Years ago, in Eastern Europe, mathematicians worked with young students on math puzzles and problems, and got the students to work on fairly advanced mathematics without even recognizing that they were doing so. This was geared toward preparing the next generation of mathematicians. These math circles, as they were called, have now taken off in the U.S. for students, and since 2006, math circles for teachers have emerged and there are now about forty in the U.S. This is being strongly endorsed by leading mathematics organizations, such as the Mathematical Association of America, as teachers are now being called upon to teach and utilize problem solving strategies in their classrooms as part of addressing national standards. Math Circles are ideal for having teachers become the problem solvers, and thus better at teaching problem solving.

We would like to start a Math Teachers' Circle for St. Thomas/St. John teachers. This would be the first outside of the fifty U.S. states. A small planning group of five, representing private and public schools, elementary through high school, and UVI, secured funding to attend a workshop on how to run a math teachers’ circle in Washington D.C. These Math Teachers’ Circles have proven to be fun and engaging activities for teachers that quickly and directly impact their students in the classroom. A successful Teachers’ Circle will lead to Student Circles next summer.