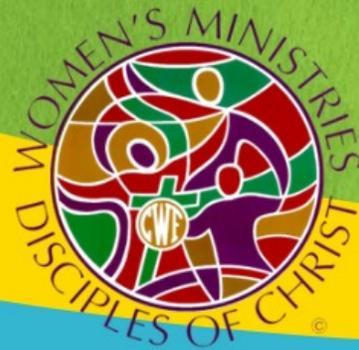




Until *Justice* Rolls Down

ORGANIZING CONGREGATIONS
AROUND JUSTICE ISSUES



National
Benevolent
Association

**Rev. Angéle
Saunders Johnson**
Executive Director
Disciples Women's Ministries

Purpose

To provide an overview of the church's role in social justice and explore how congregations can organize around issues of justice.

Organizing

- The coordination of cooperative efforts and campaigning carried out by residents to promote the interests of their community.
 - The power lies within the community and is built from the bottom up (*grassroots*).
 - Community sets its own agenda and is self-determined.
 - Leaders are identified and power is built from within.

Organizing in History

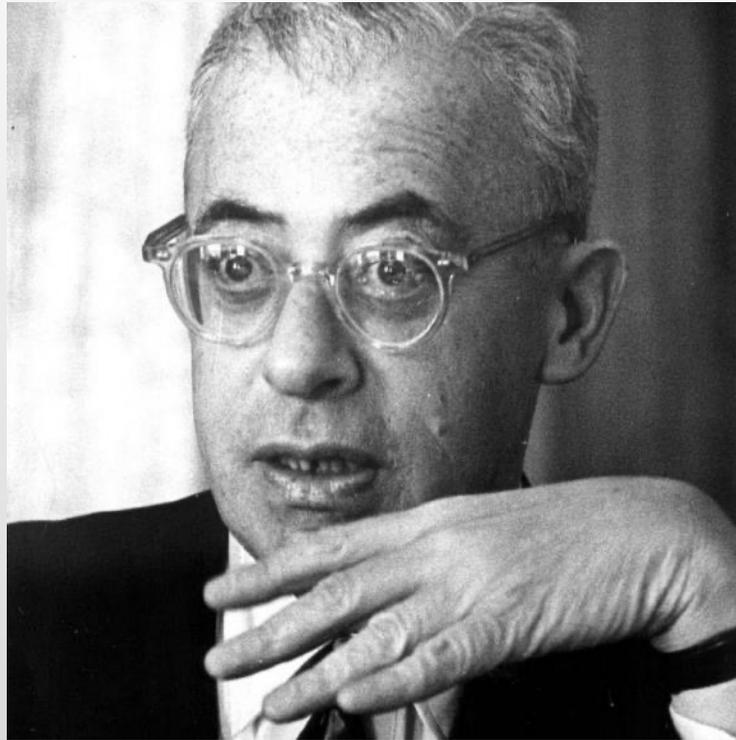
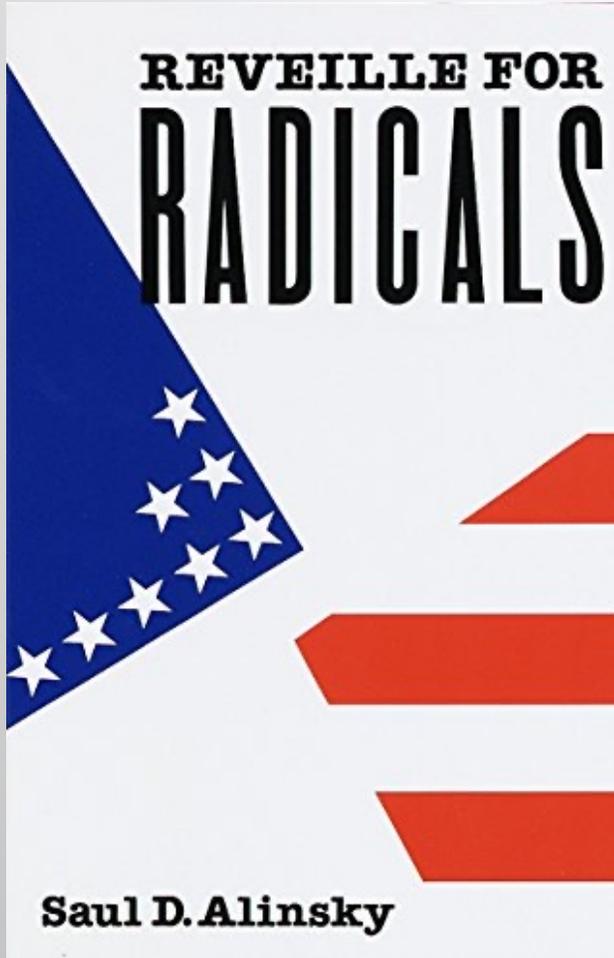
- First recorded strike for higher wages: Philadelphia 1786 by shoemakers.
- Industrial Revolution strikes led to unions
- Economic cooperatives
- Faith-based organizing
 - Civil Rights Movement
 - Prison Industrial Complex
 - Poor People's Campaign

“Community organization...constitutes a conscious effort on the part of the community to **control** its affairs democratically and to **secure** the highest services from its specialists, organizations, agencies, and institutions by means of recognized interrelations.”

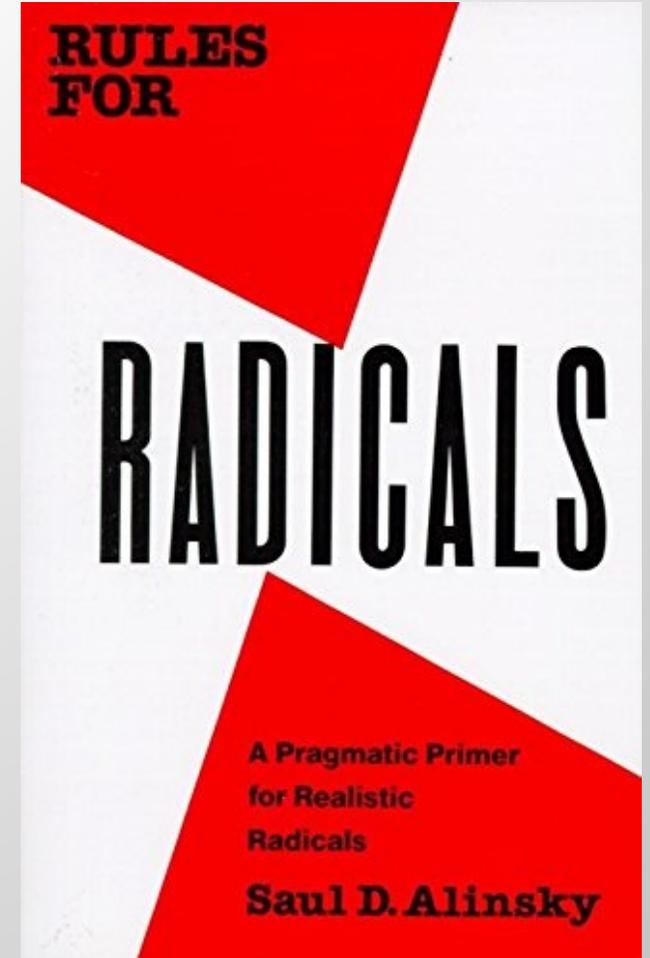
-Eduard C. Lindeman

Saul Alinsky

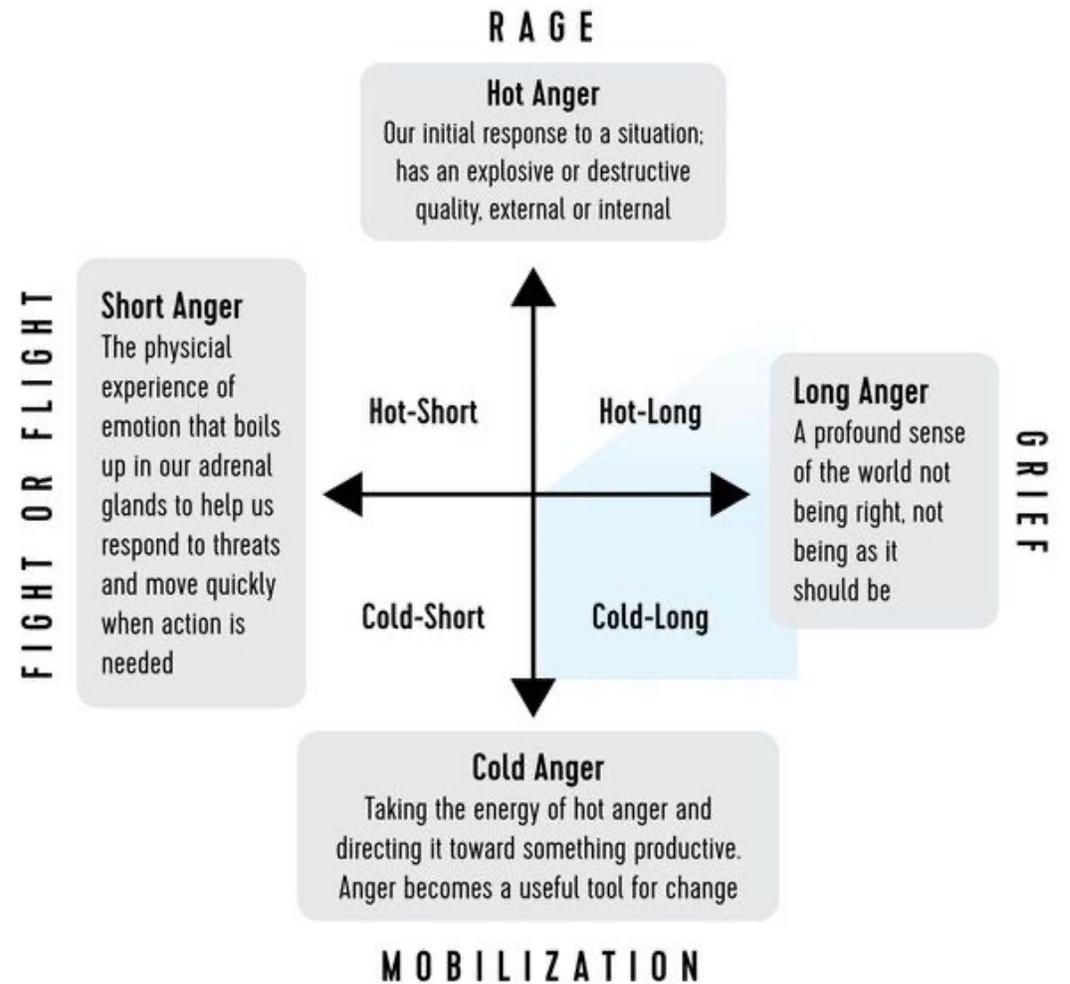
Father of Organizing



1909-1972



Cold Anger in Organizing



Faith-Based Organizing

Organizing around values that are based on a group's **faith and/or beliefs**, which has a mission based on social values of faith, and which most often draws its activists (leaders, staff, volunteers) from a particular faith group.

A large yellow triangle is positioned in the bottom right corner of the slide, pointing towards the top right.

The Exodus



The Disciples



Daughters of Zelophehad



God organizes those called out of the world (**ecclesia**) through worship, fellowship, mutual instructions, encouragement, and prayer, and uses them to **reorganize the world**, across the categories of individuals, institutions, and societies (**diaconia**), in love and justice.”

-Hak Joon Lee, (2020)

Why Organize?

“The church must be reminded that it is not the master or the servant of the state, but rather **the conscience of the state**. It must be the guide and the critic of the state, and never its tool.”

-Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

“The ultimate goal of God’s organizing is shalom, which Martin Luther King, Jr. called the **beloved community**-a just, loving, and reciprocal community where every life is respected and interrelated, which reflects the more nature of the triune life.”

-Hak Joon Lee, (2020)

Not Just...



CHARITY



Provides a direct service in response to a crisis.
It does not mitigate the issue.

EDUCATION



Provides knowledge about a particular issue, its background, and trajectory.

ACTIVISM



A visceral response to an injustice by putting one's body on the line to demonstrate a violation of a person or group of people.

ADVOCACY



Addressing the need for and asking for change to policies and systems.



**Organized People
+
Organized Money**

POWER

Where Do I Start?

A Step-by-Step Approach

WHERE ARE YOU NOW?

Discern

Context

Capacity

Commitment



WHERE DO YOU WANT TO BE?

Clarify

Self-Interest

Available Resources

Potential



Build Relationships!!!!

Teamwork Makes the Dream Work

Community Engagement

- The process of working collaboratively with and through groups of people
- A vehicle for bringing about communal, systemic, institutional change
- Involves partnerships and coalitions and cannot be done in isolation

-(CDC, 1997)

Community Outreach	Community Engagement
Short-Term	Long-Term
Marketing	Relationship Building
What can A do for B?	What can A and B do together?
One Group Benefits Most	Community Benefits
Transactional	Connecting
Directional	Cyclical

Teambuilding

Identify

Identify Your Leadership Team

Equip

Equip Your Leadership Team

Engage

Engage Volunteers

Support

Equip Your Leaders & Team



“The organizer dedicated to changing the life of a particular community must first rub raw the resentments of the people of the community.”

– Saul Alinsky

Resources

- Book List: <https://gamaliel.org/reading-list-for-first-year-organizers/>
- Lee, H. J. (2020). *God and Community Organizing: A Covenantal Approach* [E-book]. Baylor University Press.
- Baker, D. [National Benevolent Association]. (2019, September 23). *Webinar: The Justice Buffet* [Video]. YouTube. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r6zKHKYqcLU&feature=youtu.be>
- *The Community: An Introduction to the Study of Community Leadership and Organization* (Lindeman 1921)
- "What is Community Engagement?" <https://aese.psu.edu/research/centers/cecd/engagement-toolbox/engagement/what-is-community-engagement>.
- Hamerlink, John Jr. "Community Outreach vs Community Engagement." <https://leadingdifferently.com/2019/06/06/community-outreach-vs-community-engagement/> June 6, 2019.
- <https://faithinaction.org/about-us/what-is-faith-based-community-organizing/>

Connect with Disciples Women



www.discipleswomen.org



<https://www.facebook.com/DisciplesWomen>



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National **Benevolent** Association

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In Partnership With
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