

## Champion Team

The initial stage of coalition formation begins with a small group of local church leaders who serve as the champion team.

### **Trusted**

The champion team includes church leaders who are known and trusted in the church community. Champions are often senior or executive leaders who are established and respected in the church community can reach across denominational and theological lines. While the vision of church collaboration through a local church coalition may not yet be clear, we find that effective champions are able to bring other church leaders into the conversation due to their status as trusted colleagues.

### **Advocates**

Champions see the need for a church collaboration and use their communication skills and relational capital to invite their colleagues to participate. Champions lead the initial effort to develop confidence in coalition formation as a vehicle for collaboration and to develop trust in the initial leadership provided by The Church Responds. Champions are knowledgeable about the coalition model and can effectively share that knowledge in their advocacy for coalition formation.

### **Conveners**

Champions are often pastors or key church leaders with history in the community, existing networks of church colleagues, and an ability to convene or address existing groups of those church colleagues to advocate for coalition formation.

### **Time Commitment**

Champions serve at least until engaging a critical mass of coalition participants from which sufficient leaders can be drawn for a launch team. The time commitment is short-term, usually lasting one to three months. Champions may serve on the launch team or continue advocating as part of the broader coalition.

### **The Church Responds Advisor**

The advisor does initial contact work, identifies and orients champions, communicates the vision and strategy, provides initial administration and support, and guides the transition to establishing a launch team.