



## **THE WORLD IS ABOUT TO TURN**

### ***Community Organizing Training for Congregational Leaders***

#### **June 13-17, 2022**

This training is a catalyzing opportunity for leaders to come together across the Minneapolis Area Synod's issue-organizing campaigns and Street Voices for Change. We are powerful and passionate people who want to be about big and long-lasting systemic change.

Out of a shared vision for using the tools of community organizing for faithful, transformational, strategic work, the synod is offering a week-long training. The focus of our time together will be skill-building, shared analysis, grounding, and strategy. Led by synod organizing staff and leaders, we will be using the training tools from Midwest Academy to equip our work going forward.

Together we show up so we can better act collectively and powerfully, connecting our values and rooting in faith community to our neighborhoods and public life. Be prepared to walk away challenged, energized, and empowered in your own leadership.

If you have questions, please reach out to one of the organizers or trainers, we're happy to talk with you further: [Emilie Bouvier](#), [Brenda Blackhawk](#), [Meghan Olsen Biebighauser](#), [Melissa Pohlman](#), or [Nick Tangen](#).

As a conference-style training, be prepared for an immersive experience. The expectation is for everyone to be fully present for the entirety of the training, prepared to fully engage in deep and interactive learning. This means setting aside this time from other work or distractions as much as is possible for these days of training. We are excited for this transformative time together.

#### **Details**

Mon-Fri June 13-17, 2022, held in-person (assuming current levels of COVID risk; if levels change, we will postpone.)

Location TBA in Minneapolis area; lunches provided; overnight accommodations available.

Detailed schedule will be posted one month ahead of the training.

Training will run 9am - 4pm daily.

#### **Cost and Registration**

Please register as soon as you're able to secure your spot!

<https://mplsareasynod.regfox.com/2022-june-organizing-training>

Note there is a required deposit, with full amount is due May 30th. (You also have the option to pay in-in full when you register.)

The various cost levels are our best effort to offer a sliding scale. We're seeking to both recognize the true cost of the training as well as offer more accessible options. Please note that many congregations are willing to underwrite all or a portion of the cost to support the participation of their lay leaders, staff, deacons, or pastors – reach out to [Emilie Bouvier](#) for support in making that ask.

If you need additional financial assistance to attend, please don't hesitate to reach out Emilie or one of the organizers listed above. We never want cost to be the reason someone doesn't attend.

### **What to expect**

Midwest Academy has been training community organizers and leaders to build power and effect change since 1973 and is committed to “...fostering the creation of democratically governed organizations which win real improvements in people’s lives, give people a sense of their own power to improve society, and alter the unequal relations of power to build more democracy and participation for freedom and justice for all.”

The Minneapolis Area Synod’s mission is to work together “...so that all experience gracious invitation into life-giving Christian community and live in just and healthy neighborhoods. The Synod has partnered with Midwest Academy since 2017, bringing pastors, congregations, and community leaders to a week-long training every year to develop skills and learn how to apply the practices of community organizing in their faith communities and neighborhoods.

Each participant will learn concrete skills and frameworks for effective community organizing, including: understanding relations of power, how to choose an issue, developing a strategy, recruitment, and how to hold public accountability meetings with decision makers. There is a focus on developing leaders and building skills that are applicable across a wide variety of organizing models.

These tools are critical for running effective issue campaigns and are especially powerful in the hands of congregations and organizations organizing and mobilizing in their neighborhoods and states. Churches and leaders who are seeking out ways to bolster their public voice and act powerfully in the public square will learn where, when, and how to engage. We’ll ground ourselves in the theological and historical roots of faith-based community organizing as well.

Participants will have the added benefit of meeting and learning together with other leaders from across the Minneapolis Area Synod working to build power in their communities!

Bishop Ann Svennungsen has called community organizing “a spiritual practice for doing justice” and has encouraged and invited leaders and congregations from across the synod to attend training. We hope that you can join us for this powerful time together.