

## Churches Together for the Good of the City

One of the hallmarks of the Christian faith is reaching out to help those in need. While most churches already have assistance programs, a growing trend is multiple churches working together to help in the community.

A recent presentation showed how churches in Hamilton are combining their efforts and resources to help good things get done. The meeting was organized by David Cottrill, the Director of Community Outreach at North Park ([northpark.on.ca](http://northpark.on.ca)) and Leslie Damude, a family doctor with a heart for justice. The presentation was attended by 35 London church and servant ministry leaders interested in hearing how other cities are helping neighbourhoods.

The Hamilton program is called True City ([www.truecity.ca](http://www.truecity.ca)) and it has been running for 6 years. Its organizer, Dave Witt, said that the original involvement of 3 churches has grown to 9 core churches, with up to 20 churches involved on various projects. "We are seeing churches working together, learning from each other, and sharing common ground on issues of justice and compassion. We are also seeing how diverse communities can work well together."

The presentations included encouragement from Pernell Goodyear, who has experienced the multi-church programs in Hamilton, and is now helping at Hillside Church here in London ([hillsidelondon.com](http://hillsidelondon.com)). "It's been pretty miraculous," says Pernell, "in the transition from churches doing their own thing to discovering the commonality between churches. A rich array of good



Dave Witt, Leslie Damude, Pernell Goodyear and David Cottrill are sharing the vision of churches working together to help in our community.

things happen when churches get together. It can result in new, effective ways to share resources." As part of his efforts, Pernell is organizing a conference in Toronto this January 26-29: [www.TheUrbanForum.com](http://www.TheUrbanForum.com), which will include a talk by author Robert D. Lupton, who wrote "Compassion, Justice and the Christian Life".

The resource table also had the excellent book by John M. Perkins: "Beyond Charity - The call to Christian Community Development".

The meeting generated a lot of discussion, and planning is under way here in London to explore ways for churches to work together. Interested persons can email [ccd@clilondon.com](mailto:ccd@clilondon.com).