991 • www.st.lukes.org

Meet Jesus on The Road

Participants will gain a better understanding of our community transformation vision, how St. Luke's understands mission from a United Methodist perspective, what the Bible says about poverty, and asset-based development. This course provides a safe environment in which to explore how you understand diversity and serving with people from very different backgrounds.

Toxic Charity

Several times a year, we will offer a six weeks study of this book, which can be purchased at any time by contacting the Circles Coordinator. The book is helpful for learning how to serve others in ways that are not harmful, but rather maintain the dignity, independence, and hope of recipients. It provides insight into how to be aware of and check our intentions for undertaking acts of charity. It also provides insight into the complexities of poverty.

Dignity Serves

This is a powerful nine-hour interactive study from which participants learn how to engage in a dignified way the gifts and talents of people they serve through the creation of an interdependent relationship ("dignified interdependence"). It is available through the Polis Institute and South Street Ministry. St. Luke's is willing to provide assistance with partial or full payments for tuition.

For more information on Ally Training, contact Beth Witten, the Circles Coordinator, at bwitten@st.lukes.org.

Lead Organization: St. Luke's United Methodist Church
4851 South Apopka-Vineland Road, Orlando, FL • 407.876.4991 • www.st.lukes.org