

RE-IMAGINE THAT: Partners in Community

by Stan Friedman, Adam Gustine, John P. Perkins, and Jill Riley, p. 20

More and more Covenant congregations are asking, “What does it mean to be the church in my neighborhood?” Covenanters in this quartet of stories are bringing entrepreneurial vision to their communities.

1. What businesses in your community have entrepreneurial models similar to those depicted in these articles?
2. Instead of coming into the community to “fix” problems, Zion Covenant Church is working with its neighbors as they rebuild for themselves. Which method of problem-solving do you typically employ—fixing it yourself or training others to solve for themselves? What examples can you think of to explain your answer?
3. Social enterprise in an urban setting makes sense, but Adam Gustine argues that the same principles apply in rural and suburban contexts as well. What kinds of community enterprise businesses would flourish in your own environment?
4. John P. Perkins says, “I believe the best welfare program in the world is a job.” How can the church participate in the creation of jobs? What specifically can your congregation do in your community?
5. 5000 Pies, the West Long Beach restaurant started by Fountain of Life Covenant Church, is intentional about discipling their employees in faith. What tensions might a business venture encounter if it is more about people than its product?