



Ormond Center

*EMBEDDED CHURCH
PODCAST - CODA CHALLENGES
Season 4*

Oct. 4, 2021



Coda Challenges: Season 4

Episode 2: Hospitality

Focus on hospitality, because hospitality is a great teacher about place. Try this thought experiment out. If you knew in a week Jesus was going to be a guest in your church, or in your neighborhood or town, or in your home, what would you introduce him to? What would you want him to experience at your **church as a place**? What would you want him to experience in your neighborhood or town? What stories would you share with him? Thinking through those details will drive you to learn a ton about place, and your church **as a place** in particular. If you're coming up short on ideas step out and start exploring places around you, and lean into being hospitable with your church as a place where your neighbors want to be and experience.

Episode 3: Vision & Plan

What's your plan plan? The church is going to be an imbedded member of its community for a long long time, so we have an opportunity as God's people to faithfully build out a **place-based vision** for the common good over the long haul. Let's not squander this church "superpower." Start developing visions and plans with your neighbors and city leaders for a better place--where all in your community can flourish--and set your hands to incrementally building out that plan.

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Episode 4: Human Ecology

At the Ormond Center we use the Human Ecology Framework as tool to help us understand and envision cities, towns, and places. As Dr. Sherman mentioned, the human ecologies of a city contain and depend upon an array of different, but fundamental endowments --“the True,” “the Good,” “the Beautiful,” “the Prosperous,” “the Just and Well-Ordered,” and “the Sustainable.” To dig deeper into the Human Ecology Framework and these endowments go to [this link](#) to find a bunch of resources that will be well worth your time exploring.

Episode 5: Tell Stories

Stories sink deep into our bones and picture for us what constitutes the good life. Are our communities influenced by stories that inspire them to design and build cities and communities in ways best fit for human thriving, i.e., for shalom? We can do only what we dream. We can build only what we can imagine, so we better have good stories to kickstart and shape our imaginations. To help nurture stories in your community, and about your community that can nurture the collective imagination, think about starting a podcast like *For Columbus*, or hosting an open-mic storytelling night and watch what happens. You will be planting serious placemaking seeds that God will water and grow. Lastly, sign up for the special Ormond Center Better Cities film screenings and festival at <https://ormondcenter.com/better-cities>.

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Episode 6: Walk & See

If you can't be there in person, listen to stories about place (this podcast included) with one eye “walking the streets” on Google maps. Seeing places on maps gives you a lot of missing information about the place, and especially what surrounds them and how it fits in (or not) to the surrounding places. It can give you new insights and inspirations. The more often you can view places, or better yet experience them personally, the more information you can draw on for understanding what makes good places (and bad ones) and apply that knowledge to your own placemaking endeavors. But the best way to get to know a place, hands down, is by walking--AKA “the pace of humanity.”

Episode 7: Call in The Pros

Remember the award winning church remodel by Grace Midtown, Atlanta? The church developed a relationship with professional architects, designers, and builders to design a church that embodied the church's values, history, vision and needs. But they also took into consideration their role within the urban fabric and its responsibility to the public realm. In the end they designed a renovation that served the church fabulously, but it also added something very special to the public space that blessed the community too. ***When you need them, hire the best professionals you can afford!*** To help you find the right pro a list of recommended professionals is forthcoming on the Ormond website.

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Episode 8: Apply “Apartment Life”

Raw space, even well designed space, which is very important and something we strongly advocate for, does not become a place rich for human flourishing until people interact in that space with other people in intentional and particular ways. ***Apartment Life*** are experts at helping people in apartment buildings create communities and thrive. This challenge is simple, grab the ***Apartment Life*** manual, which applies the lessons they have learned doing ***Apartment Life*** to how churches and Christians can love their neighbors and develop community. Digest it and start using it. Get a link to the manual off episode 8’s show notes.

Episode 9: Learn from The Best

Pastor Jonathan Brooks was a torrent of hard won wise words--"outreach" is a bad word . . . we can only do community work." "Interrogate" with biblical truth "the narratives and stories we believe and internalize." "Complete the narrative of every community . . . see with bifocals the neighborhood as God sees it in all its fullness the broken and the beauty." Anti-gentrification markers--"resident initiated," "resident owned," "resident sustained." "When you love your place it will love you back." "I can't turn off the dark, but I can turn on a light . . . I can't stop a bullet, but I can plant a garden." This is a reading challenge, get his book ***Church Forsaken: Practicing Presence in Neglected Neighborhoods***, and read it. Then start applying it.