

## JOIN IN THE VISION TO END POVERTY IN MINNESOTA BY 2020

*In 2004 thirty-five religious leaders in Minnesota signed "A Common Foundation: Shared Principles for Work on Overcoming Poverty." In 2006, the Minnesota State Legislature, using the text of "A Common Foundation," passed a bill to create a Legislative Commission to End Poverty in Minnesota by 2020. Since then thousands of citizens in Minnesota have also signed their names to "A Common Foundation," building the public will to end poverty.*

### A COMMON FOUNDATION: SHARED PRINCIPLES FOR WORK ON OVERCOMING POVERTY

We believe it is the Creator's intent that all people are provided those things that protect human dignity and make for healthy life: adequate food and shelter, meaningful work, safe communities, healthcare, and education.

We believe we are intended to live well together as a whole community, seeking the common good, avoiding wide disparities between those who have too little to live on and those who have a disproportionate share of the world's goods.

We believe we are all called to work to overcome poverty, and that this work transcends both any particular political theory or party and any particular economic theory or structure. We believe that overcoming poverty requires the use of private and public resources.

We believe we are called to make alliances within the faith community and with others in society who share the commitment to overcome poverty.

We believe that overcoming poverty involves both acts of direct service to alleviate the outcomes of poverty and advocacy to change those structures that result in people living in poverty.

We believe government is neither solely responsible for alleviating poverty, nor removed from this responsibility. We believe government is the vehicle by which people order their lives based on their shared vision. We believe society is well served when people of faith bring their values into the public arena. It is this remarkable convergence around issues of poverty and the common good that leads people of varying faith traditions to unite in calling on government to make a critical commitment to overcoming poverty.

We believe the desire to overcome poverty is not simply a human idea, but is the desire of our Creator, and that the work to create a more just and whole society will be empowered by the Creator's presence.

**See Link: A Common Foundation at [www.mnwithoutpoverty.org](http://www.mnwithoutpoverty.org).**



[www.mnwithoutpoverty.org](http://www.mnwithoutpoverty.org)

### PURPOSE

Build, organize and mobilize a statewide movement to end poverty in Minnesota by 2020

### GOAL for 2009-2012

Promote and serve as a catalyst to implement the recommendations of the Legislative Commission to End Poverty by 2020

### THE WORK

**Public Will:** Build the critical mass of support necessary to implement the recommendations of the Legislative Commission to End Poverty

**Public Policy:** Promote and develop public policies that implement the recommendations of the Legislative Commission to End Poverty

**Public Leadership:** Act as a catalyst to engage leaders in the promotion of the Legislative Commission to End Poverty recommendations

**Public Accountability:** Develop communication tools to report the progress on Legislative Commission to End Poverty recommendations

**Public Access:** Create alliances and opportunities where people in poverty participate in and benefit from public policies and community action to end poverty

#### Contact:

Nancy Maeker

[nancymaeker@mnwithoutpoverty.org](mailto:nancymaeker@mnwithoutpoverty.org); 612-310-9560

#### Website:

[www.mnwithoutpoverty.org](http://www.mnwithoutpoverty.org)

#### Facebook:

"A Minnesota Without Poverty"

**Legislative Commission to End Poverty in Minnesota Report:**

[www.commissions.leg.state.mn.us/lcep/](http://www.commissions.leg.state.mn.us/lcep/)

## RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE LEGISLATIVE COMMISSION to End Poverty in Minnesota by 2020

### Restore work as a way out of poverty.

- Ensure that work pays
- Make work available
- Help business make employment opportunities available

### Refocus public assistance to streamline services and support everyone's capacity and potential.

- Connect people to help in crisis
- Support people in financial crisis

### Help Minnesotans build and maintain financial assets.

- Ensure public assistance allows reasonable assets
- Ensure fair financial marketplace
- Restrict use of personal credit information
- Equip to manage finances

### Revitalize our communities through infrastructure and person-to-person support.

- Infrastructure of housing and transportation
- Nurture person-to-person support
- Ensure families are safe and healthy
- Support young people

### Modernize our system of education to build the best workforce in the nation.

- Nurture children early
- Improve academic performance
- Equip with education and skills for work

### Develop an ongoing structure to monitor Minnesota's effort to end poverty.

- Create tools to monitor progress
- Develop specific goals and benchmarks

For the full report of the  
Legislative Commission to End Poverty in Minnesota by  
2020: [www.commissions.leg.state.mn.us/lcep/](http://www.commissions.leg.state.mn.us/lcep/)

## A MINNESOTA WITHOUT POVERTY WORKGROUPS

**Arts and Media Workgroup:** Uses the arts and media as vehicles to build awareness that leads to action and results in ending poverty

**Development Workgroup:** Creates opportunities for financial support for the work of ending poverty in Minnesota

**Legislative Workgroup:** Identifies annual legislative agenda and initiates appropriate action alerts for the email roster

**Community Business Catalyst Workgroup:** Convenes and facilitates entrepreneurial opportunities in rural and immigrant communities, and communities of color—with full participation of people in poverty in these communities

**Young Adult Workgroup:** Invites young adults (and others) to speak out and take action against poverty by creating awareness, letter-writing, discussion, and developing authentic, intentional relationships

## A MINNESOTA WITHOUT POVERTY PRESENTATIONS

- An **Introduction** to A Minnesota Without Poverty and the Legislative Commission to End Poverty Recommendations
- **Discussion and Action Guide** for the Legislative Commission to End Poverty Recommendations

To join a workgroup or schedule a presentation, contact  
nancymaeker@mnwithoutpoverty.org; 612-310-9560

*A Minnesota Without Poverty is a statewide movement to end poverty in Minnesota by 2020.*