

## Attitudes on Money

### Chalice Lighting

#### Sharing of Joys and Sorrows

**Silence, holding ourselves and each other in silent support.**

#### Shared Readings:

Perhaps we cling to our affluence — even though it isn't working for us or the planet — because of the very nature of our relationship with money. As we shall see, money has become the movie screen on which our lives play out. We project onto money the capacity to fulfill our fantasies, allay our fears, soothe our pain, and send us soaring to the heights. In fact, we moderns meet most of our needs, wants, and desires through money. We buy everything from hope to happiness. We no longer live life. We consume it.

Joe Dominguez

The only thing money gives you is the freedom of not worrying about money.

Johnny Carson

"Money is a paradox in our culture —it enslaves, yet it also frees; it is intensely private, but it is also very public; it measures worth, yet it is no measure of real worth; it destroys yet also creates."

Anon

### Deep Sharing/Deep Listening

Round I Go around the circle and pick one word to describe the feeling you had about money as a child. Choose one of these or any other word that comes to mind. In a few sentences tell a story about why you chose that word.

Deprived	Poor
Lucky	Rich
Independent	Smart
Satisfied	Ignorant
Oblivious	Uninterested
Reward	Controlled
Worried	Dependent

Round II Each person will have a chance to share more deeply feelings, stories and experiences of attitudes on money in response to the homework questions.

Round III A more general discussion

### Group Business

Look over homework together

### Closing Words and Song "Go Now in Peace"

## Covenant Groups

### Attitudes on Money

#### The Covenant

I commit myself:

- to come to meetings when I possibly can, knowing that my presence is important to the group.
- to honor the group by letting the leader know if I will be absent and to come to the group one last time and say goodbye if I need to quit.
- to share with the leader the responsibility for good group process by watching how much time I take to speak and noticing what is going on for others.
- to not gossip about what is shared in the group, and not tell other people's stories.
- to listen to what others share with an open heart, and to share deeply in my turn.



## Attitudes On Money

Two areas for consideration come to mind on the subject of money and spirituality. First, how do our cultural, historical, and religious beliefs influence our understanding of the relationship between money and spirituality? How do our personal attitudes and feelings influence us? Do these nourish our spirits? Or do they harm our spirits? Second, does our spirit inform the way we use money? Do the ways we make and spend money support and enhance our spiritual-ethical values? If we want to live our values, which is what Unitarian Universalism is all about, then our relationship with money in the spiritual realm does matter.

From a sermon by The Reverend Dr. Linda Anderson  
(Unitarian Universalist Congregation of the Catskills)

As Dr. Anderson suggests, a discussion about the role of money in our lives can go in many directions. This session will focus on how we learned to think about money, and how that has influenced our lives.

Sorting out the place of money in your life is the soul's work.

Stephen Jenkinson

Questions:

1. What attitudes about money were you taught growing up? Do you remember an incident in your family of origin that illustrates those attitudes?
2. Have you rejected, accepted, or been oblivious to those attitudes?
3. How have those attitudes affected your way of life and life decisions?
4. Dr. Anderson states, "Do the ways we make and spend money support and enhance our spiritual-ethical values?" How does that show up in your life, in your behaviors?
5. Do you think you were taught to use money in support of your spiritual-ethical values? If you were to use money in support of your spiritual-ethical values, what attitudes or behaviors would you question or change, if any?