


THE GOSPEL MANDATE

Beloved Communities & Neighborhood Churches



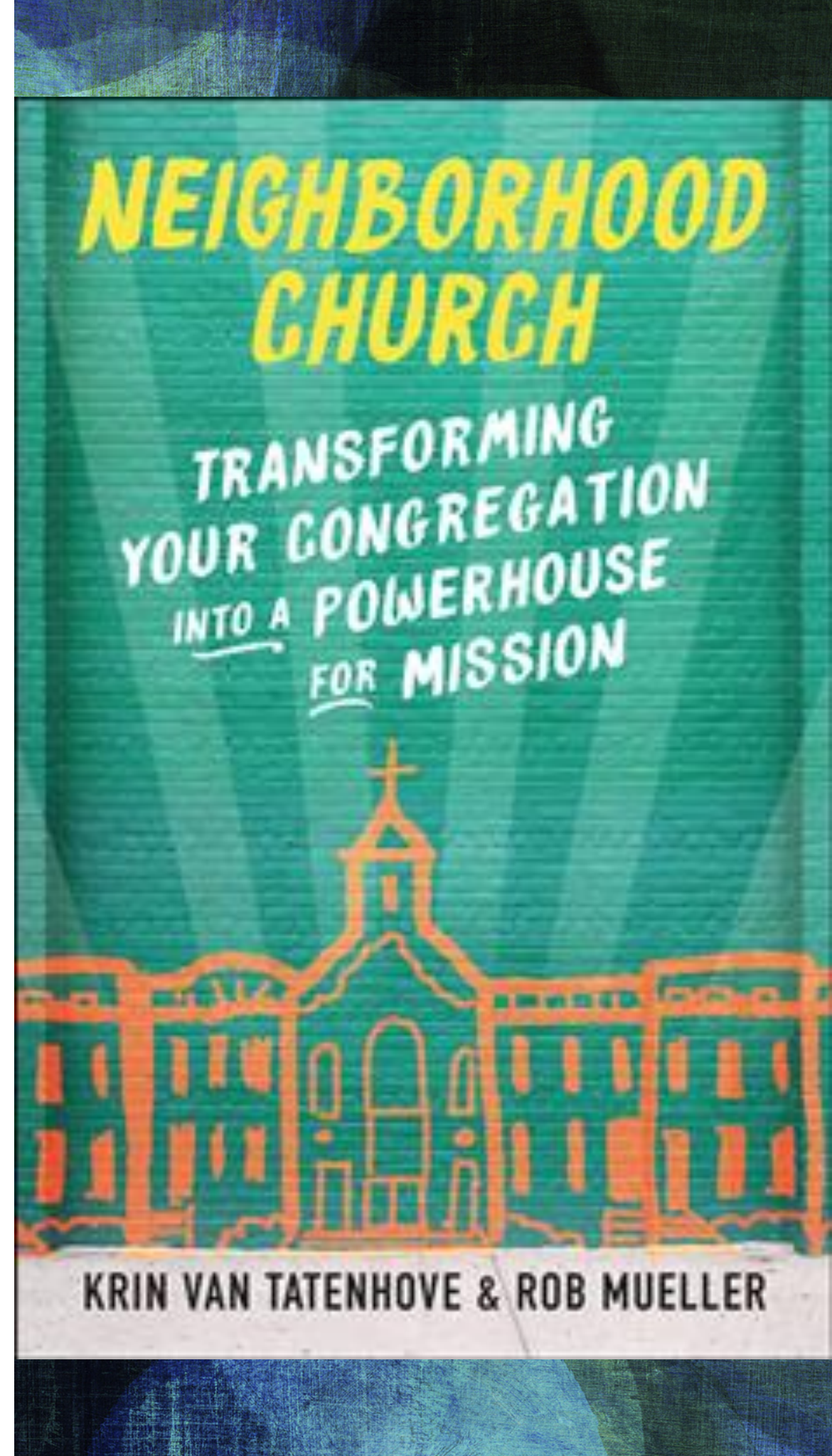
BELOVED COMMUNITIES

*The mandate to be incarnational
bearers of Good News where we are*



NEIGHBORHOOD CHURCH

*The result when the church is
incarnate in the neighborhood*



GOSPEL MANDATE: BELOVED COMMUNITIES

“Is not this the fast I choose: to loose the bonds of injustice, to undo the thongs of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke? Is it not to share your bread with the hungry, and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover them, and not to hide yourself from your own kin?” (Isaiah 58:6-7)

GOSPEL MANDATE: NEIGHBORHOOD CHURCH

“What Christians call the Incarnation is certainly not a single act. It is a life-giving metaphor, an invitation to follow for all who will listen. Personally, how can we en flesh the values of love, grace and justice? As faith communities, how can our collective embodiment of these values shine even brighter? The answers to these questions must always unfold right here, right now, exactly where God has planted us. It will happen *in this place.*” (pg. 2, Neighborhood Church)



BELOVED COMMUNITIES

4 MANDATES

❖ Incarnation

❖ "Jesus said him, 'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.' This is the greatest and first commandment.

And a second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.'" (Matthew 22:37-38)



BELOVED COMMUNITIES

4 MANDATES

- ❖ Compassion in word and deed
- ❖ “Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action.” (I John 3:18)



BELOVED COMMUNITIES

4 MANDATES

- ❖ Partnership within and without the walls of the church
- ❖ “There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus.” (Galatians 3:28)



BELOVED COMMUNITIES

4 MANDATES

- ❖ Seeking after justice
- ❖ “Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.” (Matthew 25:40)



BELOVED COMMUNITIES

4 MANDATES

- ❖ Incarnation
- ❖ Compassion in word and deed
- ❖ Partnership within and without the walls of the church
- ❖ Seeking after justice



NEIGHBORHOOD CHURCH: 5 MOVEMENTS

- ❖ Communal conversion from scarcity to abundance and conversion to our neighbors
- ❖ “I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion...”

(Philippians 1:6a)



NEIGHBORHOOD CHURCH: CONVERSION FROM SCARCITY TO ABUNDANCE

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- ❖ Begins in the hearts and minds of each member
- ❖ “Gratitude for “what is” demands disciplined attention, a daily recounting of the many blessings our Creator showers on us
- ❖ “Am I modeling abundant optimism?”



NEIGHBORHOOD CHURCH: CONVERSION TO OUR NEIGHBORS

- ❖ “Looking for signs of life amid the signs that oppose life is a discipline we must cultivate.”
- ❖ “Are we willing to include the voices of our neighbors in the decisions of our churches?”



NEIGHBORHOOD CHURCH: 5 MOVEMENTS

- ❖ The DNA of listening within our congregations and our communities
- ❖ The story of the Ethiopian and Philip (Acts 8:30-31)



NEIGHBORHOOD CHURCH: LISTENING WITHIN OUR CONGREGATIONS

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- ❖ Begin by hearing Scripture with new depth and attentiveness
- ❖ Create intentional spaces for story-telling and story-listening, where people have an opportunity to share and receive



NEIGHBORHOOD CHURCH: 5 MOVEMENTS

- ❖ Transforming partnership through relationship and collaboration
- ❖ The story of Lydia (Acts 16:13-15)



NEIGHBORHOOD CHURCH: TRANSFORMING PARTNERSHIP

- ❖ “Partnership *always* transforms us, shaping our characters, our spirits, our actions.”
- ❖ “Relationship is *always* the precursor to collaboration.”
- ❖ Five practices that lead to partnership



NEIGHBORHOOD CHURCH: 5 MOVEMENTS

- ❖ Integrating our space with a resurrected sense of stewardship
- ❖ “Jesus said, ‘Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.’ (John 2:19)



NEIGHBORHOOD CHURCH: INTEGRATING OUR SPACE

- ❖ “If our faith stories are tied to our buildings, how can our buildings, in turn, communicate to our communities?”
- ❖ “Integrated space means that we *only* share our facility with those who truly want to partner...”



NEIGHBORHOOD CHURCH: 5 MOVEMENTS

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- ❖ Sustaining the vision through Spirit-filled worship and mentoring new leaders
- ❖ “Then afterward I will pour out my spirit on all flesh; your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, and your young men shall see visions. Even on the male and female slave, in those days, I will pour out my spirit.” (Joel 2:28-29)



NEIGHBORHOOD CHURCH: SUSTAINING THE VISION

- ❖ Remembering our purpose
- ❖ Understanding our context
- ❖ Mentoring new leaders



NEIGHBORHOOD CHURCH: 5 MOVEMENTS

- ❖ Communal conversion
- ❖ The DNA of listening
- ❖ Transforming partnership
- ❖ Integrating our space
- ❖ Sustaining the vision