

Canada

True City Hamilton (www.truecity.ca)
Abbotsford Christian Leaders Network (www.acln.ca) / City of Refuge (www.cityofrefuge.ca)
The Hospitality Project, New Westminster (www.shiloh6thave.net)
StoneGate Community Ecumenical Ministry, Toronto (www.stonegateministry.ca)
Church of Surrey (www.churchofsurrey.org)
Richmond Faith Communities Housing Group, (www.richmondprc.org/faithhousinggroup.php)
More Than Gold (www.morethangold.ca)
Metro Vancouver Youth & Young Adult Network (www.metrov.ca)
City Watch (Kitchener) www.citywatchkw.ca
Church of Kelowna (www.kelownachurches.com)

United States

City-A-Neighbourhood Initiative, Salem Leadership Foundation, Oregon (www.salemlf.org)
City As Parish, Northwest Leadership Foundation, Tacoma (www.northwestleadership.org)
OneCity, Cincinnati (www.onecity.org)
Nehemiah Leadership Foundation, Springfield Ohio
Black Ministerial Alliance of Greater Boston (www.bmaboston.org)

UK & British Commonwealth

Mission Doncaster (www.missiondoncaster.jubileetrust.org)
The Church in Greater Manchester (www.churchmcr.com)
Tswane Leadership Foundation (Praetoria, South Africa) www.tlf.org.za

General Observations

- Congregational collaboration can happen well at various levels: neighbourhood, city, region
- collaborations which last are invariably
 - built on trust among key leaders
 - ecumenical
 - holistic, but centered on serving the vulnerable
 - anchored in regular prayer
 - linked to resources beyond the collaboration itself and the church as a whole
 - focused on neighborhood but municipally aware
 - *staffed*
 - *grown by mobilizing and equipping the laity*
 - accountable to both clergy and laity for vision and outcomes
 - troublesome to the traditional meaning of “church”
 - morphing over time in response to changing needs, assets, and relationships
- formal covenants appear vital to healthy, long-term collaborations
- collaborations often require a quasi-independent organizational structure
- church collaborations thrive where clergy remain for 10+ years
- collaboration can involve joint programs at a single site or common programs run at several sites

True City Hamilton (Ontario)

www.truecity.ca

TrueCity is an emerging movement of Churches in the Hamilton area working together for the good of the City. We are Churches which are committed to:

- authentic involvement in our own neighbourhoods and in the City as a whole and
- real cooperation with other churches on specific projects which express our shared calling to be a blessing to this City.

Together we are exploring ways to facilitate shared learning, resource discovery, and collaborative projects so that our churches participate more fully and effectively in their neighbourhoods and in Hamilton as a whole.

TrueCity aims to encourage and share tangible church-based models of involvement in specific areas of need in neighbourhoods and the City as a whole.

Pioneering Churches include

- Bethany Gospel Chapel
- First Christian Reformed Church
- Hughson Street Baptist
- Little Bethel Community Church
- Philpott Memorial Church
- Wentworth Baptist Church

At present we are exploring the following themes:

- Maintenance to Missional
- Neighbourhood Involvement
- Refugees & New Arrivals
- Mental Health
- The Arts
- Church Planting
- Environmental

Further themes will be explored as the movement grows. The work of facilitating the TrueCity movement is a ministry of International Teams Canada.

Churches Together for the Good of the City

Vision Statement *Draft 2—4 July 08*

Horizon 1—Churches

We envision whole congregations who have embraced their identity as a people formed for God's mission. These congregations are increasingly identifying and engaging with their neighbourhoods. They are open and welcoming to everyone, and involved in many aspects of the life of the neighbourhood. They serve others sacrificially and generously, and allow themselves to be served and shaped by the experiences and insights of others. These congregations are cultivating community around practices of Word and Sacrament and indwelling the story of God's redemptive and loving involvement in the world. Emphasizing presence over program, they are the local embodiments of God's reign and mission in this city.

Horizon 2—Together

Congregations throughout the city understand themselves to be integrally and essentially connected with each other as part of the one mission of God. They celebrate each other; sharing people, money, buildings, leaders, ideas and experience to promote God's loving intentions here. Congregations partner in training leaders and

forming disciples who explore together ways of engaging communities with the Gospel. Congregants and leaders work together with those from other congregations in missional efforts throughout the city.

Horizon 3— for the good of the city

Vital congregations are spreading across the city and contributing to the public good. In each neighbourhood, congregations are coming alongside people on the margins and at risk, such as; single parents, at risk children and teens, mental illness survivors, the elderly, immigrants and refugees. They are also coming alongside to strengthen the work of local institutions and initiatives like; schools, neighbourhood associations and community centres. Christians who understand their missional vocation are catalysts for positive change in education, the marketplace, the arts and other areas of civic life. As a result, fewer people are resorting to criminal, self-destructive behaviour, and poverty is becoming less prevalent. There is sustainable economic growth; meaningful employment; a sustainable, healthy economy; a beautiful environment (both natural and constructed); just wages; quality consumer products; and stable, expanding employment. It is becoming increasingly clear in people's minds that the presence of the people of God in this city is contributing to the universal flourishing of Hamilton. People are getting a taste for the life that God has intended for them.

TrueCity Core Values

1. Congregationally Based—At the heart of our movement are our church congregations; brought together by the Holy Spirit to grow in our faith as we engage in mission.
2. Neighbourhood Engaged—the focus of our mission is how our congregations can contribute meaningfully to the neighbourhoods that God has placed us in.
3. Active Cooperation—Congregations working together is God's idea for how the Church can truly be the body of Christ. It is a powerful witness to our city of God's reality. We aim to move beyond theoretical unity to relationships of trust and tangible cooperation. working and learning together; unity within diversity
4. Humble Orthodoxy—Confidence in the gospel of Jesus Christ enables us to interact widely with respect and generosity. Submission to Christ compels us to love as God loves with Jesus as our guide.
5. Margins at the Centre—Active presence among those on the social margins who are regularly overlooked and wronged by our society will bring real health and vibrancy for our churches and our city. We take seriously Jesus' challenge that "what you have done to the least of these you have done to me." This is the prophetic challenge of TrueCity.
6. WholeCity View—We recognize both that God is concerned for the whole of Hamilton and that there is an interconnected system that does not allow any neighbourhood to exist in isolation. For both of these reasons we are committed to engaging the whole of Hamilton.
7. Growth through Participation—We grow in Christ as together we engage in his work. Jesus meets us and takes us deeper in our walk with him as we get involved in the work that He is doing.

History of TrueCity

In the summer of 2004 two of the churches IT had worked with most closely, Hughson Street Baptist and Philpott Memorial Church, proposed that the IT Hamilton team work with them and other churches to initiate a movement that creates opportunities for churches to learn from each other and work together for the shalom of the city.

As a starting point these two churches explored ways to strengthen each other. Hughson Street had already pioneered significant community involvement through their volunteering in local schools, running children's and sports clubs and through their Christmas hamper program. Philpott saw what Hughson Street was doing, and wanted to learn from them. Volunteers from Philpott helped with the Christmas hamper program, and Philpott offered the use of their larger facilities. Hughson Street's capability was thereby greatly increased, and Philpott was able to learn from what Hughson Street was doing. Both churches, as well as the community, benefited greatly from just this one, relatively simple example of cooperation. The whole was much greater than the sum of its parts.

It is out of such simple, practical efforts to serve and cooperate that the TrueCity vision is taking shape. The IT Hamilton team has committed to facilitate the information sharing, collaboration on projects, resource discovery and shared learning which would make the vision of this movement a reality.



In April 2005 more than 120 people from over 20 Hamilton area churches gathered at Philpott Memorial church for the first TrueCity Conference. Out of that conference four working groups made of members of different churches began to come together to explore opportunities to learn and cooperate.

Abbotsford Christian Leaders Network (www.acln.ca)

Mitch Borrows

ACLN's Mission...

The ACLN exists to unite the whole church, to love the whole city, with the whole Gospel.

ACLN's Strategy...

The ACLN will accomplish its mission by:

Gathering together

Teaching (*Biblically-based and city-relevant*)

Fellowshipping (*promoting covenant relationships between Pastors/Christian leaders and between churches/ministries*)

Worshipping (*united and Christ-centred*)

Praying (*city-focused*)

Serving & Sharing (*for the common good*)

Adding to the Church (*supporting the spread of the gospel in our city*)

Building favour with the whole city

ACLN's Values...

Dependence on God

Prayer as the foundational work of city transformation

Unity as a reflection of the triune God

Evangelism as the intentional overflow of a Christ like, unified church

Relationship, trust and respect lived out routinely among Christian leaders

Partnering in covenant relationships

Compassion for physical and spiritual needs in church and city

Diversity in national/ethnic origins, gift mix, worship expression, and negotiable doctrines and practices

Committing together to uphold mission, strategy, and values.

ACLN's Statement of Faith...

We believe the Holy Scriptures are the final authority for all matters of faith and conduct.

We believe in God the Father, Almighty Maker of heaven and earth;

We believe that reconciliation with God is by faith in Jesus Christ:

Who is God's only begotten Son, our Lord;

He was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary;

He was crucified, and buried;

the third day He rose again from the dead;

He will come to judge the living and the dead.

We believe in the Holy Spirit;

We believe in the universal Church;

We believe in the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and everlasting life.

ACLN's Commitment to Love & Unity...

A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you... "by this all will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another" John 13:34,35

We therefore agree to commit ourselves to the following actions:

We agree together to promote, encourage and support the unifying effort of the church of Abbotsford.

We agree together to walk with one another in humility, unity, honesty, purity and accountability covenant together under the authority of Jesus Christ our King.

We agree together to promote the work of the Kingdom of God through the city –wide church.

We agree together to speak and act supportively toward our fellow Christian leaders and their ministries in the city.

We agree together to lead our churches and agencies in healthy relationships toward unified and strategic transformation of our city.

We agree together to meet regularly to pray so that the activity of the Holy Spirit would increase in our city.

We agree together to focus on the non-negotiables* of the Bible, subordinating our doctrinal differences to our doctrinal agreements.

We agree together to respect one another's differing interpretations of God's Word in historically debated areas.

We agree together to make regular participation in the gatherings of the "city church" a priority in our lives, influencing others to do the same.

City of Refuge (www.cityofrefuge.ca)

Jim Burkinsaw, jim@vanbelle.com

"City of Refuge" is a project of the Abbotsford Christian Leadership Network (ACLN). Correction! It is *not* a "project", rather it's the name we are giving to a whole new vision gaining momentum in the churches of Abbotsford. The vision is one where we the Church "step up to the plate" and take a stronger position of leadership towards bringing solutions to the challenges of our City.

About a year ago (2007) some Christian leaders in Abbotsford began to ask themselves some awkward questions:

- With eighty-two churches in Abbotsford why are there 235 people living in our alleys and gully's? And many more "hidden homeless".
- Why is there a wait list of 200 men and women at our valley prisons who have said "yes, we would like, we need, an outside mentor?"
- Why are 4,000 of our neighbours dependant on the Abbotsford Food Bank every month? (virtually none of them are homeless, 2000 of them are children...)
- Why are there 25 boys and girls waiting for up to 2 years for a Big Brother/Big Sister?
- Why is Abbotsford really no better in these areas than other cities?
- And the list goes on... single moms, seniors, human trafficking, those with addictions and mental challenges...

BUT...there are MANY good things happening in Abbotsford!

Many people are faithfully serving in a hundred different ways to make a difference. But obviously there is still a need

we are maintaining, but not solving....

So... what if willing leaders and churches sat down, asked God for guidance, caught a BIG vision, laid out a strategy and a plan of action around the needs of our city, coordinated our efforts, rallied our people; and took a

first step?!

Isaiah 58

This chapter has become a theme chapter as we realize the significance of God's command that we help those who need it; and His promise to help us do it!

This is an undertaking far too big for us alone, and of course it has a spiritual dimension that is beyond us; only as we submit to Him, and as He works through us can this be accomplished. The executive of the Abbotsford Christian Leaders Network has made a commitment that with God helping and directing us we will do our best to fulfill Isaiah 58 in our City!

Connecting, Encouraging, Inspiring...!

So, a part of that vision is this newsletter; the goal is:

1. Continue to expand and spread the vision to thousands of Christians in Abbotsford of what our city can become.

a city so embraced by its church that there are no homeless on our streets, there are no single moms without a friend and support, no men and women in our prisons waiting for a friend who can help them get back on their feet...a city that people will come to call a 'City of Refuge' because in our city they can find hope and help, healing and wholeness, purpose and peace on a whole new level.

2. We want to Connect, Encourage and Inspire Christians by sharing the stories of what people are doing and how they all contribute to this vision. You won't see typical church and event announcements here; just stories of what you are doing in our community.
3. We want to put forward specific projects and volunteer opportunities that will help coordinate our efforts and fill the gaps in our ministries.

Stepping Out in Faith!

The ACLN Executive has started by making two rather bold statements about the church's commitment to begin to help solve some of our city's challenges.

1. **First, We have made a commitment to the Abbotsford Food Bank that they will never run out of food again.** We also want to build on the trust and relationships the food bank has with people in need; did you know that when food bank clients were surveyed and asked if they would be willing to be paired with a mentoring family from a local church - virtually everyone said "Yes"!
2. **Second, We have made a commitment to provide a 30-bed Low-Barrier, Long-Term "homeless shelter" within the next 12 months.** Nothing just like this fills this need in Abbotsford at present and it is a much needed first step in helping people get back on their feet.

The ACLN and the City of Refuge leadership team is making these commitments in faith that the Church of Abbotsford, that is, all the Christians in Abbotsford regardless of denomination, share this vision and will join us. We are committed to partnering with anyone who is already serving in these areas; we do not want to compete or "reinvent the wheel". For the last year we have been working with leaders from local churches, MCC, the Salvation Army, Cyrus Centre, Abbotsford Food Bank and the City of Abbotsford Social Planning staff to begin to map out our plans.



The Hospitality Project

www.shiloh6thave.net/mod/group/view.php?group_id=2

Jamie McEvoy, jaimiem@shiloh-6ave.net

The **Hospitality Project** is part of Operation Food Justice, a partnership between Shiloh-Sixth Avenue United, St. Aidan's Presbyterian, and St. Barnabas Anglican Churches.

*The **Hospitality Project** gives people dignity and the hope that comes from a helping hand and the opportunity to serve.*

The Hospitality Project services include a Resource Office, a Triage Receptionist, and an Advocate. The Resource Office provides access to a courtesy phone as well as up to date multi-lingual information on subjects ranging from housing to health. The Triage Receptionist's job is to be supportive and assist people in their efforts to access information on things like residential tenancy, aging, and life as a recent immigrant.

The Advocate supports and helps people negotiate more critical and complex issues with which they need specialized help in the areas of health care, housing, and government services such as welfare.

Two days a week, the New Westminster Food Bank is open. During this time, the HP Drop-in services also include:

- a family resource centre and childrens drop-in run by New West Family Place;
- a Teacher from School District # 40 to tutor adults upgrading to grade 11/12;
- a free clothing and household goods exchange,
- refreshments; and
- a variety of community service providers who participate on rotation (e.g. the Public Health Nurse and Dental Hygienist, the Fraserside Community Services Society nutritionist, Seniors Housing Information Program, the Seniors Bureau, the Fire Department Fire Safety Officer, Flu Clinics, the Diabetes Association and multi-cultural organizations such as Mosaic.

Stonegate Community Ecumenical Ministry

www.stonegateministry.ca

30-150 Berry Road, Toronto, Ontario, M8Y 1W3

Tel.: 416 234-9948 Fax: 416 234-0496

Stonegate Community Ecumenical Ministry (SCEM) was founded on the belief that the church needed to play an active role in reaching out to the community and serving its social and spiritual needs. The first step was to call local churches to work together in the neighbourhood. This joint ministry of Anglican, United, Presbyterian, and Baptist churches has continued since the inception of the ministry. In 2001 the Polish Full Gospel Church joined the ministry. Volunteers from the local Roman Catholic Churches are also active in our programs.

The core clientele for SCEM's work are the tenants who live in 79 low-rise apartment buildings in the neighbourhood, a population around 12,000 people. These people earn low incomes; many families are headed by a single parent; and many are new Canadians, recently arrived in Canada. There is a high unemployment rate in the area, and many youth people have experience with the justice system.

Another important segment of the community is senior citizens living on limited incomes.

Ministry Activities

SCEM Board: Twelve people drawn from local churches and the community meet monthly to provide strategic direction for the work of the ministry.

Community Coordinator's Office: Elizabeth Zinder de Jesus, the community coordinator, serves the residents of the area by coordinating services and events, working in partnership with local services and agencies and attending to people's social and spiritual needs one to one.

The Outreach Store: SCEM operates a clothing store in the heart of the community at Stonegate Plaza. The store is staffed entirely by 25 volunteers from the local churches and the immediate community serving local residents with affordable clothing and other necessities including household items such as kitchen utensils, linens, toys and books.

St. James Food Bank: SCEM is a major supporter of the local food bank operating from the premises of St. James' Humber Bay Anglican Church. We help to supply the bank and find volunteers to staff it. The community coordinator is often present when it is open to provide help and support to residents. The food bank serves up to a hundred families every month.

Stonegate Community Festival: This yearly festival is organized by a team of volunteers from the community and has the participation and financial support from SCEM and over twenty organizations, plaza retailers, plaza landlord, ethnic and community groups. In 2003 we had nearly 2,000 people from the community attending the event. This is a huge increase over previous years.

Stonegate Action Group: In the summer of 2001, SCEM community coordinator set up this group as a means of identifying and responding to local community needs and issues. Fifteen residents from Stonegate have been meeting once a month to address community concerns and needs, and to develop plans for tackling them. The group has worked with local city councillor, local health centre staff, officials from parks and recreation, local business people and the plaza landlord on several projects. It has already achieved improved street lighting in some locations to increase safety, and expansion of a community garden. Presently, the group is working toward the upgrading of the Bell Manor Park. The group will be an important community voice in the anticipated redevelopment of the local plaza.

Stonegate Festival of Praises: SCEM has organized a festival of gospel music for the past three summers. The event takes place in the second Saturday of September in the parking lot of the Stonegate Plaza attracting hundreds of people from the community. We have the voluntary participation of gospel bands, individual singers and worship dancers from various church communities. Gospel songs are sung in the major languages spoken at Stonegate – English, Polish, Ukrainian, Russian and Spanish. The musicians also share personal stories of how their own lives have been transformed by Christ's transforming presence.

Prayer Support Group: Representatives from the SCEM's family of churches meet once a month to pray for the people at Stonegate so that they will come to know the wonderful and redeeming love of God through Christ Jesus; to pray for the people who are sick in the community believing that God's healing power can restore their health; and to pray for the church communities to continue faithfully and

joyfully being God's hands extended at Stonegate.

Spiritual Support Group: The Ministry runs a women's spiritual support group to help those in the area who are not associated with any church community address their spiritual needs.

Lasting Family Connections: In April of 2004 the Ministry launched a new program – Lasting Family Connections to nourish and support the development of healthy and lasting relationships between parents and children. The family workshops are formatted into eight sessions of one hour each – only one child and a parent attend the session since the purpose of the program is to develop and nurture parent/child relationship.

Support for Local Service Providers: SCEM supports local organizations such as the Stonegate Community Health Centre as they respond to the identified social needs in the community. The Ministry has joined the health centre to address major need areas such as: Youth Crime Prevention, Domestic Violence Prevention and Student Summer Employment.

Church of Surrey

Ed Goerzen, egoerzen@shaw.ca

VALUES AND VISION

We value church pastors and their congregations functionally networking together in loving and supportive relationships in the city of Surrey.

We value maintaining the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace (Ephesians 4:3).

We value the whole church advancing the Kingdom of God in the city of Surrey.

We value using our collective influences through prayer and action towards city transformation.

Our purpose

The "church" of Surrey exists to unite our city in prayer, worship and evangelism through the covenant prayer partnership of city pastors and strategically planned inter-city worship events.

Our desire is see the City of Surrey transformed in measurable and righteous differences through consistent prayer and collective influence in local communities, business networks, civic and provincial city leadership, and local schools so that the gospel of the kingdom has impact in all levels of life in the city.

Activities

Here are some of the collaborative activities that we participated in over the past few years:

- Host a Good Friday service which has become an annual event, last year it involved over 40 churches and 2,800 people in three services.
- Prayer walked around every school in the city and the local shopping mall
- Hosted regular lunches for pastors – i.e. Dr. John Stackhouse – 135 pastors for lunch
- Hosted a Mayor's Breakfast for pastors, meet with the Mayor over current social issues
- Interviewed two mayoral candidates and a councilor for the current civic election
- Negotiated a church split to minimize the fall out and helped establish a separate congregation
- A street ministry approached our team with a request to place themselves under our leadership authority and responsibility
- Represented and supported that street ministry application at city council
- Contributed numerous hours in developing board processes of that street ministry

- Put a concerted effort into Celebration 2005 – involving numerous churches serving together in their community and in a joint open air celebration

Distinctives and Observations

Our Covenant

We have made the following covenant with each other and are committed to uphold it with all our fellow Pastors in the city of Surrey.

1. We covenant with God to speak and act supportively towards our fellow Pastors in the city and their ministries.
2. We covenant with God to promote, encourage, and support the unifying effort of the Church in Surrey.
3. We covenant with God to focus on the absolutes of scripture, and minimize our doctrinal distinctives. We will respect one another's differing interpretations.
4. We covenant with God to gather weekly to pray that the activity of the Holy Spirit would increase in Our City.
5. We covenant with God to promote the work of the Kingdom of God above our own particular work and our own ways or style of "doing Church."
6. We covenant with God to walk together in humility, unity, honesty, purity, and accountability with one another under the authority of Jesus our King.

Our Servant Leaders Team Relationship Covenant

We value and commit to the following principles:

1. Consistent attendance at Surrey Prayer Meetings.
2. Absenteeism requires a valid reason and notification.
3. New members will be invited by prior agreement from the group.
4. To grant extended leaves with prior agreement.
5. To present this to our Elders/Leaders for agreement and written confirmation.
6. To inform our church body of our commitment.
7. To attend meetings the 2nd and 4th Wednesday, from 1:15 – 2:15pm.

Northwest Leadership Foundation (Tacoma)

www.northwestleadership.org

City as Parish

Vision: In each of the eight parish neighborhoods [municipally designated areas] of Tacoma, a roundtable that includes church and a variety of parish/organization leaders with ...

*Hearts united together by compassion for the vulnerable
Voices lifted together in dialogue and advocacy
Hands joined together to bring acts of mercy and service*

... seeking the spiritual and social renewal of their immediate neighborhoods, their parish and the city at large.

In response to

1. The desire and efforts of Tacoma churches at many levels for more effective and collaborative engagement of their city and neighbourhood communities
2. The increased ownership that neighbourhood councils and civic leaders need and want to take in their own communities and parish;
3. The increase of resources (programs, relationships, training, finances, etc.) accessible to faith communities who collaborate in their city and local neighborhoods;
4. And the heart and vision of God to see people serving in unity.

Mission: CAP is committed to building a church led city-wide network of congregations and organizations who partner at a parish level for the spiritual and social renewal of Tacoma.

Outcomes:

- **Unity:** wider collaboration for the common good will increase the churches' vision, their witness to the city and their efforts with those they serve.
- **Advocacy:** wider collaboration for the common good will increase the church's ability to speak up on behalf of the vulnerable.
- **Delivery system:** wider collaboration for the common good will increase NLF's ability to give individuals and organizations access to our resources.

Strategy: CAP has a *three-pronged* strategy: Designation of the city; Anchor churches; Development of CAP teams and roundtables.

1. **Designation of the City:** CAP sees the city through the eight Tacoma neighborhoods that have been designated by the city.
2. **Anchor Churches:** CAP will pick a minimum of one anchor church within each of the eight neighborhoods to lead the CAP Initiative in their particular parish. Currently we have four parishes with an anchor church.
3. **Development of a leadership team and Roundtable in each Parish:** Several other churches would be recruited by the anchor Church pastor(s) to form the *Parish leadership team*. The Parish leadership team will develop a plan to develop a larger *Parish Roundtable* by inviting not only church pastors and leaders, but also parachurch, service agencies and like-minded civic leaders from the parish.

Salem (Oregon) Leadership Foundation

www.salemlf.org

The City-as-Neighborhood Initiative is the product of a major strategic-planning process conducted by the SLF Board of Directors and two community forums in 2005/06. SLF's analysis showed that Salem-Keizer is too big to be served as one community. The best programs and outcomes come from "smaller cohesive geographies," starting with the six (6) high-school feeder districts and moving down to the distinct neighborhoods where people live. The City-as-Neighborhood Initiative is not limited to faith-based organizations, although getting churches to significantly serve their neighbors is a major thrust. SLF's goal is to work with all stakeholders in all neighborhoods to generate excitement, collaboration, and efficiencies in making things better.

At the heart of City-as-Neighborhood is the position of the SLF Lightning Rod. By definition, the Lightning Rod lives, works, worships, and passionately serves his/her high-school district, or Keystone Area. This is the same geography already proscribed by the Community Progress Teams (CPTs) of the Marion County Children & Families Commission. Likewise, Rotary Clubs, Little Leagues, Young Life, Boys & Girls Club sites—even our zip codes!—are naturally formed around these Keystone Areas. The SLF Lightning Rod is a localized bridge-builder, a convener, a collaborator, a problem-solver, and a resource-finder.

City-as-Neighborhood is significant to our community because it:

- Provides a logical umbrella under which virtually every local cause can find volunteers, resources and effectiveness.
- Reinforces many community structures already in place, such as schools, Rotary Clubs and other civic organizations, Little Leagues, Boys & Girls Clubs, Young Life, No Meth/Not in My Neighborhood, etc.
- Magnifies the current initiatives by both the Salem and Keizer City Councils to strengthen the Neighborhood Association structures in both cities.
- Magnifies the current strategy of the Marion County Children & Families Commission to strengthen and expand its network of Community Progress Teams (CPTs).
- Gives every person, family, business, church and organization an opportunity to make a deep and significant impact in familiar territory, as opposed to a small (or non-detectable) dent in the large-community context.
- Acknowledges that not all poverty is in the inner-city. City-as-Neighborhood reminds us there are Needs in every neighborhood, as well as the Assets to meet those needs. Urban or suburban, affluent or poor, each neighborhood has the Assets to meet the Needs—some areas just need more help than others in discovering this.
- Encourages uncommon allies to partner up. Schools and Churches. For-profits and Non-profits. Republicans and Democrats. Conservatives and Progressives. Evangelicals and Liturgical/Mainline. Faith-based and Community-based.
- Helps establish common "ground" (literally and figuratively) to achieve positive results.

CaN Centers

Several years ago the Renaissance in Salem's toughest neighborhood began. That's when a tiny church in Salem's highest-crime neighborhood opened a huge community center. This led to potent partnerships with neighbors, nearby schools, the City of Salem, Marion County, youth agencies, businesses and law enforcement.

By opening its doors, Capital Park Wesleyan Church sparked a miraculous turnaround. Crime came down 25%, the parks are clean again, home ownership is up, children are safer, and families are healthier. Today, not only is this one neighborhood being transformed, but our whole city is being indelibly impacted.

Inspired by the Capital Park story, other churches have begun to open their buildings to their neighborhoods. They

are engaging in strong collaborations and offering their facilities to neighbors in a variety of innovative and asset-building programs. Likewise, public agencies and the social-service system have been inspired to seek partnerships with the Faith Community! Now, more neighborhoods are being revitalized, and hundreds of kids and families are benefiting.

Churches as Neighborhood Centers

In 2003 Salem Leadership Foundation began to coordinate the Churches as Neighborhood (CaN) Centers Program among several congregations. In the program's first six years, SLF has raised more than \$600,000 to support the operation of 12 CaN Centers sites in Salem and Keizer. The sites themselves have expended another nearly \$1 million to run their programs. More than 4,200 at-risk kids have been served with after-school programs, GED/ESL classes, Homework Clubs, family nights, block parties, and other asset-building activities. The Capital Park story is now being replicated in neighborhoods across Keizer, East Salem, South Salem, North Salem and—with the advent of the "Dream Center" in the Edgewater—West Salem.

SLF's leadership/fiduciary role in the CaN Centers collaboration has three (3) important functions:

1. Start-up. We recruit and help new sites develop programming, hire staff, and begin basic operations.
2. Capacity-building. We help current sites expand their staffs, volunteers, hours, and numbers served.
3. Sustainability. After three years, each CaN Centers site becomes a self-funded operation within the church's strategic plan and budget. There are now eight (8) self-sustaining CaN Centers.

Over the years, the CaN Centers Program has grown from a fledgling group of loose-knit colleagues into a formal collaboration of service providers. Churches that were tentatively serving their neighbors by experimentation are now engaged in strategic deployments of their buildings, people and assets. Community partners (schools, non-profits, government) who desire faith-based partnerships can now turn to well-established places and programs. Families and neighbors who were once under-served are now accessing asset-building programs in buildings that once stood fallow and dormant. Kids and youth who struggled to find safe places and caring adults are now engaged in healthy activities between those 'infamous hours' of 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. Adults and seniors are able to improve their education and their language skills. "Neighborhood Efficacy" is on the rise all over Salem-Keizer.

The CaN Centers churches and community partners meet first Wednesdays (11:30-1:00 p.m.) at various sites throughout Salem-Keizer. All are welcome to come learn about serving kids, families and neighborhoods. For more information, call Carolyn at Salem Leadership Foundation at 503-315-8924.

CaN Center Sites

- | | | |
|---|--|--|
| 1. Capital Park Wesleyan Church | 7. Morningside United Methodist Church | Church |
| 2. Christian Center of Salem | 8. Our Savior's Lutheran Church | 12. Salem Mennonite Church |
| 3. Emmaus Community Church | 9. St. Edward Catholic Church | 13. Trinity Covenant Church |
| 4. Grace Baptist Church | 10. Salem Alliance Church | 14. West Salem Foursquare Church |
| 5. Grace Community Church | 11. Salem First Free Methodist Church | |
| 6. Holy Cross Lutheran Church | | |

Tswane Leadership Foundation (Praetoria, South Africa)

www.tlf.org.za

The City Centre Churches Forum was created in 1992 as a platform for Christian Churches and ministry organisations in the inner city of Pretoria, to share common concerns and visions. It gave birth to a number of important initiatives and remains a crucial and strategically important church forum in the City of Tshwane.

Vision: a caring vibrant Christ-centred alliance of communities, incarnated as partners in the context of Pretoria City Centre.

OBJECTIVES

Analysis and Prophetic Witness

- Conscience of City - developers, business, city council
- Identify ourselves to the City Council
- Analyse context

Community of Solidarity and Reflection

- To create fellowship / solidarity
- Ecumenical services / witness
- Cultivating spirituality / Theology in the City
 - equipping members (through Institute for Urban Ministry)
- Create a community of unconditional acceptance

Mission in Partnership

- Identify resources / ministries
- Develop an awareness and support of the City
- A place of mission and meeting
- Direct involvement with PCM
- Support Church planting activities
- Interfaith contact—dialogue
- Sediba Hope programme
- Developing a Youth Network

FREQUENCY AND FORMAT OF MEETINGS

The forum gathers for lunch meetings on the second Wednesday of every second month strictly between 12h00 and 14h00. The meeting format creates space for fellowship and prayer, a topical issue relevant to our collective ministry as a church in the city, a shared lunch, and general business and news from our different churches and ministries

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|---------------------------------|---|---|
| 1. Acts of Faith Ministries | 13. Dutch Reformed Church | 23. Pretoria Evangelism and Nurture (PEN) - children & youth ministry |
| 2. Believers Family Church | 14. Hervormde Kerk in Suidelik Afrika | 24. Remnant Ministries |
| 3. Christ Apostolic Church | 15. His People Christian Church | 25. Restoration Family Church |
| 4. Christ Redeemer Church | 16. Institute for Urban Ministry | 26. Sacred Heart Catholic Cathedral |
| 5. Christ Redemption Ministries | 17. International Church of Pretoria | 27. Sediba Hope AIDS Care Centre |
| 6. Christhood Church | 18. Lighthouse Chapel International | 28. St. Alban's Anglican Cathedral |
| 7. Christian Faith Center | 19. Mahube Centre - HIV/AIDS | 29. St Alban's Clinic - HIV/ AIDS |
| 8. Citizen's Advice Bureau | 20. Melodi ya Tshwane Uniting Reformed Church | 30. St. Andrews Presbyterian Church |
| 9. City of Dynamite Ministries | 21. Multi-disciplinary resource centre | 31. St. Peters Lutheran Church |
| 10. Congregational Church | 22. Pop Up - Skills Training | 32. Tshwane Leadership Foundation |
| 11. Divine Ministries | | |
| 12. Doxa Deo Inner City Campus | | |

- 33. Pretoria Community Ministries (PCM) - urban community development
- 34. Victory Fellowship

- 35. Wesley Methodist Church
- 36. Word of Life Ministries International

- 37. World Wide Pentecostal Mission
- 38. Yeast City Housin