



GCORR
CHURCH TO
COMMUNITY:
CHURCH FOR
ALL PEOPLE

DIVINE ECONOMY OF ABUNDANCE

What if we full heartedly believed, not in a God of scarcity, but in a God of abundance? What if every gift that God has ever given us is an asset, and what if we dedicated those assets to building the Kingdom of God?

When we open the Bible, we see that the story begins in abundance. And when we turn to the final page, we see that it ends in abundance as well. God created a world of plenty and has promised to restore us to that plenty in the end. In between, we observe the effects of human fear, greed, and selfishness that disrupt God's vision for us, and creates a false perception of scarcity. But by living into the generosity that God has modeled for us, we trigger a return to the Divine abundance that God intended.

At UM Church for All People, when the world focuses on the needs and deficits of our community, we talk about its hopes and dreams. We don't denigrate our community by bemoaning its deficits. Instead, we listen to the hopes and dreams of our neighbors, and then leverage our mutual assets to make those dreams come to life.

We don't ignore the injustices of the world. On the contrary, we are acutely aware of the statistics and disparities that exist because they affect each moment of our lives and of lives around us. And we work hard to combat those injustices every day.

In this world, we have two irreducible assets: God's people, and the Holy Spirit that guides them in doing God's work. God's people are always assets, never liabilities. And God's grace has no limit. Instead of the paralysis and despair of a needs-based society, we must re-center the intrinsic worth that God has placed in each one of us, and restore value to the things that the world has deemed useless, or unredeemable.



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If we will do this, all of the sudden vacant lots become opportunities for gardens, broken glass becomes a medium for artwork, our blighted buildings become the potential for stable housing.

Our sense of scarcity doesn't have to exist. Our economic gaps don't have to exist. Our racial disparities don't have to exist. Our political inequalities don't have to exist. Our societal injustices do not have to exist.

Instead, let us return to the abundance that God would have for us. Let us insist that God has given us everything we have, and that everything we have is an asset. Then let us use our two greatest assets, God's people and God's Holy Spirit, to transform our society together.

The smallest acts in God's Divine Economy of Abundance will trigger the next opportunity. We begin with the assets God has given us, we seek out the hopes and dreams of the community, and we leverage what we have into helping achieve those dreams.

Are you and your church ready to engage in asset based community development in a Divine Economy of Abundance? Download this worksheet (<http://bit.ly/DivineEconomyABCD>) that will help you apply asset based community development to a ministry you're looking to launch or expand.