



Connecting the City

Engaging Systems and Structures
for a Christ-centered approach to city renewal



Leadership
Foundations



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Vision: Cities transformed into places of shalom.

Connect leaders, Change lives, Transform cities.

Zechariah 8:4-5

“This is what the Lord Almighty says: Once again men and women of ripe old age will sit in the streets of Jerusalem, each with cane in hand because of his age. The city streets will be filled with boys and girls playing there.”

“Cities throughout the world will be transformed into places of shalom, fulfilling Zechariah’s vision.”

Luke 19: 41-44: As Jesus approached Jerusalem and saw the city, he wept over it and said, "If you, even you, had only known on this day what would bring you **peace**--but now it is hidden from your eyes...because you did not recognize the time of God's coming to you.

See also: Isaiah 65:17-25



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Transformational Urban Leadership



Transformational Urban Leadership: A Three-legged Stool

Transformational = **God**

Urban = **The City**

Leadership = **The Leader**



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Transformational Urban Leadership

A City is Changed by Transformational Urban Leadership

Three Perspectives, Six Characteristics

- **Personal Leadership**

Called

Incarnational

- **Ministry Leadership**

Reflective

Servant

- **World Leadership**

Contextualized

Global





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The Fresno Story – 1992 - 2009

Disconnected city

A City where Crime and Violence were out of control:

- Highest rate of violent crime for any California County in every category but murder.
- Children killing children.
- 128 gangs.
- 13,000 car thefts.
- L.A. Riots.

Connected city

A City that went from last place to All-American City in 8 years:

- Crime Reduction
- Neighborhood Development
- Participatory Civic Culture
- Tale of Two Cities becoming Story of One Community
- Model for faith-based civic renewal



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Connecting the City

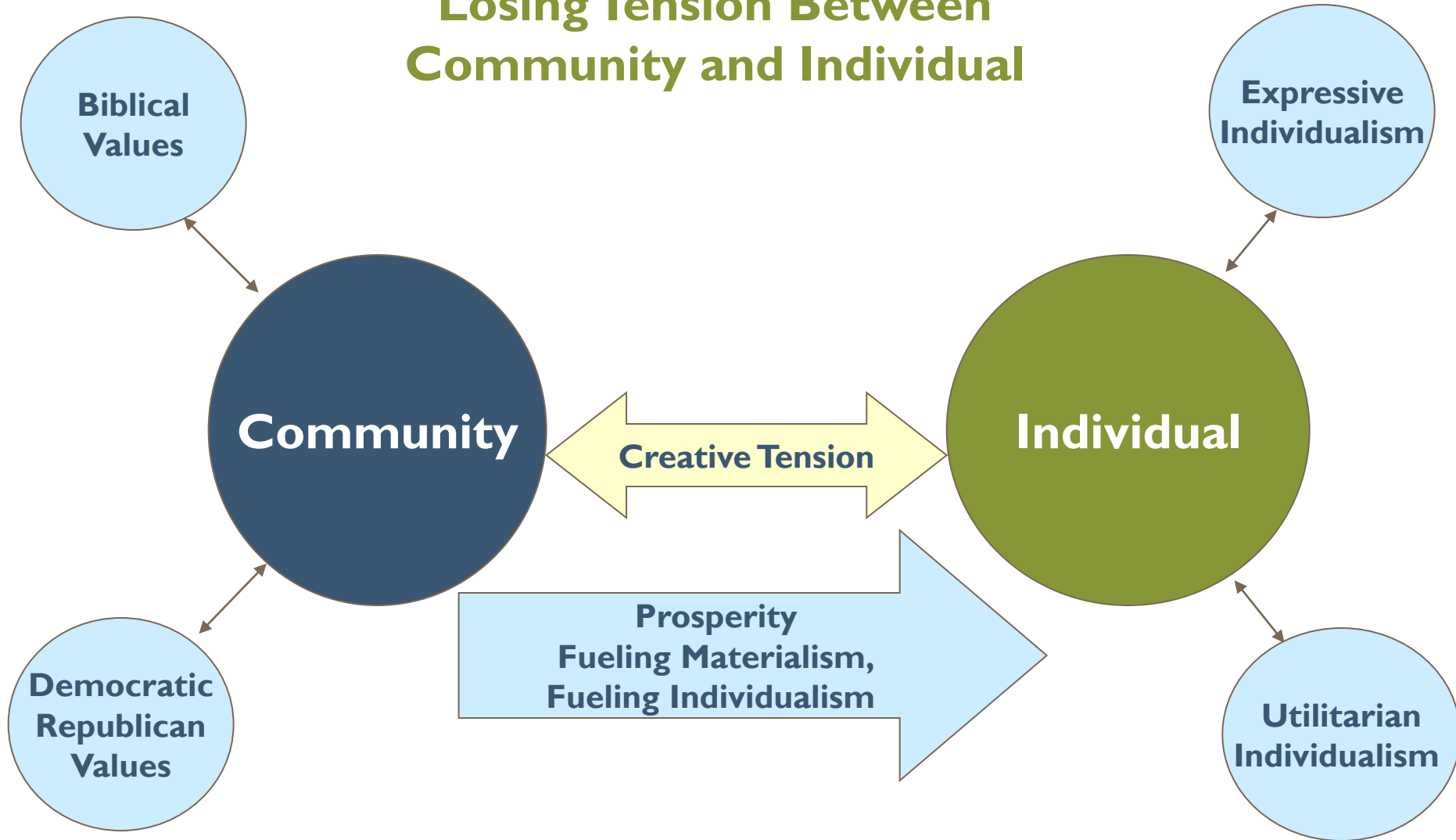
Pieces to the Puzzle:

- **Civil Society**
- **Components of a City**
- **The Church Engaging the City**
- **Unifying the Church's Efforts**



Eroding Civil Society

Losing Tension Between Community and Individual



Restoring Civil Society By Strengthening Community



**Biblical
Values**

**Expressive
Individualism**

Community

Creative Tension

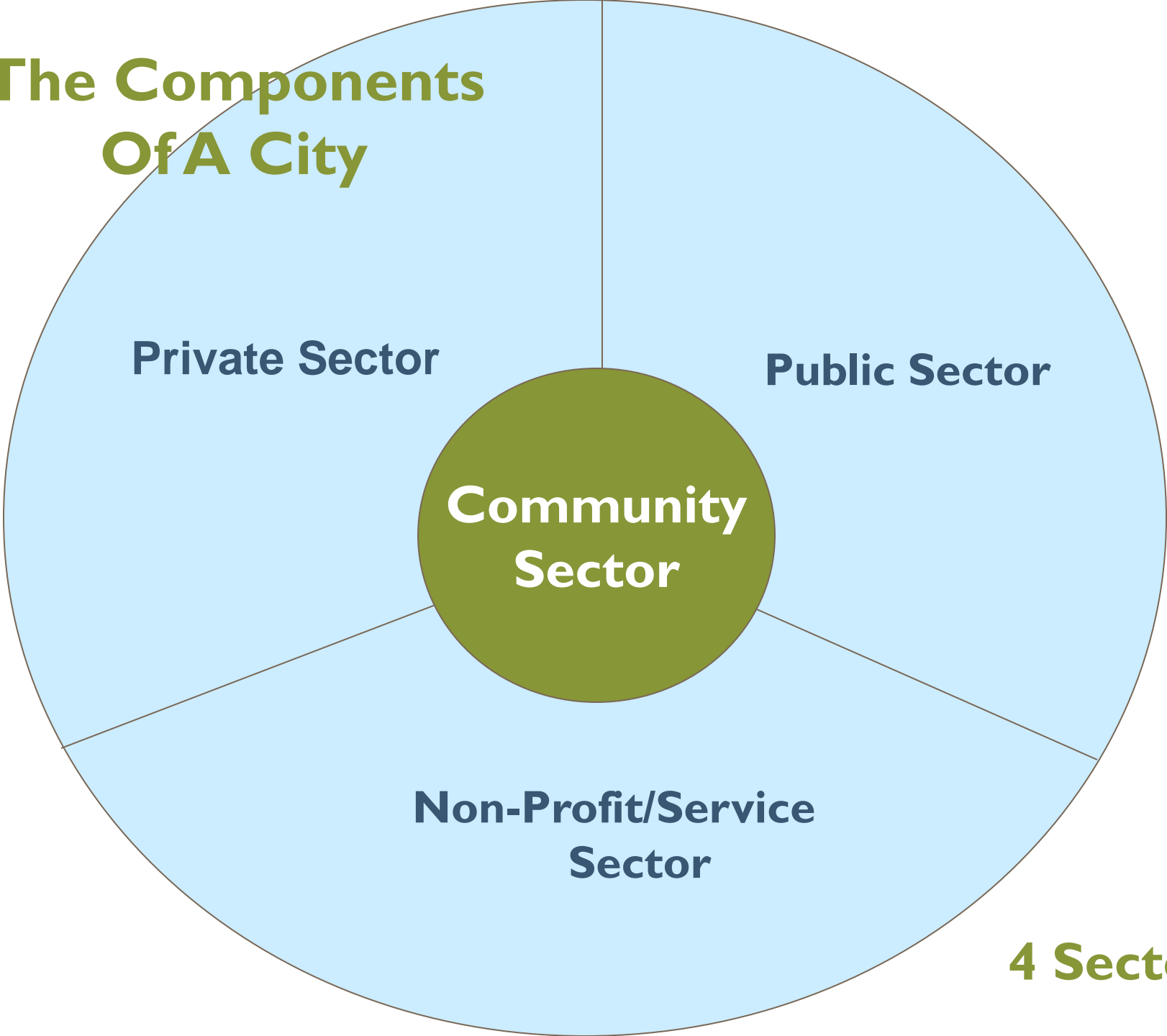
Individual

**Democratic
Republican
Values**

**Prosperity
Fueling Materialism,
Fueling Individualism**

**Utilitarian
Individualism**

The Components Of A City



Private Sector

Public Sector

**Community
Sector**

**Non-Profit/Service
Sector**

4 Sectors

**The Community Sector
is made up of**

Neighborhoods:

**Comprised of Several Mediating
Institutions**





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Every City...



...is a ladder.

Each rung is an elementary school neighborhood.



Private

Public

**Neighborhood
Community
Sector**

Business

Media

**Public
Schools**

Government

Labor

**Law
Enforce-
ment**

Non-Profits

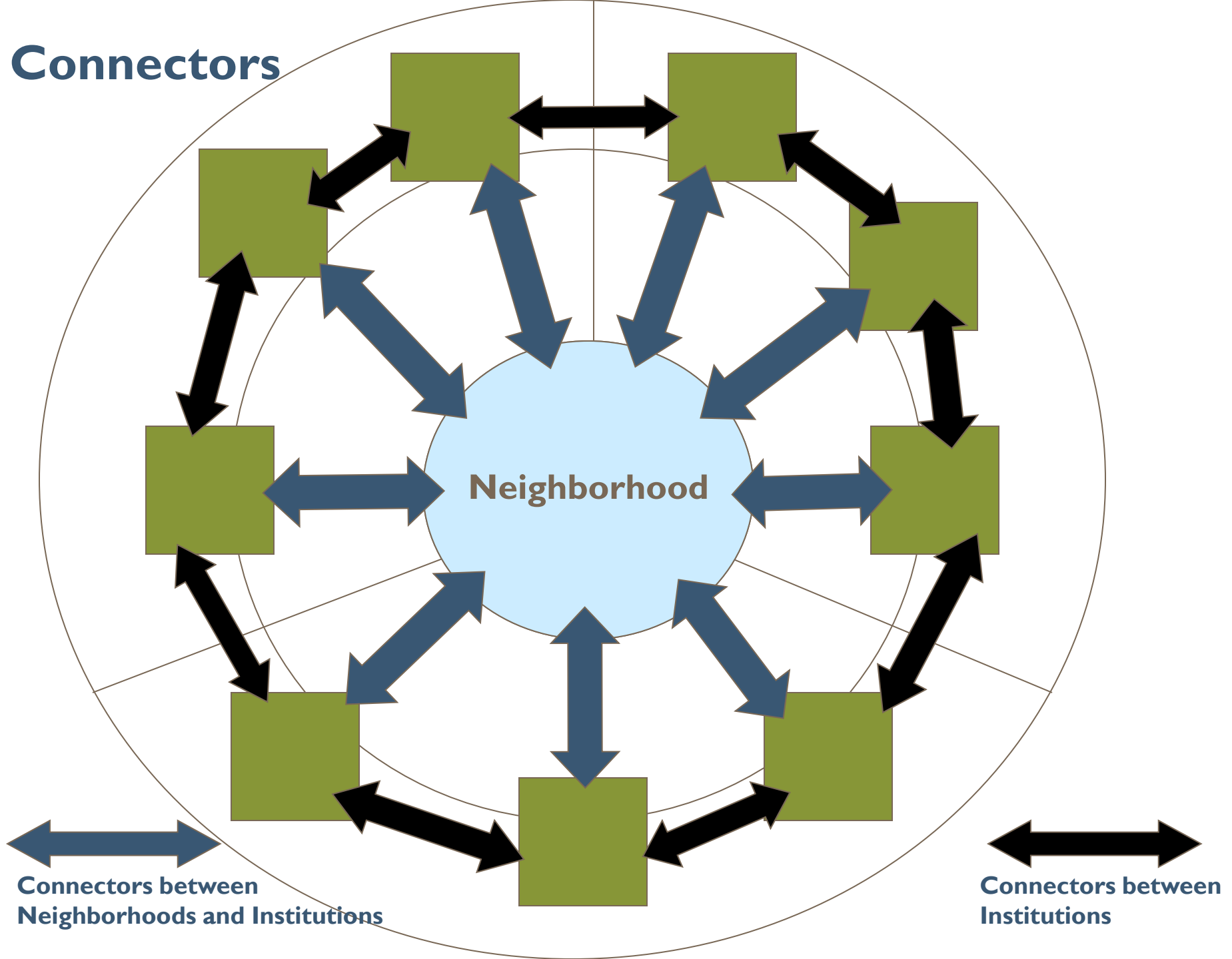
Church

**Other
Religious
Groups**

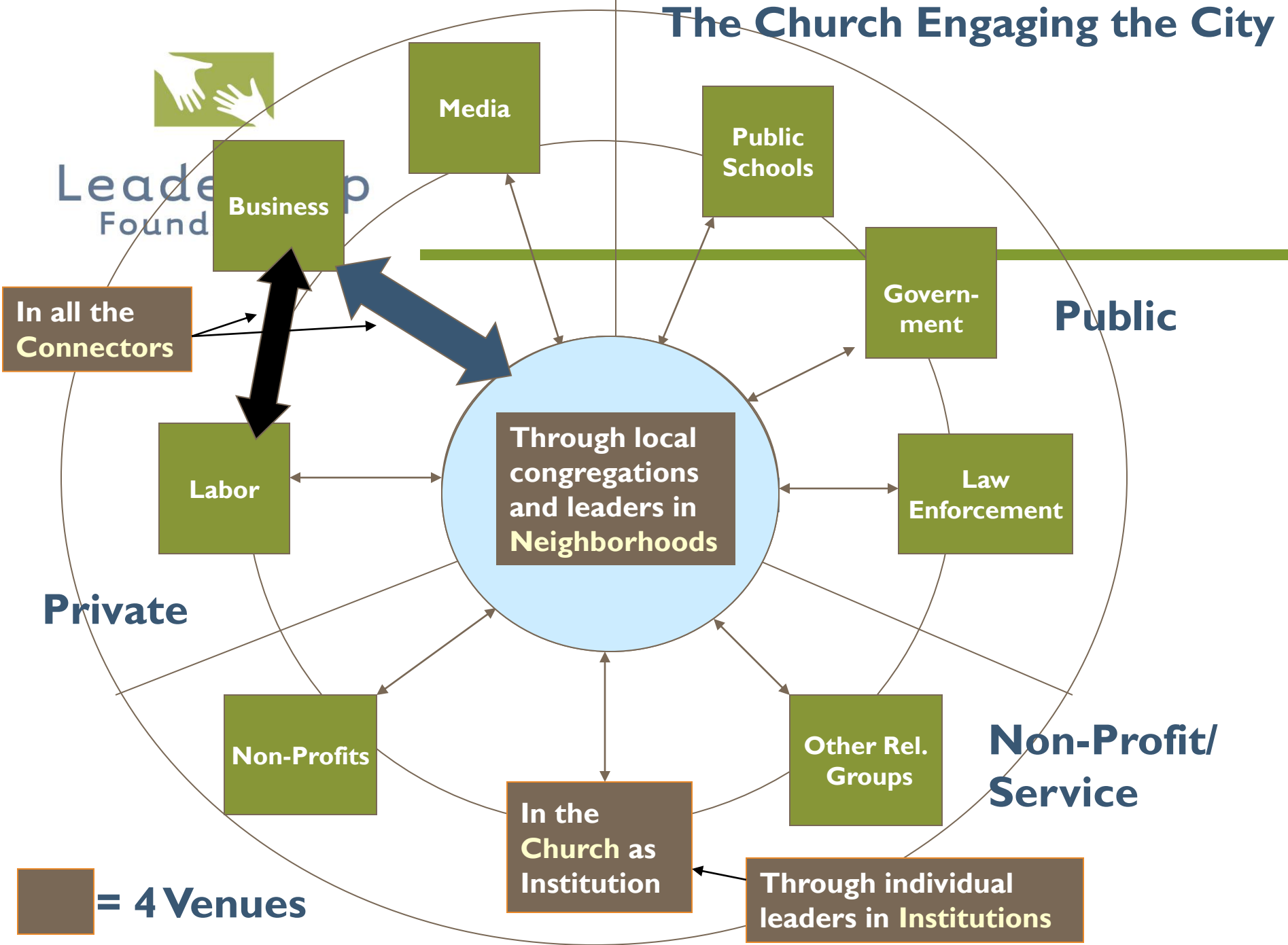
 = Institutions

Non-Profit/Service

Connectors



The Church Engaging the City

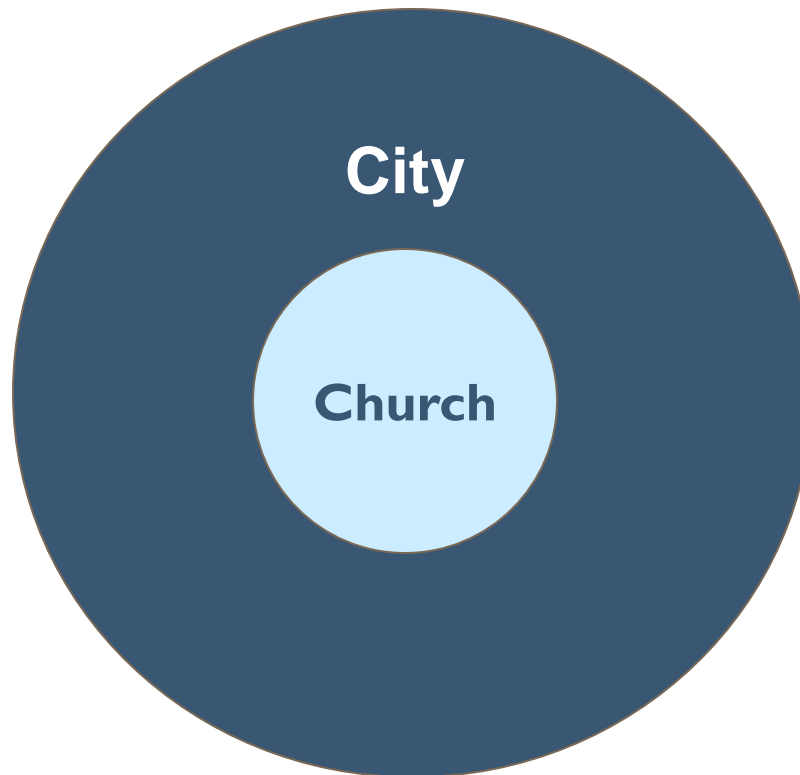




The Church Ruling the City

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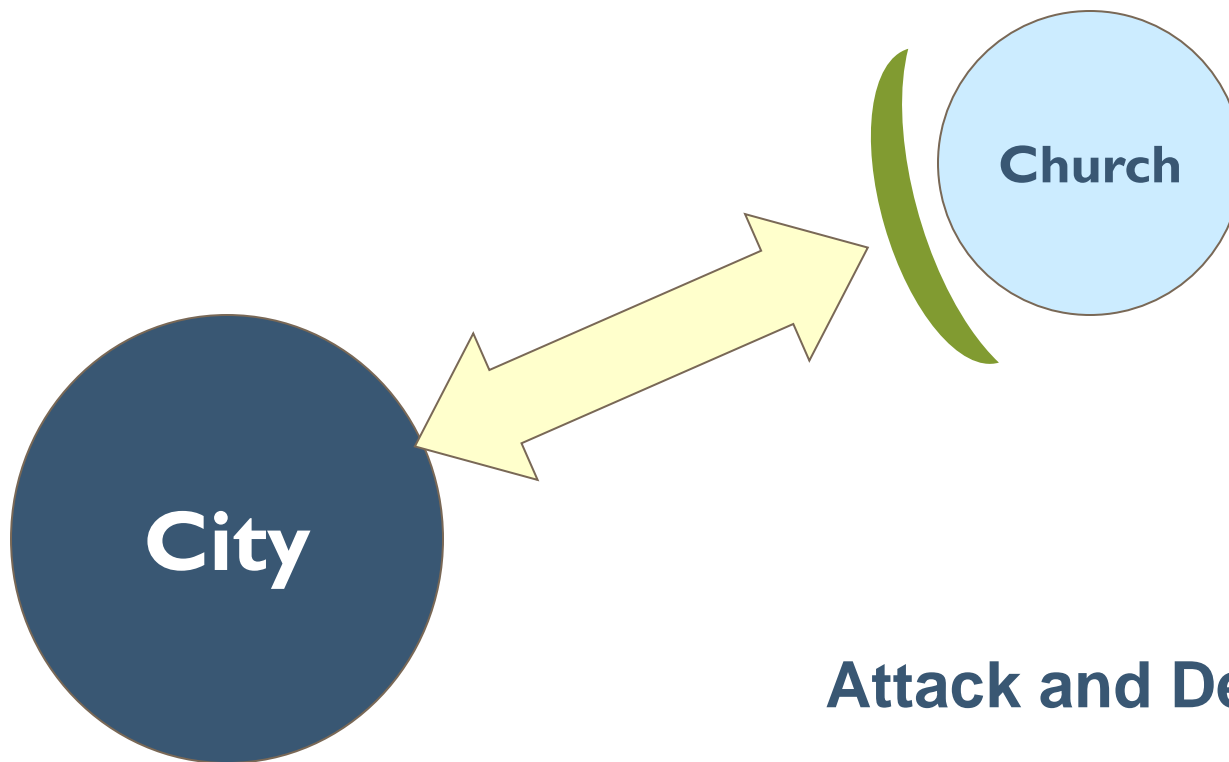
Church - Centric





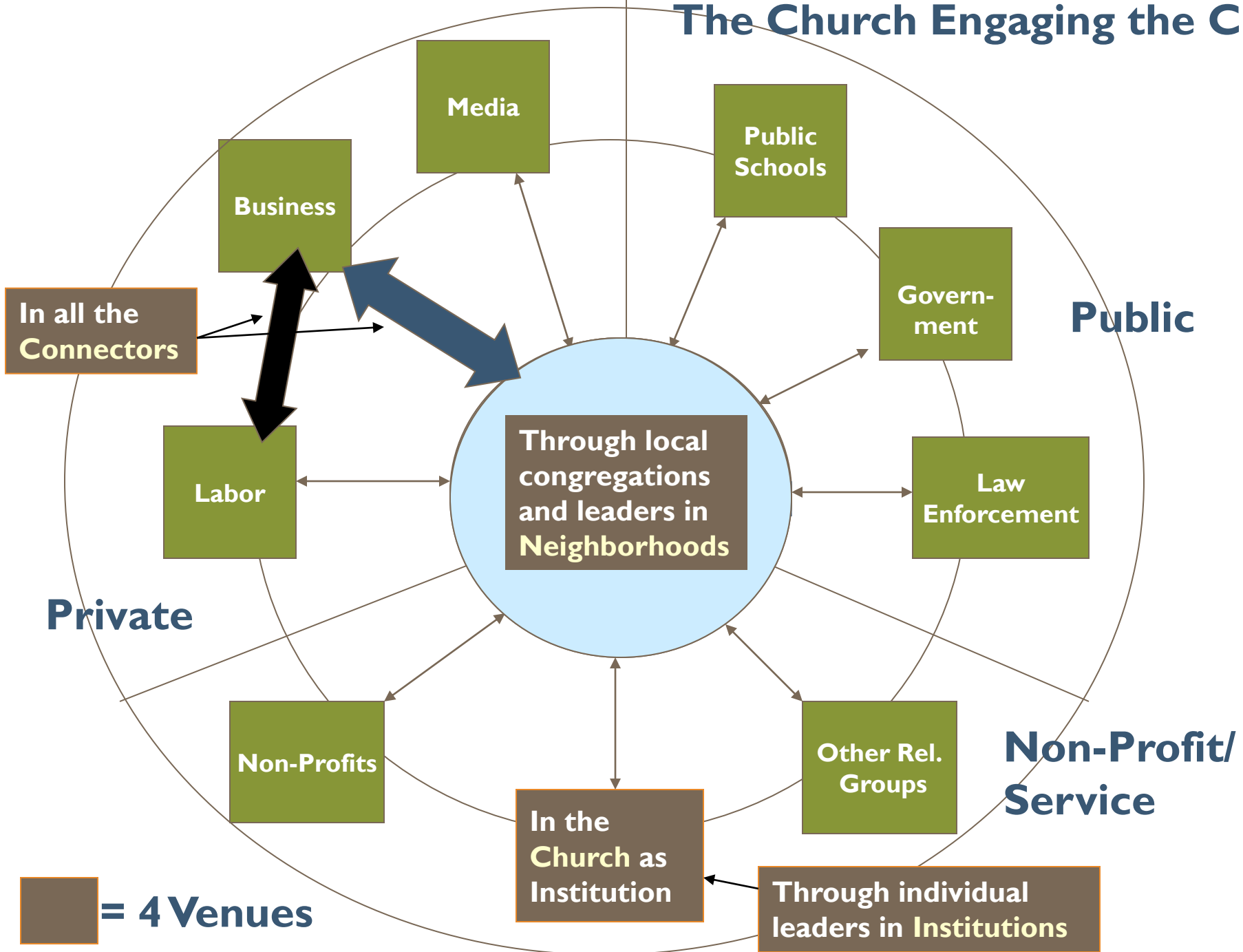
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The Church Escaping the City



Attack and Defend

The Church Engaging the City





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“The Church is
the only institution
capable of re-civilizing
broken urban
environments”

- Peter Drucker

Formation of Faith-based Civic Infrastructure

The Problem:

- *The Church is the most fragmented institution in any city.*
- Most forms of Faith-based Civic Infrastructure have been created out of **division**, are **vertical in structure**, and are **disconnected** from specific civic concerns or work, and are **competitive**.

The Need:

Horizontally connecting, civically engaging, collaborative structures

Proposal:

Prayerfully apply the principles of **partnership and collaboration**, enabling the broken Body of Christ to effectively transform the city - ***socially and spiritually.***



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Formation of Faith-based Civic Infrastructure

Types of Faith-based Civic Infrastructure

- **Strategic Prayer** (Pastors' Prayer Summits, City Prayer Breakfasts, Intercessory prayer networks)
- **Christian Community Development** (N'hood ministries)
- **Leadership Networking** (No Name Fellowship, Pretoria Church Foundation)
- **Faith-based Civic Intermediaries** (Leadership Foundations)
- **Collaborative Programs** (i.e. Hope Now for Youth, CARE Fresno, CitiTeam/New Generations)
- **Community Organizing, Training, Theological Education, or Missional Networks** (BGU, Center for Transforming Mission, CityBuilders' Roundtable, Amachi Network, Youth Ministry Network)
- **Congregational Connecting and Equipping** (Pastors' Prayer Clusters, City as Parish)



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The Role of Leadership Foundations

Mission: The Social and Spiritual Transformation of a City

“Connect leaders. Change Lives. Transform Cities.”

Values:

- Transformation of People and Place
- The Vulnerable
- The Whole church
- Leadership that Serves
- Relationships that Bridge
- Community
- Generosity
- Getting things done—together.



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The Role of Leadership Foundations

How Local Leadership Foundations Function in Cities:

- **Engage** followers of Jesus Christ from all walks of life and sectors, plus other **leaders** in a city to tackle their city's greatest challenges affecting people who are poor or vulnerable.
- Develop **joint efforts** or initiatives **to transform people and place—through** which people, churches and ministries, and other parts of the city offer and link their relationships, spiritual gifts/prayers, know-how, financial and other resources.
- **Build the capacity** of the people and groups involved for joint service and ministry.



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The Role of Leadership Foundations

8 Core Capabilities of effective Local Leadership Foundations

- Building an effective LF team
- A city strategy to transform people and place
- Engaging leaders across a city
- Mobilizing the resources of the church
- Solid financing
- Telling the story
- Evaluation
- Building Partners' Capacities



Leadership Foundations

The Role of Leadership Foundations

8 Core Capabilities of a Local Leadership Foundation

- **Developing a City Strategy**
Engaging a broad group of Christian and other leaders in tackling their city's challenges
- **Mobilizing the Resources of the Church**
Connecting the resources of multiple congregations and ministries in this task
- **Engaging Leaders from Across the City**
Developing effective large-scale initiatives, with multiple partners
- **Building Partners Capacity**
Building the capacity of front-line leaders and ministries for greater impact
- **Developing an Effective Team**
Effective leadership at the executive, board, management team, and project level
- **Solid Financing**
Solid financing for the Leadership Foundation's core budget, projects and growth
- **Strong Evaluation**
Strong program evaluation and ability to measure impact
- **Telling the Story**
What's possible, how this works, the Leadership Foundation's role, the impact, and how people and groups can help



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The Role of Leadership Foundations

Applying forms of strategic faith-based infrastructure, while adapting to each city's unique context.

- Tshwane Leadership Foundation (Pretoria, South Africa)
- Goodcity Leadership Foundation (Chicago)
- Memphis Leadership Foundation (Tennessee)
- Stockton Leadership Foundation (California)
- Bangalore Leadership Foundation (India)



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“Connecting the City” Challenge

Using the Pizza Chart to Build Your City:

- Identify a project
- Connect the dots for multi-sector resourcing
- Connect the dots for positive church engagement
- Share with a Partner

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