



## **MACG: The Metropolitan Alliance for Common Good**

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The primary focus of the MACG Core Team is strengthening the St. Andrew community so that our ministry objectives are fully realized and so that we can join other organizations when the need arises for collective action. Current Core Team members include Larry Bliesner, Gretchen Bancroft, Victoria Kovalenko, Lynn Santelmann, Scott Taylor, Pat Christiansen, and Jan Smith.

Over the past year, the Core Team supported and helped lead the efforts of the Horizon Team as we collectively discerned where the Holy Spirit is leading us during this liminal time. Members of the Core Team led house meetings and table groups, participated in mindful walks led by the Horizon Team, and encouraged congregation members to take an active role in the Horizon process. Using organizing principles taught by MACG and other community organizing organizations, the Horizon Team and the Core Team worked together toward a common purpose. As we continue our collective efforts toward discernment, we are focusing on the work of the Horizon Team, encouraging meaningful conversations between members of the larger community through a "Question of the Month" in the church newsletter.

Most members of the Core Team attended "Wrestling With the Truth of Colonization," sponsored by MACG. We also encouraged and supported members of the congregation to join in that course. Relationships with leaders of local indigenous communities are continuing to be nurtured.

The Core Team serves as a liaison between St. Andrew and the larger MACG organization. Pat Christiansen serves on the MACG Strategy Team, which guides the actions of the tri-county organization. Team members regularly attend Delegate Assemblies, which bring together representatives from the three counties in MACG's organization (Multnomah, Clackamas, and Washington). These meetings determine which issues the larger organization will work on moving forward.

The core team is looking forward to continuing our work as we hear stories from members of our community, seeking specific winnable actions to organize around and participating in campaigns to make our community a better place for everyone to live.