

Detectives of Divinity

Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church
Rev. Ruben Duran
ELCA



THANKS

For this opportunity to be with you.

To explore together what God is doing in our neighborhoods, with our neighbors. And, discern the various roles we are called to play in the economy of God.

Grateful to Mark Lau Branson and Nicholas Warnes, editors of “Starting Missional Churches, Life With God In The Neighborhood”.

The idea of Detectives of Divinity came from the Afterword by Alan Roxburgh.

BIBLICAL-THEOLOGICAL TOOLS

- 1. It is about God; 2 Cor. 5:17-20

God is a community in Mission

Father, Son and Holy Spirit

The 3 Amigos, reconciling the world

Creative, Diverse, United in mission

Social Trinity

Sending Trinity

Invite us to be ambassadors for God

BIBLICAL-THEOLOGICAL TOOLS

- 2. God at work

24/7

In and through the church

In and through civil society

- 3. Sacramental View of Reality

2 Sacraments: water, wine, bread, word

God's real presence in world

God in the neighbor

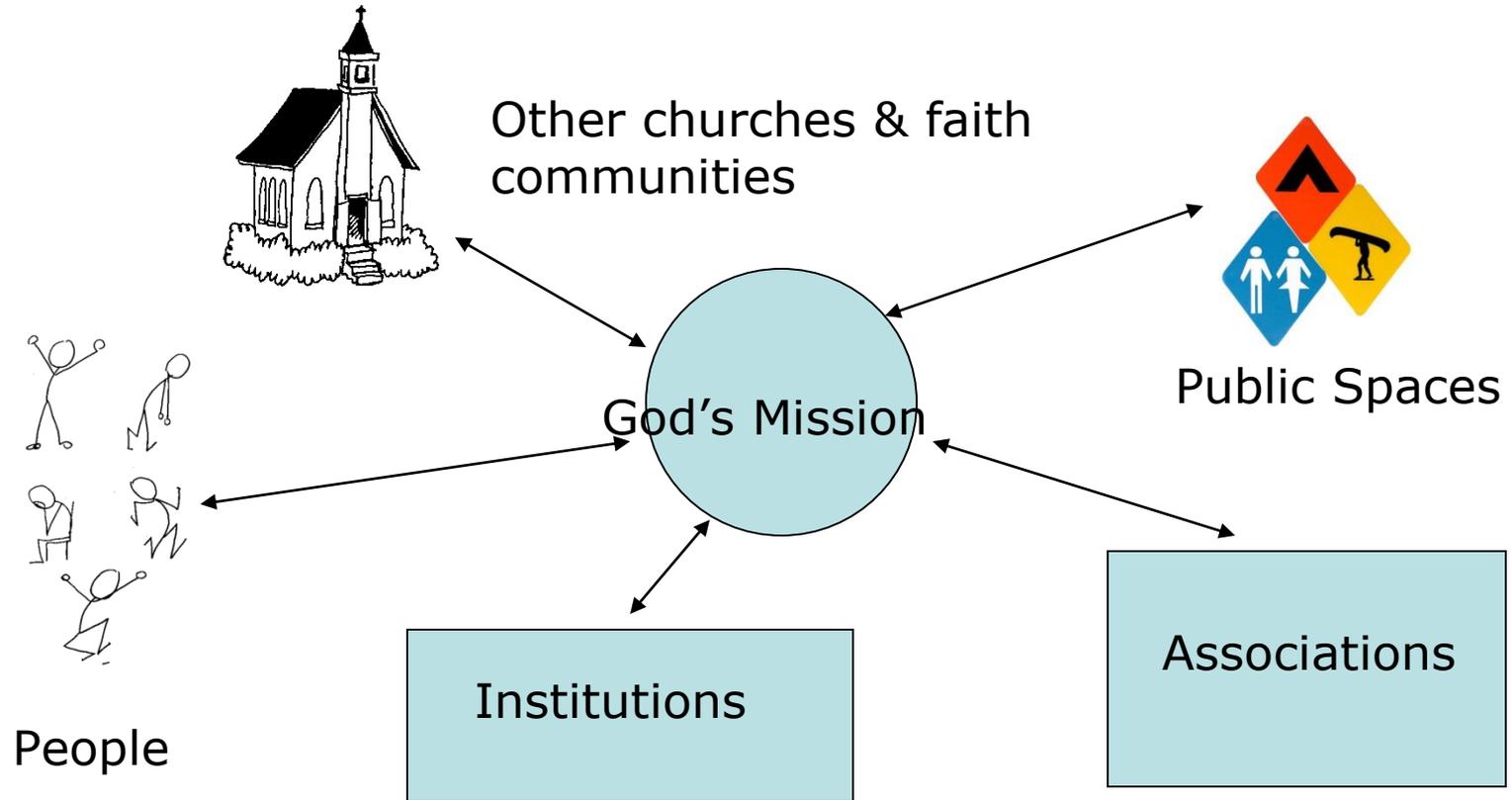
Free from sin, death and the evil one

Free to love and serve the neighbor

BIBLICAL-THEOLOGICAL TOOLS

- ◉ 4. Incarnational initiative of God
John 1: 14 And God became flesh, and dwelt among us
- ◉ 5. Lord's Prayer:
“Your Kingdom come, your will be done on earth, as it is in Heaven”
- ◉ 6. Priesthood of all believers: 1 Peter 2: 9-10
Ministers in everyday life
Accompanying neighbors and civil society

God at work



INVITED

- ◉ To have more curiosity than judgement

- ◉ To become “detectives of divinity”

- ◉ To re-enter God’s world and discover anew:
 - a. What in the world is God doing?
 - b. How can I/we participate in it?
 - c. How can we do this ecumenically?

DETECTIVES OF DIVINITY

◉ What is God up to - (church and community)

- New lenses
- Learning conversations
- Discovering with our feet
- Discovering together
- Accompanying civil society
- Ready to witness



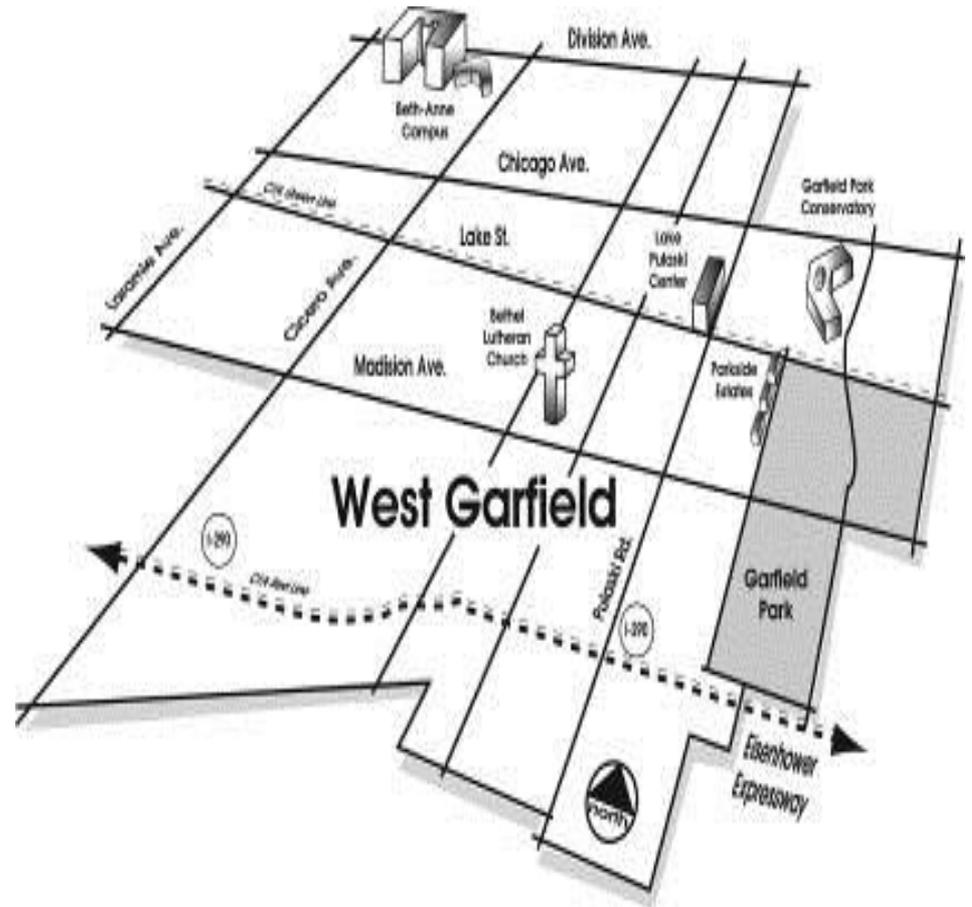
THINK AND SHARE

- ◉ As a “detective of divinity”, where have you seen God at work lately?
- ◉ In your life
- ◉ In your church
- ◉ In your community
- ◉ Any ideas how you can participate in it?

CHURCH: A COMMUNITY OF DETECTIVES

- ⦿ Building relationships in the public arena
 - ⦿ Restoring community
 - ⦿ At home in church and world
 - ⦿ Listening, Learning, Serving, Witnessing
-
- ⦿ **LEARNING:** Connection to context and networks of partnership increase congregational vitality.

Releasing Detectives of Divinity



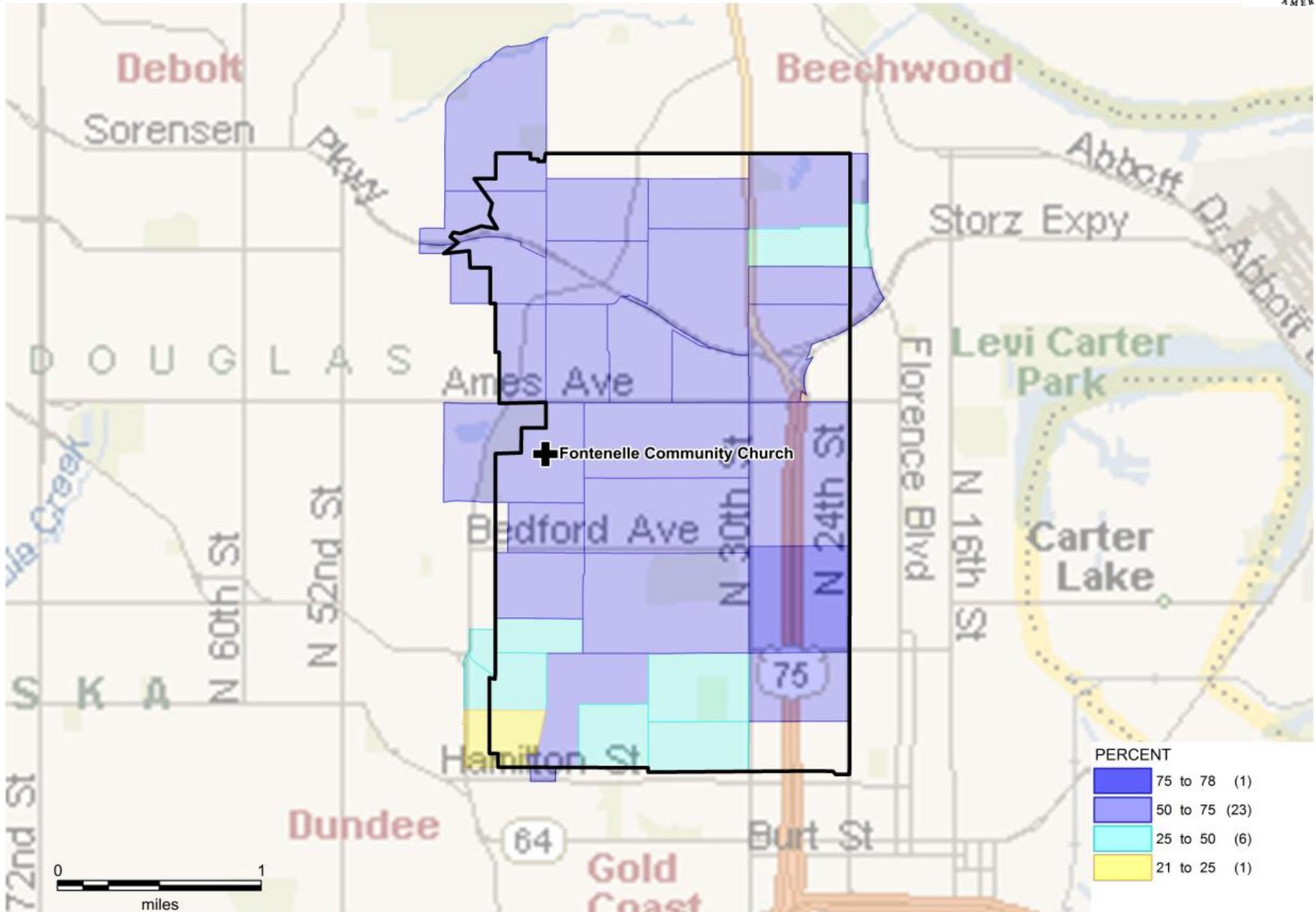
DETECTING DIVINITY NOW

- ⦿ 1. Helicopter View: demographics
- ⦿ 2. Street View: building relationships
- ⦿ 3. Community Capacity View: assets, gifts
- ⦿ 4. Power Analysis: changing systems
- ⦿ 5. Collective Impact: effective alliances

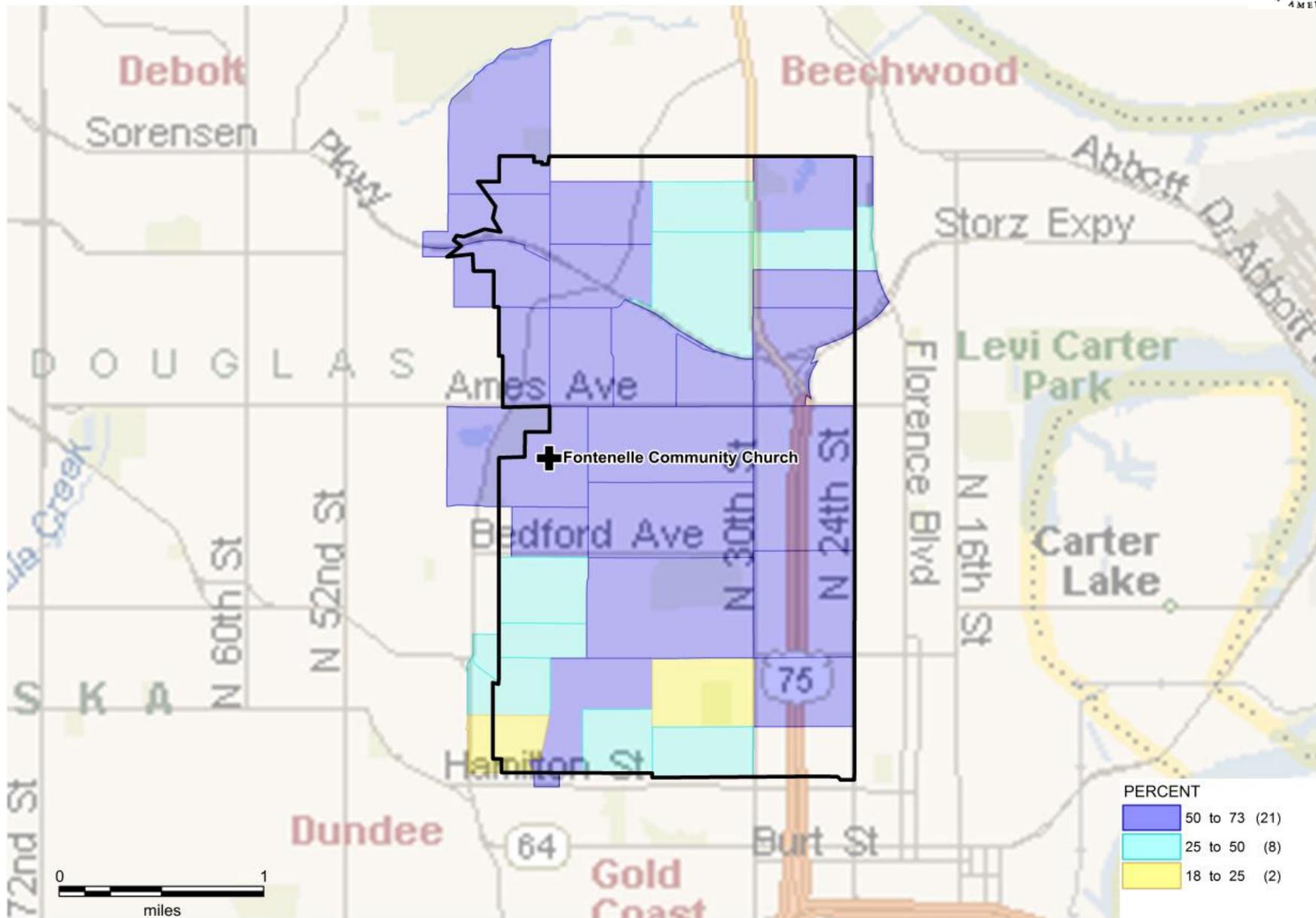
1. Helicopter View

- Check the demographic information
- Office of Research and Evaluation, ELCA
- Free service at your request
- Census information and more
- Give the office 2-3 weeks to get back to you with your request
- Other resource: MissionInsite

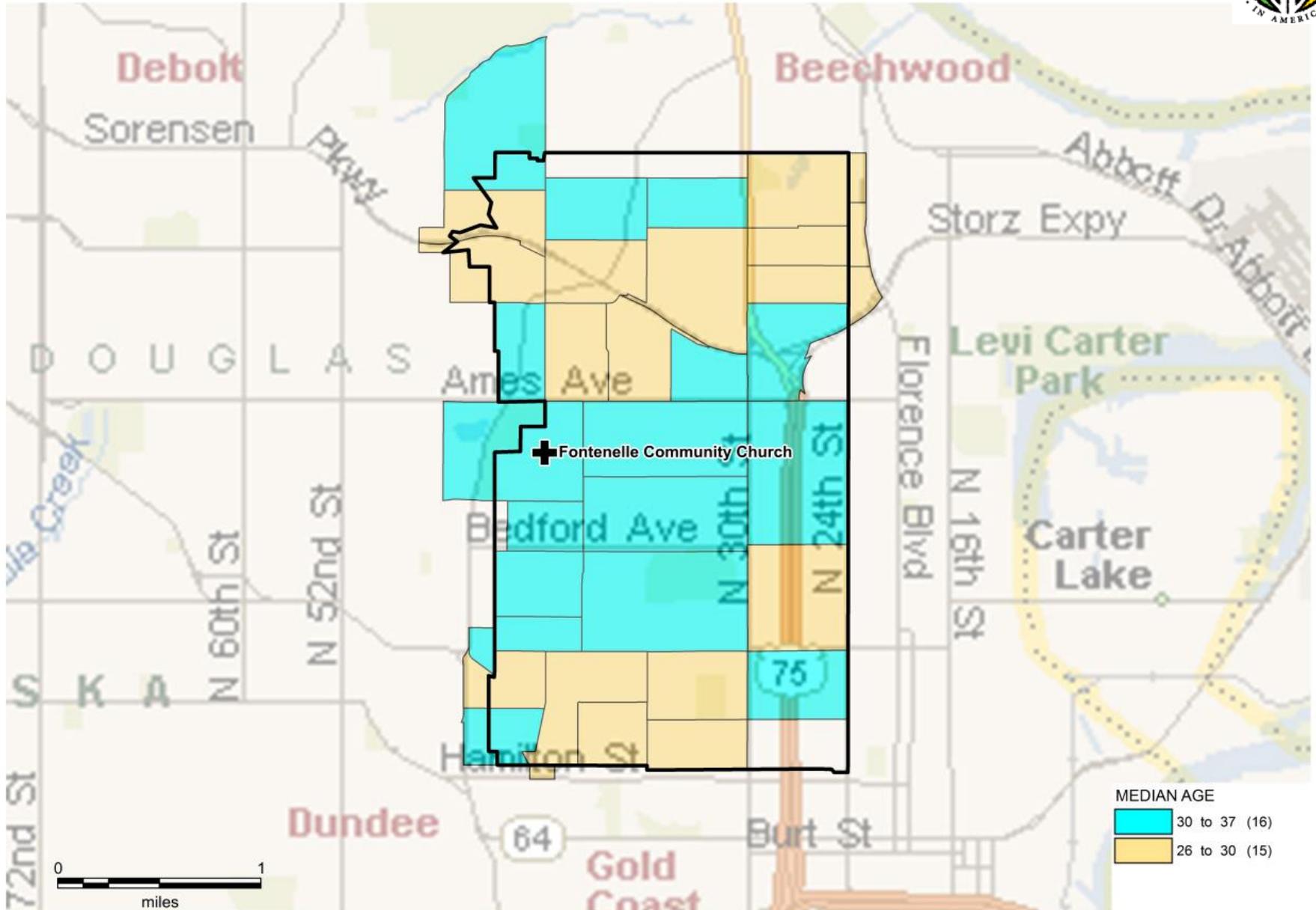
**Estimated 2015 Percent African American Population
by Block Groups
for ZIP Code 68111 Omaha, NE**



**Projected 2020 Percent African American Population
by Block Groups
for ZIP Code 68111 Omaha, NE**



Estimated 2015 Median Age
by Block Groups
for ZIP Code 68111 Omaha, NE



Pop Facts: Demographic Snapshot (Part 1)		68111 Omaha	
Population			
2020 Projection		24,260	
2015 Estimate		23,584	
2010 Census		23,098	
2000 Census		25,426	
Growth 2015-2020		2.87%	
Growth 2010-2015		2.10%	
Growth 2000-2010		-9.16%	
2015 Est. Population by Single-Classification Race		23,584	
White Alone	5,826	24.70%	
Black or African American Alone	13,780	58.43%	
American Indian and Alaska Native Alone	367	1.56%	
Asian Alone	747	3.17%	
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander Alone	17	0.07%	
Some Other Race Alone	1,254	5.32%	
Two or More Races	1,593	6.75%	
2015 Est. Population Hispanic or Latino by Origin		23,584	
Not Hispanic or Latino	21,168	89.76%	
Hispanic or Latino	2,416	10.24%	
Hispanic or Latino by Origin		2,416	
Mexican	1,827	75.62%	
Puerto Rican	109	4.51%	
Cuban	31	1.28%	
All Other Hispanic or Latino	449	18.58%	

← Sample from Demographic Snapshot Report

Pop Facts: Demographic Trend	68111 Omaha					
	2000/2010 Census	%	2015 Estimate	%	2020 Projection	%
Population by Sex*						
	23,098		23,584		24,260	
Male	10,789	46.71%	11,059	46.89%	11,448	47.19%
Female	12,309	53.29%	12,525	53.11%	12,812	52.81%
Pop. by Single-Classification Race by Hispanic/Latino*						
Hispanic or Latino:	1,952		2,416		2,954	
White Alone	587	30.07%	698	28.89%	832	28.17%
Black or African American Alone	139	7.12%	158	6.54%	180	6.09%
American Indian and Alaska Native Alone	59	3.02%	74	3.06%	82	2.78%
Asian Alone	4	0.20%	5	0.21%	5	0.17%
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander Alone	1	0.05%	1	0.04%	1	0.03%
Some Other Race Alone	900	46.11%	1,152	47.68%	1,448	49.02%
Two or More Races	262	13.42%	328	13.58%	406	13.74%
Not Hispanic or Latino	21,146		21,168		21,306	
White Alone	4,706	22.25%	5,128	24.23%	5,593	26.25%
Black or African American Alone	14,541	68.76%	13,622	64.35%	12,735	59.77%
American Indian and Alaska Native Alone	239	1.13%	293	1.38%	347	1.63%
Asian Alone	511	2.42%	742	3.51%	976	4.58%
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander Alone	15	0.07%	16	0.08%	17	0.08%
Some Other Race Alone	99	0.47%	102	0.48%	112	0.53%
Two or More Races	1,035	4.89%	1,265	5.98%	1,526	7.16%



Sample from Demographic Trend Report



Learning: National Picture

- In the ELCA, there are:
- 2000 churches with 20% or more African Descent population in their zip code
- 1,400 churches in Latino communities
- 900 churches in Asian communities
- 400 churches in or near reservations

- Multicultural potential around us!!

2. Street View

- Walk, walk and walk your area
- Find ways to mingle and connect if your area is more regional or spread-out
- Listen, seek understanding
- Trade judgement for curiosity
- Fall in love with your ministry area
- Use the One on One relational tool.

A 1:1 is...

an intentional, uncommon conversation designed to

- start or build a relationship
- uncover what matters most
- increase power/ability to serve, act for justice

LEARNING One on One CONVERSATIONS

- 1) Tell us about something good that happened in the community recently
- 2) Issues & concerns you want to work on?
- 3) Gifts, capacities & skill to share?
- 4) Strong relationships with others (associations/institutions)
- 5) Further contacts you would suggest (other people-name, phone, address)



3. Discover Community Capacity

- Finding assets: gifts in action
- Involve leaders in church and community
- Villages and communities around the world discover assets to help them deal with their ever-growing needs
- Combine gifts you already have and put them in action for church and community.
- This is called Asset Mapping methodology

DISCOVERING ABUNDANCE

- Asset Mapping - (community and congregation)
 - eyeballing
 - New eyeglasses
 - Learning conversations
 - Discovering with our feet
 - Discovering together



Resources

- “The Great Permission”, an ELCA resource; Augsburg Fortress
- Asset-Mapping resources from Luther Snow (Iowa)
- Asset-Based Community Institute, at Northwestern University, Evanston, IL; Dr. Jodie Kretzman
- www.pcusa.org -Starting New Initiatives. Appendix I-D; Exploring Neighborhood.

GOD'S VISION FOR COMMUNITY

How should we live together?

Who's at the table? Left out?

What's difference between
God's vision and our reality?



TWO PATHS--TWO SOLUTIONS

Needs

(What is not there)

Services to meet
needs

Consumers

Programs are answer



Assets

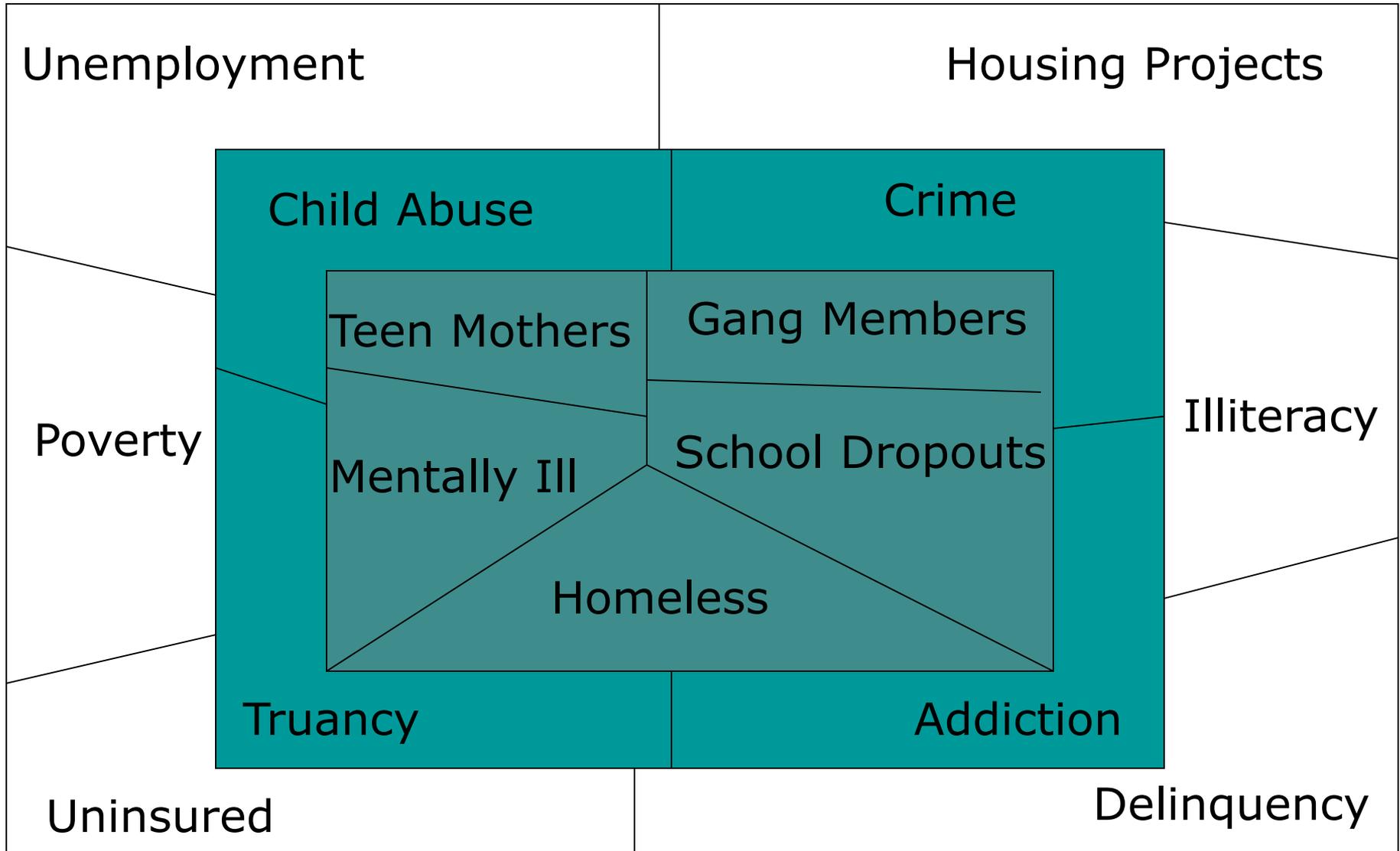
(What is there)

Connections &
contributions

Local leaders

People are the
answer

Community Needs Map



PRACTICE: at tables

- Take a look at the ASSETS or GIFTS in your community:
- Identify 1 or 2 people, associations or institutions that you and/or your church ought to build a relationship with in order to extend the ministry of your church and learn from them on an ongoing-basis.
- Why are your choices important? Share

COMMUNITY ACTION



*Go to the people
Live among them
Learn from them
Love them
Start with what they know
Build on what they have;
But of the best leaders
when their task is done
The people will remark
“We have done it ourselves.”
Lao-Tau, 700 BC*

4. Power Analysis

- Every community has a nerve
- Your ministry needs to connect to that nerve and define its role based on your purpose and principles
- Connect with current leaders in community centers, community development, non-for profits; community organizing groups, ecumenical partners and others.

Power Analysis

- The one on ones relational meetings will help you get a picture of the way life is organized in your community
- How are decisions made? Who has the greatest influence on those decisions?
- How are those decisions affecting people?
- What systems create disparity, walls of separation and/or bridges to wellbeing!!

Power Analysis

- 1. Define the issue to be addressed
- 2. Who are those most affected by this issue and how? Are their voices being heard?
- 3. Who or what entity has the ultimate power to address this issue and solve it?
What is their self-interest?
- 4. Who has the strongest influence in the decision-makers? What's their self-interest
- 5. How can we connect #4 with #2: the base
- 6. What is the role of the church on this issue?

Practice

- Acts 6:1-6. The story of the Greek Widows
- Issue led to Acts 15, the 1st Churchwide Assembly.
- Use Power Analysis within your church and in the community. People will help turn “walls” of division into planning “tables” for community wellbeing.

Acts 6:1-5

- Now in these days when the disciples were increasing in number, a complaint by the Hellenists arose against the Hebrews because their widows were being neglected in the daily distribution.

And the twelve summoned the full number of the disciples and said: It is not right that we should give up preaching the word of God to serve tables.

Acts 6:1-5

- Therefore, pick out from among you seven men of good repute, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we will appoint to this duty.
- We will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word.
- And they chose Stephen, full of faith and of the Holy Spirit, and Philip, and Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas and Nicolaus, a proselyte of Antioch.

PRACTICE

- 1. What is the issue here?
- 2. Who are the most affected?
- 3. Who has the power to fix the issue?
- 4. Who has the most influence to help?
- 5. What was unique about the resolution?
- 6. Now: Imagine “how” it was resolved!!!.
These dynamics have similarities all over.
- Imagine this chapter written by a widow!!

5. Collective Impact

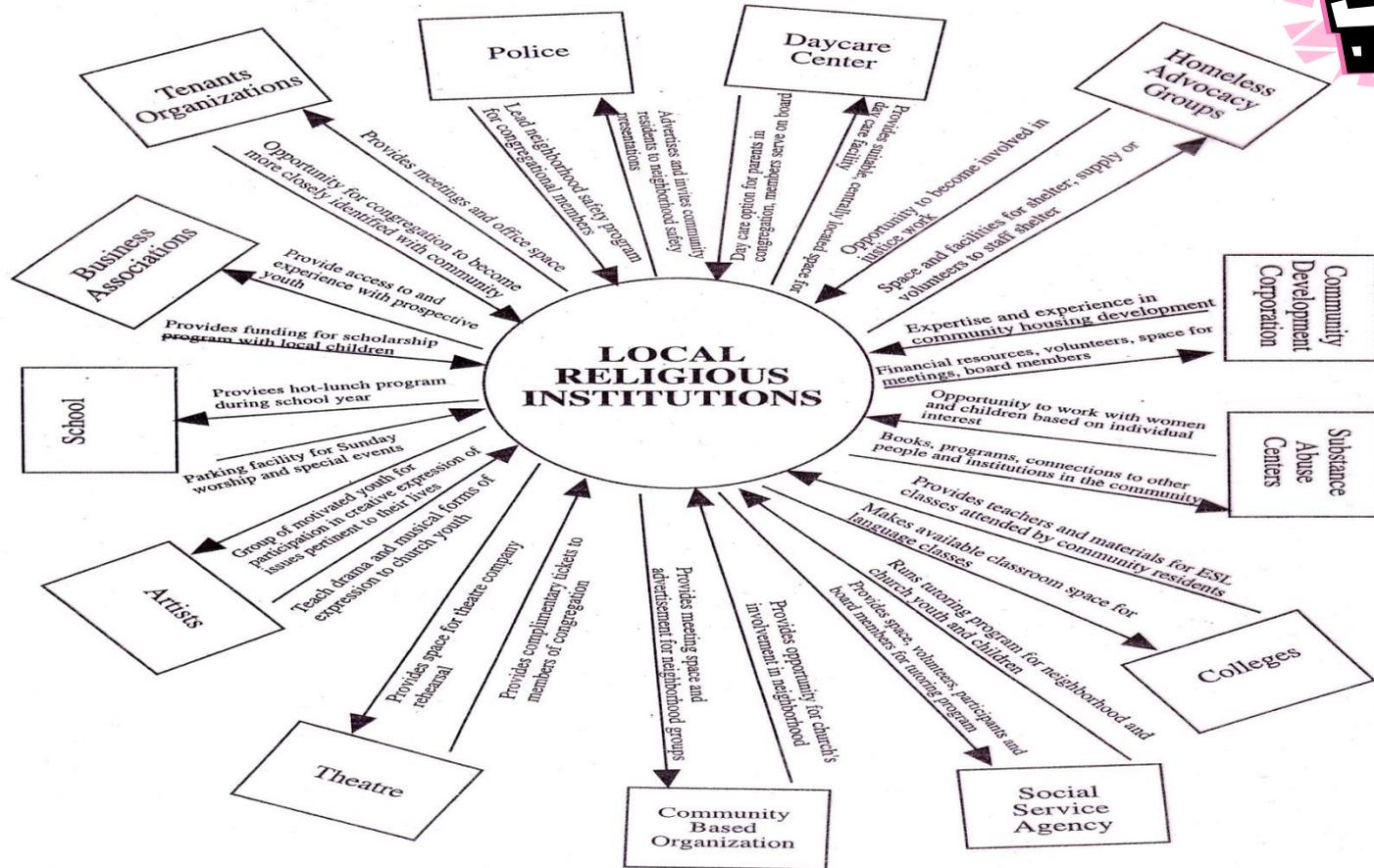
- Channeling Change: Making Collective Impact Work,
By Fay Hanleybrown, John Kania, & Mark Kramer.
Stanford Social Innovation Review, 2012
www.ssireview.org

Collective Impact

- Collaborative efforts for substantial community impact.
- Five Conditions:
 - 1. Common Agenda
 - 2. Shared Measurement
 - 3. Mutually Reinforcing Activities
 - 4. Continuous Communication
 - 5. Backbone Support

RELEASING THE POWER OF LOCAL ASSOCIATIONS AND ORGANIZATIONS

Chart Three: One on One Relationships



Social capital - the connections among individuals, social networks-with reciprocity; the more relationships someone (or some institution) has in their community, the more likely to be effective, employed, engaged, volunteer

INVITATION

- God is inviting all children of God to get OUT of their comfort zones to see God at work in the world.
- Building relationships and partnerships we will find many who are doing God's work without knowing it.
- We might be able to connect and learn together how God's dream is becoming a reality there. By God's grace, churches will be renewed and new ministries will be called into existence.

ELCA: A Community in Mission

- Building relationships in the public arena
- Restoring community
- At home in church and world
- Listening, learning, serving, witnessing, being blessed in our neighbors.

- Jeremiah 29:7 Seek the welfare of the community where I have sent you, and pray on its behalf, for in its welfare you will also find your welfare.