ASSET-BASED COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT - AND THE STRENGTHS OF CONGREGATIONS

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

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