



What does it mean to be part of the collaborative?

Together, Beacon congregations are able to achieve more than we ever could separately.

Our model of collaboration uses the principles and practical tools of community organizing to put faith values into action, bringing the congregation into the public arena and providing opportunities to learn and serve. In the process, individual leaders, collaborating congregations and the whole collaborative become stronger and more effective.

Together, we build the power to create more equitable communities where all people have a home.

Congregations affirm the collaborative's strategic framework, committing energy and resources to ensure all people have a home.

- Clergy advance the broad vision of Beacon, connecting it to their congregation's own faith tradition and mission.
- Leaders and volunteers act to create homes, shelter families and impact policy.
- The congregation makes a financial contribution to support the collaborative.

Congregations build a culture grounded in relationships by listening to the people inside their own walls.

- Listening to each other's stories builds deeper relationships, and identifies leaders, energy and interests within the congregation. Individual talents and gifts are recognized and unleashed.
- Congregational organizers provide tools and expertise to engage congregation members in listening and doing one-to-one visits with each other.

As congregations begin to take action to create homes and impact policies, they assemble a Beacon Leadership Team.

- The Beacon Leadership Team connects people to mission. The team represents the interests of the congregation to the collaborative and represents the interests of the collaborative to their congregation.
- The team includes congregational leaders from a variety of ministry areas.
- Clergy and congregational organizers support the creation and development of this team.

Congregations invest in their leaders through Beacon Academy.

- Training on topics related to homelessness, hosting, housing, and creating change helps congregations use their capacity and power to address issues no one can address alone.
- Leaders build skills, connect with leaders from other congregations, and develop confidence in their ability to have a positive impact.

Being part of the collaborative builds congregational vitality!

- New volunteers and leaders are identified and engaged.
- Leaders share their new-found skills, confidence and commitment within the congregation.
- The congregation makes its faith come to life through action.
- The public profile of the congregation increases.

What is the role of a Beacon Leadership Team?

The Beacon Leadership Team is the primary liaison between the congregation and the collaborative. Their work builds the power and capacity of the collaborative as it simultaneously strengthens the congregation and expands its profile in the public arena. Supported by a congregational organizer, the team creates a relationship-focused, action-oriented culture around the vision that all people have a home.

What does the team do?

The team generally meets monthly, or as needed, to:

- **Share** updates on the work and direction of the collaborative.
- **Plan** for involvement in activities and actions that move the work forward.
- **Engage** the broader congregation through one-to-ones, training and convenings, building energy and ownership, and ensuring that the congregation's voice is heard.
- **Hold each other accountable** for building the power of the congregation and the collaborative.

The most important actions of team members are to initiate **one-to-one meetings** with individuals in their congregation. One-to-ones make it possible to identify and engage people with energy and leadership potential.

Who should be on the team?

- Include **6 – 8 people** who represent the ministries at the heart of congregational life – such as faith formation, mission and outreach, and worship – and are willing to make a one-year commitment (or more).
- The Beacon Leadership Team also **includes clergy**, although they may not attend all meetings or activities. Their support drives participation, demonstrating that this is a priority of the congregation.
- Team members are curious, relational, and committed to addressing injustice – without losing their sense of humor or patience.

Congregational organizers work with each Beacon Leadership Team to develop and implement plans that build the power and capacity of the individual, the congregation and the collaborative.

But wait, there's more . . .

- Team members **attend leadership trainings** offered through Beacon Academy to develop their individual skills and expand the congregation's capacity to act.
- Beacon Leadership Teams **learn and interact with leaders** from other congregations.