

CONVERSATIONS THAT MATTER

Conversations that Matter are Online Gatherings of Bay Area Leaders of Faith + Nationally Recognized Thought Leaders Designed to Spark Dialogue Around the Big Questions that Impact Spiritual Life in the Bay Area.

WWW.TBC.CITY/CONVERSATIONSTHATMATTER



The Church and The City

This resource is a companion to the Conversation that Matters on the Church and the City to use as a guide to supporting your city by engaging with its leaders.

Panelists:

Adam Peacock, founder, Feathervine,

Brian Leong, English Pastor at [Lord's Grace Christian Church](#) and founder, [Move Mountain View](#)

Paul Bains, co-founder, [Project We Hope](#), East Palo Alto

Finny Abraham, local Compassion Pastor at [Westgate Church](#) and Executive Director, Coalition Against Poverty - Silicon Valley

If your church closed its doors tomorrow, would anybody notice?

How can your church or nonprofit organization be present in the community?

Ask the Right Questions

- Who are we supposed to be in this city?
- Did You put us here by accident or are we actually here for a purpose?
- Can we be a major part of what's happening here?

“This isn’t just about finding ways to help the community be present for church events; it’s about developing the relationships that allow us to be present and serve in the life of our community. -Adam Peacocke

Learn the Ways the Local Government Works

- Learn your city – its history, make up, and the way it functions.
- Attend meetings to listen.
- Establish relationships with the community’s leaders.

“Show up at the meetings. The government is willing to work with faith-based organizations. There are plenty of opportunities and on-ramps for us to engage. All it takes is some intentionality from us to make the effort.” -Paul Bains

Know Who Does What and Who to Work With

The Mayor and Council members – the City Government – are the key people who govern the community. They set policy for the city, but the city manager, their department heads, and staff are the ones who do the practical work.

“From a strategic standpoint, cultivating a relationship with your city manager is as important or even more important than cultivating a relationship with your mayor.” - Adam Peacocke

[City representatives in the Bay Area](#)
[State representatives in the Bay Area](#)

Assess Your Community's Unmet Needs

Assess what is already meeting the unmet needs and partner with them.

“You don’t want to launch out in any type of service if there’s not a need for it.” - Brian Leong

Cultivate relationships with local government leaders to open doors to better understand the needs of your community and how to partner with the community stakeholders.

“We can build relationships and see doors open not because we have the answers or the resources, but because we have compassion. Churches are not always the ones who can fix the problems. “ -Adam Peacocke

Pastor your Community Leaders

“As pastors and faith leaders we bring a different dynamic. We don’t connect just for a project, we care for our city leaders as individuals.” -Finny Abraham

- Ask them how they are doing personally.
- Ask them about their families
- The needs will come from the relationships you build.

Be a Change Agent Church

“Even a small church can make a big impact.” - Paul Bains

- Start with a vision.
- Ask other faith-based organizations and church if they want to partner or be a part of the vision.
- Take advantage of the experience of others – the successes and the challenges.

Leverage Resources

- Finances – resources may be available from the federal, state, or local government.
- Relational capital – build on existing relationships to multiple the work.
- People capital – encourage other churches and organizations to join the effort.

Be Gracious and Generous with your Connections

Collaborate with other churches in the Kingdom work.

“The moment I’m generous with it, God multiplies it.” - Paul Bains

Get in the Game

- Start small
- Start prayerfully

“You and I, through the relationships we establish -- the time, the talent and the treasure -- can show the world that the church is not on the sideline. We’re actually in the game.” - Paul Bains

“God has a heart for the city. He looks at the city and sees a cluster of His image. He wants the city to thrive. If He wants to do that, we should want to do that, too.” - Finny Abraham

Resources

- [Sidewalks in the Kingdom](#)
- [City Church: Working Together to Transform Cities \(Urban Ministry in the 21st Century\)](#)
- <https://redeemercitytocity.com/books>