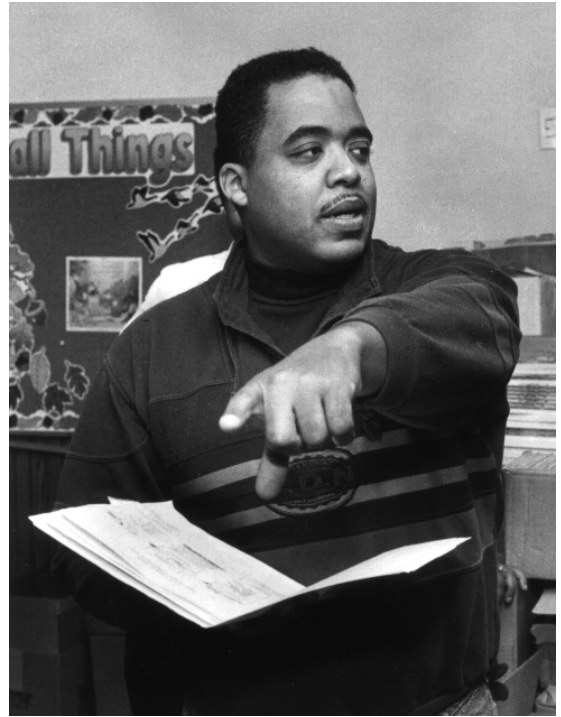


Principles of Effective Urban Ministry

The Here's Life Inner City strategy recognizes the immense complexity of the causes, symptoms and solutions to inner-city poverty. It does not seek to impose a comprehensive plan upon inner-city communities.

Rather, the plan is one that is built from the bottom up. It starts with a historically stable institution within the inner city, the church, and ends as a movement - a movement sensitive to the needs of its community, empowered by the Holy Spirit, and energized by a unified Body of Christ.

Into the fabric of all that we do are woven five basic operating principles. These principles, distilled from hundreds of hours of interviews with inner-city leaders, cannot be violated if we are to be successful in our mission:



1. Effective urban ministry is **empowering, not paternalistic** -- offering resources to existing ministries to help them fulfill their potential of ministering to the people of the inner city.
2. Effective urban ministry is **wholistic in scope** -- the ministry needs to be committed to addressing the needs of the whole person -- body, soul, and spirit.
3. Effective urban ministry **emphasizes relationships** as a foundation for programs -- investment in long-term relationships, not short-term programs, ultimately leads to lasting change.
4. Effective urban ministry **addresses the root causes of problems**, not just their symptoms -- Biblical issues of poverty, injustice, greed, and power must be addressed.
5. Effective urban ministry **affirms cultural diversity** -- resources and training must be delivered in a culturally relevant context.

This is the essence of the Here's Life Inner City strategy -- a group of people with servants' hearts, committed to listening and discovering the needs of the inner-city church. By serving, they seek to enable that church to fulfill its mandate and potential to minister to the poor.