


Restoring Civic Society

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Advancing Human Rights is the Work of Many Joining Hands




Who is in the room?




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What is UUSC?

The mission of UUSC is to advance human rights through grassroots collaboration.



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Theory of Change:


Guided by UU principles and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, UUSC strives to:

- Advance Human rights
- Dismantle systems of oppression
- Uplift and affirm the inherent worth and dignity of all people

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We center the voices and experience of those most effected and strengthen those grassroots groups and movements organizing themselves to advance the goals.



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Goals of this session:

- Understand what community organizing is & the different kinds of organizing
- Recognize how basic organizing principles are restorative and are tools for strengthening civic society
- Be able to apply these tools to strengthen communities and center the most marginalized voices
- Using a case study, analyze the process for creating effective change in communities



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What is Community Organizing?

"Community organizing is the process of building power that includes people with a problem in defining their community, defining the problems that they wish to address, the solutions they wish to pursue, and the methods they will use to accomplish their solutions."

(Beckwith, Stoecker, and McNeely, 1997)

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National Organizing Networks

IAF INDUSTRIAL AREAS FOUNDATION

PICO National Network
Unlocking the Power of People™

GAMALIEL

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Different Kinds of Organizing

- Alinsky model- focus on **communities organizing for power:**
Grounded in agitation and anger
- Women-centered -focus on **organizing relationships to build community** (Highly Local)
Grounded in relationships and common cause
- Faith Based models- focus on **organizing relationships to build community and build power.**
Grounded in relationships and common cause.

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A simplified model of society:

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A simplified model of US society:

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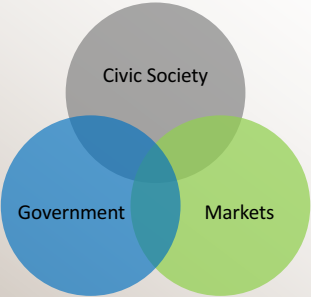
A simplified model of today's US society:

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A simplified model of society:



Civic Society
Government
Markets

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We live in a world of TENSION between The World As It Is ↔ World As It Should Be


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We live in a world of TENSION between The World As It Is ↔ World As It Should Be

- Our values shape our image of the world as it should be.



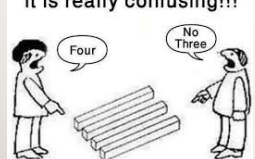
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We live in a world of TENSION between The World As It Is ↔ World As It Should Be

- Our values shape our image of the world as it should be.
- We do not always agree on what the world should look like.



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Core Values

- We all have inherent worth. 
- We are inherently social beings. 
- We each have something unique to offer the world. 
- We have what we need right here. 

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Core Values

- We are part of an Interdependent web of all existence. 
- We exist within a larger system (Holistic). 
- We all want to live in safe, respectful and healthy communities. 

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We live in a world of TENSION between
The World As It Is ↔ World As It Should Be

- Our values shape our image of the world as it should be.
- We do not always agree on what the world should look like.
- We change the world as it is by engaging in civic dialogue and the democratic process to create the world as it should be.



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In triads or pairs- take a few minutes each:

Take a moment to imagine the world as it should be... what would it look like for you?

What one specific thing would you change? How might you change it?

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Tools of Organizing

- The Iron Rule of organizing
- Understanding Power and Love
- One-to-One meetings
- House meetings
- Educational opportunities and Research
- Community Forums and Events

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The Iron Rule of Organizing:

Never do for another what they can do for themselves.

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Power and Love

“Power without love is reckless and abusive, and love without power is sentimental and anemic. Power at its best is love implementing the demands of justice, and justice at its best is power correcting everything that stands against love.”

—Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

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Educational Opportunities and Research

That research can and should include-

- Diverse voices on the teams
- Power Mapping
- Verify conditions and perceptions of community
- Look into existing policy or laws that may impact the communities concerns
- Meetings with local officials
- Identify steps necessary for making the change



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Community Forums and Events

Can include:

- Elected officials
- Community leaders



- Open forums
- Specific, Pre-arranged Speakers
- Social gatherings

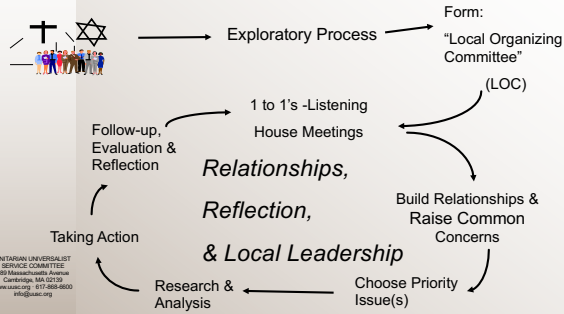


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Follow-up with house meetings or small groups



Faith Based Community Organizing Model



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Side Effects of Organizing

One-to-Ones and House Meetings

- help people get to know each other better
- engage people



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Side Effects of Organizing

Sharing stories helps us

- understand one another better
- learn about each others lives/develop and strengthen empathy
- learn what motivates and drives others



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Side Effects of Organizing

This process strengthens organizations too: the more we know about each other, the more likely we are to be compassionate towards one another.



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How might you use this process and/or these tools in your community?

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More will be revealed...

Questions?
Comments?
Thoughts?

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