

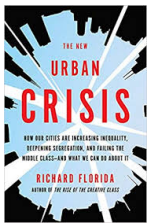
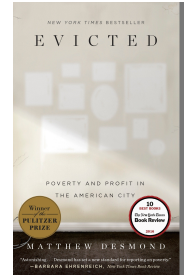
An Incomplete Bibliography on Urban Ministry

Compiled by Joshua Brockway, Director of Spiritual Formation

Church of the Brethren

Matthew Desmond, *Evicted* (Broadway Books, 2016).

Desmond tells the story of the housing crisis through eight families in Milwaukee. In a city of 105,000 rental homes, Milwaukee evicts roughly sixteen families per day. *Evicted* tells the story of how economics, politics, and policy are making stable homes more difficult to find for middle to low income families.

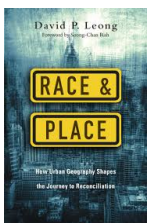
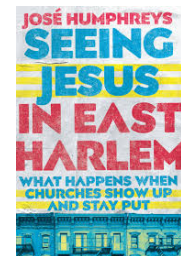


Richard Florida, *The New Urban Crisis* (Basic Books, 2017).

Florida is most known for his advocacy of the “creative class” as an engine for urban development. In *The New Urban Crisis*, Florida shows how this creative class is increasingly concentrated in a few cities around the country. The results is a growing income inequality not just within these super-cities, but between cities around the country.

José Humphreys, *Seeing Jesus in East Harlem* (InterVarsity Press, 2018).

Humphreys is a church planter in his home neighborhood of East Harlem. He narrates his experiences in leading a multi-ethnic congregation with insightful and striking prose. As the neighborhood gentrifies, Humphreys shows the church can be both a stabilizing and challenge the status quo of development, thus healing mind, body, and soul in the city.

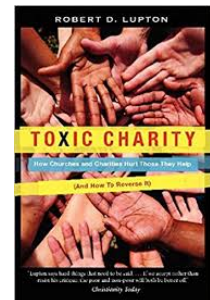


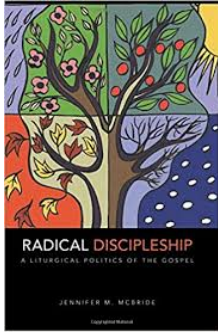
David, Leong, *Race and Place* (InterVarsity Press, 2017).

Leong presents a theological and practical look at the ways our cultures are shaped by the physical environment. This is especially true of the racial divides in our cities. The hope for reconciliation, he argues, is a church rooted in its community. Leong theological and practical wisdom help reveal the ways our communities are both racially and geographically defined.

Robert Lupton, *Toxic Charity* (HaperCollins, 2011).

Lupton applies his experience of church based community development to the practices of charity. So much of what the church does in good will often inhibits the achievement of the stated goals. Rather than addressing long-term sustainable development, church mission and service extend the crisis and prevent persons from making personal and corporate achievements. Instead, Lupton advocates for grassroots development in partnership with neighbors and local leaders in ways that encourage the dignity of others and build capacity for everyone

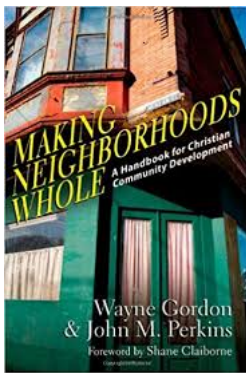
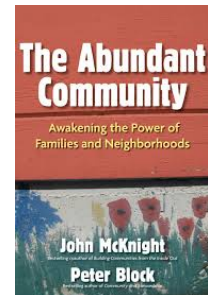




Jennifer McBride, *Radical Discipleship* (Fortress Press, 2017). McBride sets the church calendar alongside her experiences in urban ministry during her time in Atlanta. As a post-doctoral fellow at Emory University, McBride spent time at the Open Door Community, an historical homeless ministry, and in the theological education with prisoners initiative. Drawing the connections between the experiences of the homeless and the imprisoned, she brings the insights and challenges of Martin Luther King Jr, and Dietrich Bonhoeffer to explore the ways the church shapes us for transformative, and radical, discipleship in our communities.

John McKnight and Peter Block, *The Abundant Community* (Berrett-Koehler Publishers, 2010).

McKnight and Block take an asset based approach to community development. Rather than accepting the isolation and individualism of urban America as the final say, the two authors argue that there is great opportunity in being part of the community. McKnight and Block have great hope for the ability to make community happen in any context, allowing for the flourishing of all rather than just a few.



John Perkins and Wayne Gordon, *Making Neighborhoods Whole* (InterVarsity Press, 2013).

Perkins and Gordon share their personal experiences in ministry, and narrate the formation of the Christian Community Development Association. Perkins grew up in the segregated south and began seeing people leave their communities before their education and skills could help transform the community. Gordon has pastored in Lawndale, a neighborhood on Chicago's westside, for decades. Today, the Lawndale church is a vibrant hub for the transformation of that neighborhood. Perkins and Gordon interpret the three R's for community development—Relocation, Redistribution, and Reconciliation.

Liz Theoharis, *Always With Us?* (Eerdmans, 2017).

Theoharis engages the troubling saying of Jesus that the poor will always be with us. Through skilled exegesis, Theoharis shows how this saying does not mean that Christians should not address the causes and effects of poverty. Rather, she argues, we have the capacity to eradicate poverty through active presence and ministry in the world.

