



Introducing the Jubilee Initiative (Part 2)

The Jubilee Initiative has its genesis in Christ Church Cathedral's participation in and sponsorship of the [Economics of Compassion Initiative](#) (ECI). ECI began with a conversation a few years ago between Peter Block and Dr. Walter Brueggemann about the economic values that form one of the centers of both the Hebrew Scriptures and the New Testament, and a simple question, "Why can't Jubilee (the re-distribution of wealth and the liberation of those in debt and slavery every seven years as commanded by God in the Torah) happen today in Cincinnati?"

ECI has grown from that first conversation into five work circles held together by a convening circle including

- *Neighborhood Connections* – working to discover and build on the strengths of neighborhoods across the city to turn residents into producers and not just consumers;
- *Local Cooperatives* – identifying all the cooperative businesses in the Cincinnati region, and finding ways to strengthen their market visibility, and connect them with capital and strategy resources;

- *Generous Structures* – dedicated to exploring alternative forms of raising capital and best practices for supporting existing alternatives for housing;
- *Resources* – identifying and study books and videos and other media which address new economics thinking and alternative structures, and share with the entire ECI community; and
- *The 2019 Jubilee Campaign* – working to begin a movement to forgive the debts of the poor by 2019, using the theme of a Jubilee Year.

These work circles include people from a great many walks of life including Christians, Jews, Muslims, the spiritual and the secular, academics, clergy, theologians, business owners, and economists. In addition to financial sponsorship, several of the members of Christ Church Cathedral work in various work circles, and we are well represented in the convening work circle.

Yours truly is in the 2019 Jubilee Campaign circle and it's in that circle that the Jubilee Initiative was birthed, and has been invited to speak at several of the [Jubilee Forums](#).

ECI continues to be one of our important partners drawing together people and groups from all over the Cincinnati area. It was at an event co-sponsored by ECI, Christ Church Cathedral, Xavier University and SOCAP called [Neighborhood Economics](#), at which I met the co-founders of MORTAR, but was also given the germ of an idea for the Jubilee Initiative.

To be continued...

Canon Rhodes