



About OneCity

OneCity is an outreach-focused development team that works to help the big "C" Church in Cincinnati multiply its impact by...

Making Connections

We work for each church, but more importantly we work for all churches collectively...the Church.

Research & Development

We work to explore, create, and pilot new ways for the Church to work together as one.

Volunteer Mobilization

We rally people to share the love of Christ in meaningful, everyday ways.



New Year's Resolutions

By Mark Stecher - OneCity President

Have your New Year's resolutions faded yet? It's time to decide if your efforts are taking root or fading away. Of course, if you didn't make any resolutions, you have nothing to worry about. But is that the best way to approach the New Year? There are a number of things I want to improve in my life. Every December my wife and I join friends over dinner and discuss our "year-in-review" together, listing highlights from the previous year and some of the things we most want to make happen in the year ahead.

We all have things in our lives we need to work on that we learn through insights from God and others. It's wise to be open to these insights, but then we have to ask if we're willing to work on our stuff, and if so, how?

I can be kind of a wimp in this area. Learning through pain is never my preference - I'd rather learn when times are good. Yet, the Bible stories suggest people learn through adversity, not times of comfort. The Old Testament shows how the Lord repeatedly blessed his people; witnessed them ultimately get off track and lose focus; and then require some kind of challenge to re-gain their attention. James, the brother of Christ wrote, "Count it all joy when you fall into various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith... (develops you) that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing." In other words, no pain, no gain.

So, as you consider whether resolutions are worthwhile or a waste of time, consider how you prefer to learn and grow... the easy way or the hard way. I think the more dependent we are on God, the more willing we are to take the hard road when necessary. We're more sensitive to the things about which God wants us to focus. Though it can be hard to stay the course, we know it's necessary in order to be used by God and develop our unique gifts. How boring and futile it would be to coast through life with no real challenges, or sense of purpose!

If we can help your church, your organization, or you individually to get involved in serving our city in any way, please contact us.

OneCity

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Clearly, asking God for areas to push into this year is a good thing. Effective leaders rise to new challenges in order to make a positive difference in their lives and communities. Most of the cool stories God chose to share in Scripture are of people who received insight during tough times and responded accordingly. Whether it was Moses who finally stumbled forward to lead the Israelites out of Egypt or David, who after an adulterous affair ripped his clothes in repentance, real leaders were consistent in their desire to listen to God and rise to the challenge.

What is He calling you to press into this year? James urges: "If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God...and it will be given to him." Seek at least one resolution for 2009. Maybe He's calling you to be more joyful? To improve your interpersonal skills? To break a bad habit? To respond to a new challenge? To modify how you spend your time? You are the leaders of OneCity, and leaders respond to the challenges God puts on their hearts. New Year's resolution #1...

TeamWorks In Action

Of the many responsibilities I have with the TeamWorks mentoring program, recruiting and matching job members from Cincinnati Works with mentors is perhaps the most rewarding. Last September I met a promising young man named Corey who has had a difficult upbringing including multiple foster parents since the age of nine.

My husband, Jon, stepped in as his mentor and their relationship flourished. Jon has been able to change Corey's perspective in many ways, and since September, Corey has not only gotten a job, a driver's license and bought a car, he is working to complete a scholarship application for college. Corey has a new hope for his future through Jon's coaching and friendship, Jon's perspective has changed about how easy and rewarding it is to so positively impact another's life, and we all see once again amazing confirmation from God that these programs can and do change lives!

OneCity Stats



To date there have been 103 mentors paired through the TeamWorks program.

CityLink Update

The CityLink Board, Staff and Volunteers are continuing to work diligently towards making the dream of serving those in need and battling against poverty in Cincinnati. Work and progress are underway on three fronts:

1. Design Development: Hi-Five Development has completed and submitted the construction drawings and filed for our building permits for CityLink Center at the 800 Bank Street location.
2. Program Development: Board, Staff and Volunteers are researching local, regional and national stakeholders to finalize programming and case management. IT solutions which support our programming are being crafted to launch the work regardless of how soon we move into the facility.

3. Pre-Development Study: Smith Beers Yunker has been hired to assist and will start qualifying our Capital Campaign.

To ensure that OneCity messages continue to arrive in your inbox safely, please add erika.w@onecity.org to your e-mail address book or Safe Sender list.