

Church of the City Approach

Summary

- Goal: Building Bridges that enable the people of God to missionally engage the city based on their influence and passion.
- Vision: To discover together what the Church of the City in our city is... looks like... it's function... and form..... (this is a sought reality not a legal formality)
- Approach: Monthly discussion around a different domain (see page 3)
- Overview: We will gather each month engaging a theme focused on a Kingdom domain. It will be a conversation and interaction about how the various churches in the city, see and engage each domain. It is our desire to discover together the expansion possibilities as to how the Church of the City might reach to increase its influence and presence. (Proclaiming the Kingdom of God)

The 2 Questions We Seek to Answer:

(Questions are complements of Carol Davis)

1. NOT... How can we motivate our uninvolved people?

RATHER...

God, how can we involve your people in what you have motivated them for?

2. NOT... How can we get our congregations on a pathway to the mission field?

RATHER....

How can we build bridges from where we/they are to what God is doing right now?

About the Conversation

Why are we having this conversation?

As leaders of Christ's Church we seek the completion of the work of Christ in our city and to identify and appoint the leaders whom will fulfill this great work.

(Titus 1:5)

Who is invited to the conversation?

1. Christian Leaders of Christ's Church (including but not limited to; pastors, key church staff, non-profit leaders and community spiritual leaders with a heart for Kingdom collaboration). We gather as individuals but we are aware of our represented organizations.
 - a. No individual carries more power or sway in the gathering based on their organization, yet we will expect each individual to have a varying amount of resources, information and authority based on their organization. To this end there will be a disproportionate amount of influence for each individual... therefore we seek to influence the city for good not one another.
2. Only those who affirm and whole heartedly embrace our unity statement -

Because of our shared love for Jesus Christ and our desire to serve as a blessing to our city and our neighbors, we (Titus 1:6-9) feel privileged to partner together in influencing San Dimas (& other cities) for good. (Titus 3:14) We believe in, and tangibly affirm one Christian Church, in its many expressions. We embrace unity in our diversity. We are not seeking uniformity; rather, we desire to unify around the highest value we share, our mutual love of God through the gift of his Son, Jesus Christ. (Titus 2:13-14)

Who is not invited and even unapologetically excused from the conversation?

1. Those not included in the above
2. Those who are seeking to build and bolster their own kingdoms and churches at the expense of another.
3. Those who do not affirm Jesus Christ as the Son of God as outlined in the Nicene Creed. (This creates the sole conviction of our centered set. If you desire more information on centered sets, verses bounded sets email me.)

Meeting Times

We gather once a month based on the groups time preference.
Currently Third Tuesday of the month @ 7:00 am – in the Starbuck on Bonita/San Dimas
Time frame is roughly for 1 ½ hours.

Outline of meetings –

- 15 min Prayer and share – what do you bring to the table personally
- 30 min What is the domain and what is known about it from a city perspective - this will include a biblical perspective discussion.
- 30 min Discussion around the table – how are “you” already engaged? Here we dialogue on our 2 Questions. This is conversation driven not program driven. You may have nothing to add, so you listen, you may be inspired to do something, then do it– then you will have something to share next time, you may not think it matters at all – then you have an opinion to share.....
- 15 min So what – we will not be looking to plan something together, but there will never be hesitation to collaborate and connect about what can come from this collectively or by break out groups.

Events

Events and purposes that this group will weigh in on together – these are not mandated or even expected commitments; rather they are ways that one might choose to involve themselves....

In San Dimas:

- National Day of Prayer – May 7th
- Church of the City Tour – Easter – Pentecost
- New Hope Fall Festival – ???

8 Spheres of Influence

Kingdom Causes in the East San Gabriel Valley organizes around the eight spheres of influence.

The Same Domains/ Spheres exist in every city and every nation as they are the infrastructure of human society.

They are God's idea – not man's....When done God's way: man is blessed and protected / God's attributes are put on display / God's fame spreads.

8 Spheres of Influence: (Landa Cope's – "The Old Testament Template")

Preview	January	(Prayer)
Economics	February	
Education	March	
Government	April	
Family	May	(NDP)
Review	June	
(No meeting)	July	
Church	August	
Communication	Sept	
Arts & Entertainment	October	(Prayer)
Technology / Science	November	
(No meeting)	December	

What We Believe

The Nicene Creed of 325 explicitly affirms the [divinity of Jesus](#), applying to him the term "God". The 381 version speaks of the Holy Spirit as worshipped and glorified with the Father and the Son. The [Athanasian Creed](#) describes in much greater detail the relationship between Father, Son and Holy Spirit. The [Apostles' Creed](#), not formulated in reaction to Arianism, makes no explicit statements about the divinity of the Son and the Holy Spirit, but, in the view of many who use it, the doctrine is implicit in it.

We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one being with the Father;
through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven:
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary,
and became truly human.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father [and the Son],
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.