

## **MONEY AND OUR SPIRITUAL LIVES**

### **OPENING WORDS & CHALICE LIGHTING:**

We light this chalice in fellowship, in love, laughter and praise  
Drawing from it inspiration and hope, strength for the days to come.

**PURPOSE:** We come together to build connections and to support each other on our spiritual journeys.

**CHECK IN:** What you share may be about your physical or spiritual health, cares or concerns for loved ones, issues you are facing. How is it with you today?

### **READING OF GROUP COVENANT**

#### **FOCUS: Money and Our Spiritual Lives**

Each person in the group speaks uninterrupted; if time remains, general response and conversation are welcome.

*"If you want to feel rich, just count the things you have that money can't buy"*

*"Waste your money and you're only out of money, but waste your time and you've lost a part of your life." ~Michael Leboeuf*

*"Don't tell me where your priorities are. Show me where you spend your money and I'll tell you what they are." ~James Frick*

*"I don't care too much for money, money can't buy me love." ~The Beatles*

"Money is a medium of power through which we act and are acted upon. A spiritual life that does not concern itself with money can have little effect on our daily lives, especially in a culture as saturated by financial forces as ours. Strong feelings about money threaten to preoccupy us: shame at lacking it, pride in having it, fear of losing it, compulsive eagerness to spend it, gluttonous delight in hoarding it. Each of these feelings has a moral and spiritual dimension: At worst, shame can render us unconscious of our kinship with God's family; pride can make us feel like gods ourselves. Fear can take away the courage requisite for moral action. Compulsive spending, like compulsive hoarding, turns our attention toward ourselves and away from the well-being of others. At its best, though, money can be a spiritual plus. Money earned for useful work is an encouraging symbol of our worthiness and value. The thoughtful use of money – spending, saving, investing, giving – is an effective way to care for others and realize our visions of a better world." ~ From Ministry and Money, by Dan Hotchkiss

**Guiding Questions:** We are raised with implicit and explicit messages about the meaning of money. Share a story from your childhood that illustrates one of the messages that you received as a child or in your youth, and how that has changed or remained that same.

Reflect on Hotchkiss' use of the words "shame" "pride" "fear" "compulsive spending/hoarding" when discussing issues around money.

Hotchkiss also writes: "If religion is to mean anything it has to influence the way we manage money choices." Reflect upon how being a Unitarian Universalist and/or part of All Souls influences the way you manage your money. Do you agree that there can be a spiritual dimension to how we use money?

**CONFIDENTIALITY CHECK AND CHECK OUT:** Is there anything that you shared here today that you would like held confidential? Otherwise, this is a reminder that we treat each other's sharing with kindness and respect.

### **CLOSING WORDS:**

*"As we leave this place and this company, may the fellowship of this circle carry us forward,  
remind us of that which we hold to be most sacred and encourage us in every hour,  
until such time as we meet again." ~Calvin Dame*