

Little Bethel Community Church TrueCity Covenant February 2007

As a church community, we covenant with the other Truecity churches to-

1 Commitment to Neighbourhood Engagement

Little Bethel Community Activities:

- Partnership with Café Adonai- Alpha, Gospel Explosion, shared resources, volunteer involvement, prayer and support.
- Active involvement with 'East End Working Group' of local area churches working together in this part of Hamilton.
- Strengthen unity among local area churches -advertising, supporting and attending each others events, praying together
- Active involvement in 'Party in the Park', May long weekend
- Clean Up days
- Kids Fest back packing involvement
- Seeking to identify area needs by dialogue and involvement with local community agencies, officials and groups.
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2 Alignment with TrueCity Values-see pages 2, 3.

3 Funding Involvement

- For the coming year we have committed to participate in the need to fund TrueCity by contributing \$400.
- Individual members or adherents of Little Bethel are welcome to financially support TrueCity ministries and/or missionaries according to their interest, initiative and choice.

4 Congregational Involvement

- Peter Giokas (Pastor) will participate regularly in the TrueCityCore Church meetings and gatherings and East Area Working Group. Deacons will participate as their interest and availability allows.
- Invitations for members to volunteer at TrueCity events and activities, and/or provide goods and services as needed.
- Encourage attendance at the TrueCity Conference.
- Members will freely participate in TrueCity initiated, hosted, sponsored and/or supported events and activities according to their interests, availability and sense of Gods call.

5 Celebrating Involvement Together

- Little Bethel will publicly celebrate our involvement in TrueCity on: April 29, 2007.

Alignment with TrueCity Values

TrueCity values are stated followed by corresponding excerpts from LBCC Vision, Values, Beliefs and Affiliations document..

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.*

- The body of Christ is a family. We are called into relationship with each other. There is diversity and unity in this Body. We are a rich 'tapestry' of people brought together in Christ.
- We are a local expression of the Body of Christ. We are part of a larger, universal community of people following Christ but we represent him in this specific community.

2. **Neighbourhood Involved**- *the focus of our mission is how our congregations can contribute meaningfully to the neighbourhoods that God has placed us in.*

- We are called to this community of East Hamilton
- We seek to obey Christ's command to go "Into all the world."
- We are a local church with a global vision and impact
- We have a strong commitment to ministering to the needs of **East Hamilton** where God has planted us. (*Matthew 5:16-16*)

3 **Active Cooperation**-*we aim to move beyond our theoretical unity to relationships of trust and tangible cooperation where our diversity of perspective and gifting enhances our unity. Congregations learning and working together is how the Church can truly be the body of Christ. It is a powerful witness to our world of Gods reality.*

- The body of Christ is a family. We are called into relationship with each other. There is diversity and unity in this Body. We are a rich 'tapestry' of people brought together in Christ.
- We work together in co-operative teamwork. Each member has unique gifts and ministries. The whole Body is healthy and grows as we each do our part and support each other.
- The one Holy Universal Church, the Body of Christ to which all true believers belong. (*1 Cor. 12:12-13; Romans 12:5; Eph. 1:22-23, 2:19-22*)

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 Christ as our guide.*

- Jesus said, "As the father sent me, so I am sending you," (John 20:21). We go as Christ did, in the power of the Holy Spirit proclaiming the Good News of the Kingdom in word, and demonstrating the presence of the Kingdom through acts of healing and service to the poor and oppressed.
- We focus on the truth of Christ that brings freedom & we speak this truth in love.
- We desire to fulfill Christ's command to communicate the gospel and bring others to a faith commitment in him. We will do this in both word and deed, and with both a local and global focus. Our style of evangelism will have an emphasis on building authentic relationships, on being loving, relevant, creative and non-intrusive. We will maintain the close connection between evangelism and prayer.

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.*

- We seek to be a safe place where the broken and marginalized can begin to experience freedom in Christ through loving community.
- We believe in **the importance of both Evangelism and Social Action** in our ministry and outreach. We are commanded in scripture to preach the Gospel of the kingdom and to baptize, as well as to minister to the poor and oppressed. We believe in **holistic ministry** to the whole person; spirit, soul, body and relationships. *(Matthew 28:19-20; James 1:27)*

6. Whole City 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.*

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- We seek to obey Christ's command to go "Into all the world."
(which I'm adding , includes Hamilton)
- We are a local church with a global vision and impact
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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.*

- We are the hands and feet of Jesus
- We are a visible expression and presence of Christ in the world today
- We seek to obey Christ's command to go and make disciples
- We are learning what it means to be a community and to continue his work
- We work together in co-operative teamwork. Each member has unique gifts and ministries. The whole Body is healthy and grows as we each do our part and support each other.
- Jesus said, "As the father sent me, so I am sending you," (John 20:21). We go as Christ did, in the power of the Holy Spirit proclaiming the Good News of the Kingdom in word, and demonstrating the presence of the Kingdom through acts of healing and service to the poor and oppressed.
- We seek to be a place where ordinary people, filled with the Holy Spirit, have the opportunity to discover and use their gifts to do extra-ordinary things. This service to others will be both inside and outside the church. Ministry will be holistic (ministering to the body, soul, and relationships) and involving teamwork.