**Sample Leader’s Guide**

**Topic: Food Insecurity/Food Justice**

Across the Desert Southwest Conference, there are many churches involved in food justice at different levels. These are just a few to spark your own ideas and discussion. Work through the General Board of Church and Society’s Faith & Facts cards and consider contacting the churches listed below each ministry to learn more and get involved. Consider inviting someone from one of the ministries listed below to share about their ministry with your group.

**GBCS Faith & Facts**

The English Faith & Facts card on food justice is available for download at <https://www.umcjustice.org/documents/14>

**Leader**, ask the group, “What does the Bible say about food justice?” Then ask them to read the responses from the Faith & Facts card and add what the scripture means to them.

**Leader**, say to the group, “Now let’s hear what The United Methodist Church says about food justice.” Then ask them to read the responses from the Faith & Facts card. Now ask your group to share their thoughts about what they have read. Which item stands out the most for them and why?

**Leader**, ask the group to read the facts listed on the Faith & Facts card about food justice. Invite the group to share their experiences or thoughts on the subject.

(This would be a good moment to invite someone from one of the ministries below to share to the group about what they see or have learned as they work in this ministry.)

To end the gathering, read the prayer below and invite the group to consider this question: How might your church take action for justice?

**Prayer**

Bountiful God, we are grateful for the food you provide, blessings from the good Earth. We give thanks for life and all that we receive from you. Keep us mindful of the hands that prepared these gifts, especially the hands of farmworkers who make our bounty possible. Bring a harvest of love into our hearts to make the dream for a just world a reality in our day. Amen.

**Garden Ministries**

1. ***Giving Garden*** - Dayspring UMC, Tempe, AZ <https://dayspring-umc.org/ministries/giving-garden/>
2. ***Community Garden*** – Zion UMC, North Las Vegas, NV <https://dscumc.org/blog/2021/01/05/the-connection-lets-us-celebrate-each-other/>
3. ***Our Neighbor’s Farm and Pantry*** – First UMC, Safford, AZ <https://firstumcsafford.org/our-neighbors-pantry>

**Reduced Food Waste Distributions**

1. ***Market on the Move***: Non-profit organization working with food banks in Arizona, California, and other non-profits with the mission of providing life-saving fresh fruits and vegetables to families in need. Churches that participate:

* Catalina UMC, Tucson, AZ
* New Song UMC, Surprise, AZ
* St. Mark’s UMC, Tucson, AZ

1. ***Three Square***: Combine food banking (warehousing canned and boxed goods), food rescue (obtaining surplus or unused meats, bread, dairy and produce from hospitality and grocery outlets), and ready-to-eat meals to be the most complete food solution for Southern Nevada. Churches that participate:

* Desert Spring UMC, Las Vegas, NV
* Trinity UMC, Las Vegas, NV

1. ***P.O.W.W.O.W.*** *(Produce on Wheels With-Out Waste)*: Distributes produce rescued from warehouses between November and August around Arizona. Churches that participate:

* Aldersgate UMC, Phoenix, AZ
* Red Mountain UMC, Mesa, AZ
* Crossroads UMC, Phoenix, AZ
* Sierra Vista UMC, Sierra Vista, AZ

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