Oneness and equality in Christ are realized through the waters of baptism, confirmed by the Holy Spirit, and sustained through the sacrament of Communion. Embrace the full meaning of these sacraments and be spiritually joined in Christ as never before.

—Stephen M. Veazey, Words of Counsel, April 2013

Respond to the following:

- Share examples from your congregation or community of how you live as embodied people.
- What barriers keep you from living as embodied people?
- How does embracing the full meaning of the sacraments help embody oneness and equality in Christ?
- How can your congregation more fully embrace the meaning of the sacraments?
- How did Richard transform to embody oneness and equality in Christ with Edgar? What changed and what remained the same?

Send
Exploring how the lesson might be lived out

Read the following passage from Barbara Howard’s article “Blessings of Community” (www.CofChrist.org).

This call to be Christ’s body is not merely for us to join a social club. It is a life commitment to Christ Jesus. Love demands from us a loyalty to our Creator God and to the purposes shown us in the life of Christ. God continually calls us, loves us, and directs us.

Respond to the following by recording in a journal, sharing in small groups of two to three, or sharing in the larger group:

- In what ways does your congregation at times resemble a social club?
- What commitment can you make to embody and live the concerns and passions of Christ in your congregation?
- Who is a “Pastor Edgar” in your life?
- What commitment can you make to embody and live the concerns and passions of Christ toward this person?

Bless
Time of prayer, praise, blessing, and hope

Read the following scripture as a prayer of blessing.

Peace be to the whole community, and love with faith, from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. Grace be with all who have an undying love for our Lord Jesus Christ.

—Ephesians 6:23–24 NRSV