

# Congregational Core Teams

## What is a “Core Team?”

Every congregation should have a core team responsible for the organizing work. This team should be comprised of approximately 5-25 people (depending upon the size of the congregation), including both clergy and lay leaders. The mission of the core team is to represent the interests of the congregation inside of the larger organization, and to represent the interests of the organization inside of the congregation.

## Who Should be on the Core Team?

The core team should be comprised of congregational leaders from every corner of the congregation. Ideally, there will be representatives of each major ministry or program of the congregation. Each member of the core team should have a following inside the congregation, or should commit to building a following through the organizing work.

## What do core team members do?

- Meet on an ad-hoc basis
- Initiate individual meetings in the congregation
- Host house meetings
- Recruit turnout for organizational events
- Participate on leadership bodies and issue teams of the larger organization.
- Keep members of the congregation informed about organizing activities.
- Attend community organizing trainings
- Initiate relationships with leaders in other congregations.

## Agenda for the First Core Team Meeting

- Individual meetings with each other (let’s not assume everyone knows each other)
- Accountability and strategy on individual meetings in your congregation: to whom should you reach out strategically?
- Recruitment for January 13 house meeting training

*The Cleveland Industrial Areas Foundation seeks to bring together congregations across Cuyahoga County in a broad-based interfaith coalition that can act powerfully together on issues of social justice and common concern.*