



September 10, 2026

Dear friends of GoodCities,

This year marks my twentieth year serving the Lord as the founding President of GoodCities and thirtieth year serving in a national leadership capacity. It also marks the tenth year since Reggie McNeal joined with me as a City Coach. In those years, we've been privileged to serve and develop Christian leaders in hundreds of cities both in the U.S. and abroad. The leaders we have served have developed powerful cross-sector collaborations that achieved missional and sustainable outcomes, moving the needle on issues that matter to the whole city or community and matter to God as well. This is why we say at GoodCities that we develop leaders who advance the common good and the gospel of the kingdom in cities in measurable ways.

Our work has developed skills and competence among leaders so that they have the confidence needed to pursue passionate visions for life as God intends in their local city context. Our style and approach build and strengthen local ownership by the leaders we work with. Once they learn new engagement processes and begin to employ them to a few critical areas, these leaders often rise to become leaders of leaders who help others create and champion impactful approaches to all kinds of important areas of community life. Examples include:

Zero KC: Twenty-eight Charities, Six City Government Departments, Two Foundations brought together by City Hall leaders in Kansas City, MO, and the Salvation Army who engaged us at GoodCities to lead sessions that implemented the Mayor's plan to end homelessness.

Churches United: A growing fellowship of predominantly Black and White churches in the Twin Cities that promotes living reconciled lives as the Bible teaches (2 Corinthians 5:17-21; Ephesians 2:16 and 3:2-11; Philippians 2:1-11, John 17:20-21; 1John 2-4).

While we celebrate the many ways that GoodCities has strengthened Christian leaders in cities during these twenty years, this year will conclude my time as President on December 31, 2026. Reggie McNeal also plans to step down from his role as City Coach at that time. It's time for a new generation to create new expressions of cross-sector collaboration in cities.

After a prayerful search, our Board of Directors has invited Rev. Chris West of Raleigh, NC, to become the next President of GoodCities on January 1, 2027. Chris is currently serving as an Associate Pastor at Northside Community Church in Knightdale, NC, and as CEO of Compass & Catalyst Consulting, a fundraising, grant writing, strategy, and communications agency that serves nonprofits. He is a 2023 graduate of Duke Divinity School (Magna Cum Laude) and has demonstrated strong interpersonal and leadership gifts. We are excited to have Chris as our next President.

As we end one chapter and begin the next, we would ask that you prayerfully consider offering:

- A word of celebration for ways that GoodCities has shaped your life or ministry.
- A word of encouragement for Chris West as he is preparing to lead GoodCities into the future.
- A prayer for both a successful conclusion and a successful beginning.
- A gift of thanks and celebration as Glenn and Reggie conclude their work with GoodCities.
- A gift to get Chris West's work as President off to a great start in 2027.

Thank you for your friendship and engagement with GoodCities!

With joy for this journey,

Rev. Dr. Glenn A. Barth, Jr.
President

P.S. Keep an eye out for a letter from Chris West in the coming days in which he will share his vision for the future work of GoodCities.