

## FE 226 Ending Poverty: A Historical Look at Social Movements and the Role of Church

### Part II – Friday, December 3

A one day, one credit workshop

Facilitated by the Poverty Initiative: Willie Baptist and Liz Theoharis

#### Course Objectives:

Poverty is a moral outrage in our affluent society but some religious congregations have resigned themselves to tolerating it or, at best, managing it. Why? Some churches are simply not aware of the realities of poverty; others may be stunned into silence by their apparent powerlessness to affect change; still others may be exhausted from addressing the endless and immediate needs of poor people in their communities. Many congregations and community groups provide emergency-based charitable programs, but poverty is pervasive and volunteers in these programs often recognize that while meeting emergency needs they are not developing systemic solutions. Reflect with poor people who are sharing God's good news about how faith shapes the way we see and act in the world; explore historical social movements including abolition and the civil rights movements; and examine the role that churches are playing and have played in social movements throughout history.

#### Course Requirements:

This course is designed for people who are interested in learning about current and historic social movements and the role of religious institutions in these movements. Students are required to attend and actively participate in class, read the assigned articles and write a **2 page reflection paper** on some aspect of the class. This paper could be: a personal reflection on how poverty and a social movement to end poverty relate to your personal life and ministry; a brief proposal on how you will integrate the concepts learned and discussed into your work and ministry at Union and beyond; or a summary of a particular aspect of the course that interested you. The reflection paper is due on Friday, December 17<sup>th</sup>. It should be dropped off into FE 226 Pit Box #.

#### Course Readings:

Community Homeless Alliance Ministry Newsletter, June 2004.

"Christianity's Justification of the Slave Trade", 2004.

"Praying with the Poor: A Selection of litanies, prayers and reflections written by members of the Poor People's Economic Human Rights Campaign and collected from the works of noted religious leaders." 2004.

"US Like Poor Nations Spiritually, Poll Finds" *Los Angeles Times*, December 21, 2002.

King, Jr., Martin Luther, "Beyond Vietnam: A Time to Break the Silence", April 4, 1967.

King, Jr., Martin Luther, *Letter from a Birmingham Jail*, April 16, 1963.

Zucchini, David, *Myth of the Welfare Queen*, New York: Scribner Publishers, 1997, Chapter 8.

#### Agenda for FE 226: Ending Poverty: A Historical Look at Social Movements and the Role of Church

9:00 Introduction to the Course

9:30 Video Showing and Discussion – *Roots of Resistance and the Underground Railroad*

10:45 Break

11:00 Small Group Bible Studies and Discussions

12:00 Lunch Break

12:30 The Role of the Church in the Civil Rights Movement – Reflections by Paul Chapman

1:00 Video Showing and Discussion – *Eyes on the Prize*

2:00 Break

2:15 Stories, Songs, Videos, etc from the Movement to End Poverty

3:15 Small Group Social Movement Ministry Discussions

4:00 Break

4:15 Conclusions and Evaluation