



# MARCC

Metropolitan Area Religious  
Coalition of Cincinnati

MARCC ANNUAL MEETING

FEBRUARY 12, 2025





# Research-Action and Ideas for Impact: MARCC Strategic Planning in 2025

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# Outline of the Presentation

- ▶ State of MARCC
- ▶ Strategic Planning Process
- ▶ Committee Formation
- ▶ Research-Action
- ▶ Toward a Theory of Change
- ▶ Ideas for Impact (from the Floor of Judicatories)



# State of MARCC

- ▶ Strategic Vision, Big Ideas, Lots of Work, Little Time
- ▶ Membership: Empowerment for a Participatory Future
- ▶ Finances: Rough but Optimistic
  - ▶ Moving out of our United Way office
  - ▶ Generous individual donors having faith in us
  - ▶ Most judicatories' institutional giving is stable, for now



# Strategic Planning Process (Starting March 1<sup>st</sup>)

- ▶ Define our ultimate purpose (or mission and vision)
- ▶ Gather input from stakeholders (internal and external contexts)
- ▶ Set SMART objectives (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, Time-bound)
- ▶ Flesh out specific metrics for objectives and sub-goals
- ▶ Create the necessary fundraising plan
- ▶ Establish MARCC's Theory of Change



# Committee Formation

- ▶ Committees will begin meeting on March 1<sup>st</sup>: **Join Now!**
- ▶ Strategic Planning: 6 Members
- ▶ Affordable Housing: 4 Members
- ▶ Community Violence Prevention: 1 Member (Danny!)
  - ▶ Anti-Hate—**need people to join!**
  - ▶ Gun Violence
  - ▶ Support for the Undocumented— **need volunteers at MARCC ID Drives!**



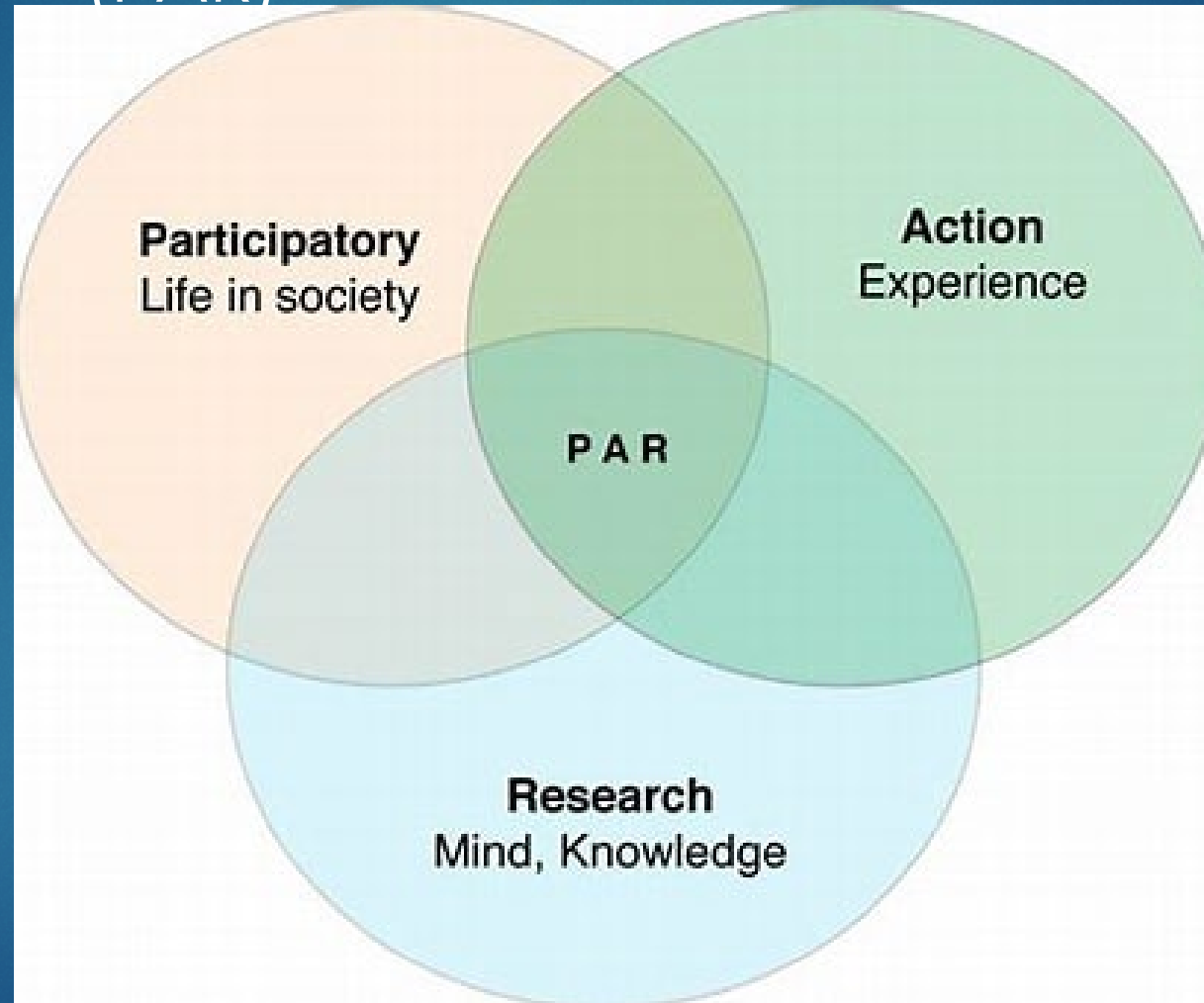
# Committees as Sites of Research-Action

- ▶ Research-Action: a dialogic process that explores research questions that emerge from those affected most by a particular social problem with the goal of contributing to solutions to those problems





# Participatory Action Research (PAR)





# From Religious Frameworks

## ▶ See, Judge, Act, Celebrate

- ▶ (Christian Base Communities in Latin America inspired by Liberation Theology)

## ▶ Prayer, Study, Action

- ▶ (Pax Christi, USA)



# How Will 2025 Look for MARCC?





Advocacy



Impact



Strategic Planning 2025



Research-  
Action

Theory of  
Change



Fundraising





# Toward a Theory of Change (1)

- ▶ Theory: a systematic explanation of a quantity of empirical data
- ▶ Theory of Change: a systematic explanation of how change happens based on data (not necessarily just how we'd like it to happen)



# Toward a Theory of Change (2)

- ▶ How does social change actually happen?
- ▶ What kind of change do we want to see?
- ▶ How can MARCC make the kind of change we want to see?
- ▶ What strategies should we use?
- ▶ How should we engage with power-holders and policy-makers?



# Possible Research-Action Questions on Affordable Housing

- ▶ What is affordable housing anyway?
- ▶ Why is there a shortage of affordable housing in the Cincy area?
- ▶ What factors cause people and families to face eviction?
- ▶ What has been successful across the country in making progress on affordable housing?



# Discuss and Respond by Judiciary:

- ▶ How do policy-makers address or impact affordable housing?
- ▶ How does the model of economic development impact affordable housing?
- ▶ How should MARCC engage policy-makers and power-holders (including the business community) regarding affordable housing?