

# ASSET-BASED COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT - AND THE STRENGTHS OF CONGREGATIONS

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An Introduction

*Presentation provided by Interfaith Power and Light*

ASSET-BASED  
COMMUNITY  
DEVELOPMENT  
(ABCD) SAYS:

*“Successful community-building depends on rediscovering and mobilizing resources [and strengths] already present in any community.”*

# ABCD'S WAY OF LOOKING AT COMMUNITIES



A challenge to the traditional approach to rebuilding communities

A framework for approaching our neighborhoods and our place in them

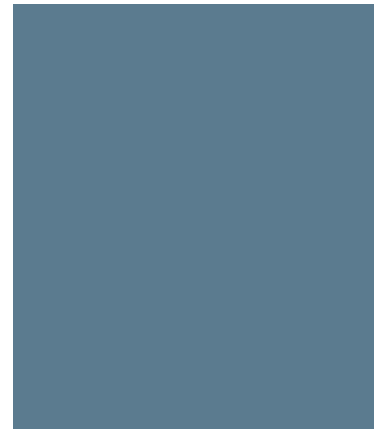
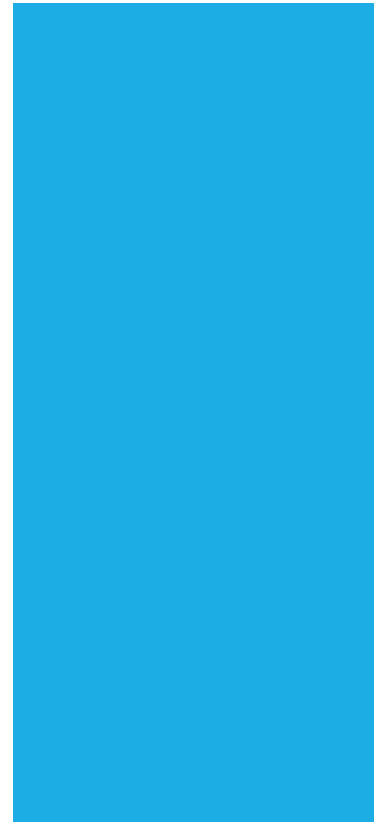
A way to mobilize different members of a community in a positive way



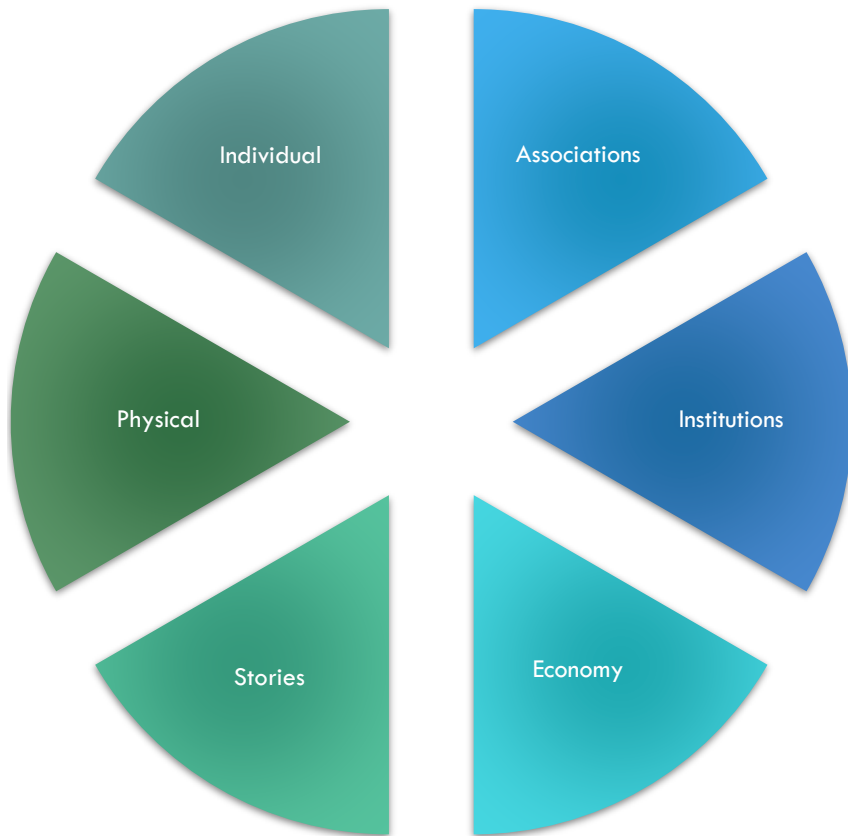
# The Eight Enduring Strengths of Congregations

(Rev. Gary Gunderson)

- Strength to Accompany
- Strength to Convene
- Strength to Connect
- Strength to Frame or Tell Stories
- Strength to Give Sanctuary
- Strength to Bless
- Strength to Pray
- Strength to Endure



# SIX TYPES OF ASSETS



1. Associations
2. Institutions
3. Economy
4. Stories
5. Physical
6. Individual

# 1. ASSOCIATIONS

Groups of unpaid residents that come together because they care about the same thing



Associational assets:

Individual capacities of members

Power of relationships

Common goals

Local connections and knowledge

Leadership potential

Energy

## 2. INSTITUTIONS



Groups of people that gather together and are paid to produce goods and services to be used by consumers or customers

Provide consistency, reliability, sustainability

Three types of institutions:

Private sector (businesses)

Nonprofit (agencies)

Public sector (government)

# 3. ECONOMY



Things that are...

Shared

Traded

Purchased

Exchanged

Can be formal or informal  
(babysitting for a  
neighborhood, ride sharing,  
etc.)



# 4. STORIES



Photo courtesy of Broadway UMC, Indianapolis, IN

Of background and personal history

Of what you like to do and contribute

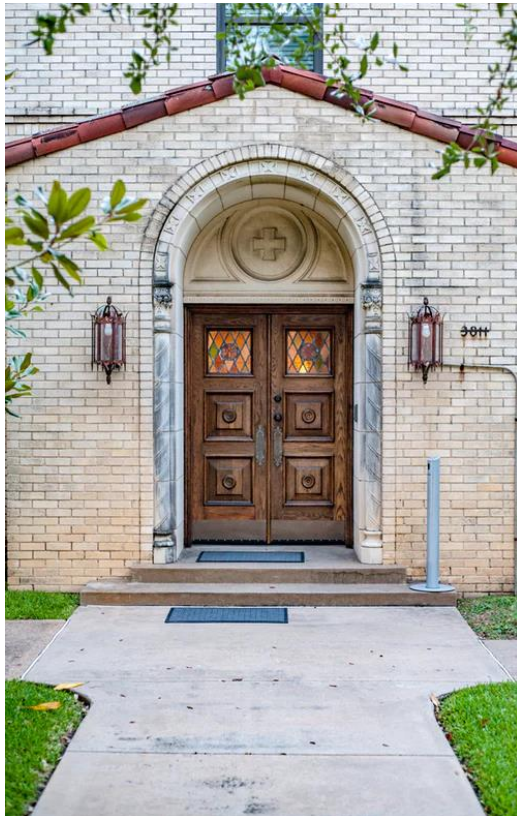
Of existing skills and capacities

Of economic growth

Of including those who are marginalized

Of a time that the community was at its best

# 5. PHYSICAL



Land and everything on it

Infrastructure

Buildings – and vacant  
land

Utilities

Gardens

Parks

Playgrounds

# 6. INDIVIDUALS



Local residents, landowners,  
tenants and employees –  
and their gifts, talents,  
dreams, hopes and fears


Gifts of the Head

Gifts of the Hand

Gifts of the Heart

# COMMUNITY RESILIENCE TO CLIMATE CHANGE ...

*... the existence, development, and engagement of community resources by community members to thrive in an environment characterized by change, uncertainty, unpredictability, and surprise.*



*Lord,  
Renew our spirits and cleanse our hearts  
Renew our minds and transform our lives  
Renew our cities and rebuild our ruins  
Renew our world, in your name we pray,  
Amen*