



PARTNERSHIP PACKET

Why Church Partnership?

Thank you for your interest in Partnership with Park Church Denver. We take partnership very seriously and believe that we are called together in the gospel and sent together into the world as ministers of reconciliation and to make known the work that God has accomplished in Christ.

God has been, from the very beginning creating and calling a community of people into being, in the world, to be a corporate display of His glory and grace (Isaiah 43:7). God has ultimately done this through the work of the Gospel which was accomplished by Jesus on our behalf. This community exists not only as those whose sins are forgiven but as a corporate body whose life together is intended to display God's holiness and beauty. The scriptures also call the church the "household of faith" and the "household of God." (Gal. 6:10; Eph. 2:19). God restores us not just to Himself, but also into relationship with one another. The numerous commands given to the church which entail attitudes and practices toward "one another" loudly attest to this reality. But the call to be a part of Jesus' church is not simply a call to join a static community, but it is both a worship-driven and mission purposed community. We are the saints called "to declare the excellencies of Him who has called us out of darkness and into His marvelous light" (1Peter 2:9). We have also been commissioned as a community seeking to "disciple the nations" (Matthew 28:18-20). While we participate in the universal church- this universal church is always localized in the bible. In other words, the commitments and relationships which the Scriptures call us to as believers in Jesus always find expressions in a bounded group of people in a particular time and place. God has ordained that this community be led by a body of elders (1Tim 5:17; Hebrews 13:7) who are accountable to God for their faithful leadership and teaching of the local church. The church is to practice particular ordinances, including baptism and the Lord's supper.

Partnership with Park Church is participation in a family, an instance of the worldwide household of God. We believe that Christians are first united to Christ and as a result are united to one another. This unity must have a localized, tangible expression and God has ordained the local church as the primary place for this expression. This unity is not only a unity rooted in our common salvation in Christ, but also our common commissioning and mission in Christ. This is fundamental to why we've chosen the concept of partnership rather than simply membership. We are partners in the gospel- sent into the world to testify to God's victory in Christ. This commitment is expressed for us through a partnership covenant. It makes clear the biblical expectations associated with partnership in the local church and what one should expect from the leaders appointed over them (again, in accordance with Scriptures.) Please examine carefully the following pages as they pertain to your relationship to Park Church and know that we are excited to see how God might work through us all for His glory in the city of Denver and beyond.

Personal Information

NAME _____

NAME OF SPOUSE (if married) _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE _____ **EMAIL** _____

BIRTHDAY _____

CHILDREN - YES / NO

Names and ages of children (if applicable) _____

Partnership Obligations of Pastors/Elders at Park Church Denver

As shepherds and overseers of a local church, elders are entrusted with protecting, leading, equipping, and caring for the corporate church body and her individual members. The following is a rather comprehensive overview of the requirements for elders as spelled out within the Scriptures.

The elders covenant...

- 1) to appoint elders and deacons (including staff members who serve in these offices) according to the criteria assigned to them in the Scriptures (1 Timothy 3:1-13; Titus 1:5-9; 1 Peter 5:1-4).
- 2) to prayerfully seek God's will for our church community and steward her resources to the best of our ability based on our study of the Scriptures and following the Spirit (Acts 20:28; 1 Peter 5:1-4).
- 3) to care for the church and seek her growth in grace, truth and love (Matthew 28:16-20; Ephesians 4:15-16 Colossians 1:28; James 5:14; 1 Peter 5:1-4).
- 4) to provide teaching and counsel from the whole of Scripture (Acts 20:27-28; 1 Timothy 4:16; 2 Timothy 4:1-5; Titus 2:1).
- 5) to equip the members of the church for the work of ministry (Ephesians 4:11-16).
- 6) to be on guard against false teachers and teachings (Matthew 7:15; Acts 20:28-31; 1 Timothy 1:3-7; 1 John 4:1).
- 7) to lovingly exercise discipline when necessary, for the glory of God, the good of the one disciplined and the health of the church as a whole (Matthew 18:15-20; 1 Corinthians 5; Galatians 6:1; James 5:19-20).
- 8) to set an example and join members in fulfilling the obligations of church membership stated below (Philippians 3:17; 1 Timothy 4:12; Titus 2:7-8; 1 Peter 5:3).

Covenantal Obligations of Partners to the life of Park Church Denver

As those who have experienced the grace of a life changed by the gospel of Jesus Christ, we have the opportunity to reflect the character of Christ through the pursuit of certain attitudes and actions and the rejection of others. The Scriptures refer to this reality as "living by the Spirit" (Romans 8). The requirements of this membership covenant are in no way intended as an addition to the biblical obligations of a believer. Rather, this document functions primarily as an accessible, yet non-exhaustive, explanation of what the Scriptures teach about the obedience that faith produces. In addition to the following covenantal commitments, partners should be in wholehearted agreement with the Statement of Basic Beliefs, and should agree to avoid divisiveness and teaching in contradiction to the full Park Church Doctrinal Statement. I covenant...

- 1) to submit to the authority of the Scriptures as the final arbiter on all issues (Psalm 119; 2 Timothy 3:14-17; 2 Peter 1:19-21).
- 2) to pursue the Lord Jesus Christ through regular Bible reading, prayer, fellowship and practice of spiritual disciplines (Luke 18:1; Acts 17:11; 1 Corinthians 9:24-27; Ephesians 5:1-21; 1 Thessalonians 5:12-22).
- 3) to follow the command and example of Jesus by participating in the ordinances prescribed to His Church:
 - a. through baptism.
 - b. through the celebration with the church body of the Lord's Supper.
- 4) to regularly participate in the life of Park Church by attending weekly services, engaging in biblical community and serving those within and outside of this church (Acts 2:42-47; Hebrews 10:23-25; Titus 3:14).
- 5) to steward the resources God has given me, including time, giftings and finances. This includes regular financial giving, service and participation in community that is sacrificial, cheerful, and voluntary (Matthew 25:14-30; Romans 12:1-2; 2 Corinthians 8-9; 1 Peter 4:10-11).
- 6) by God's grace through the power of the Holy Spirit, to walk in holiness in all areas of life as an act of worship to Jesus Christ (1 Peter 1:13-16, 4:1-3). Believers should strive to put certain attitudes and actions to death, while stirring and stimulating love and good deeds through the Spirit. Below are a few examples of actions addressed in the Scriptures:
 - a. I will practice complete chastity unless married and, if married, complete fidelity within heterosexual and monogamous marriage. Complete chastity and fidelity means, among other things, that regardless of my marital status, I will pursue purity and abstain from sexually immoral practices such as adultery, premarital sex and pornography (Romans 13:11-14; 1 Corinthians 6:15-20, 10:8; Ephesians 5:3; 1 Thessalonians 4:1-8; Hebrews 13:4).
 - b. I will seek to preserve the gift of marriage and agree to seek reconciliation in my marriage with the help of pastoral counseling at Park Church before pursuing divorce from my spouse (Matthew 19:1-12; Mark 10:1-12; Luke 16:18; 1 Corinthians 7:10-11; for the role of the church in the process of divorce, see Paul's concern for the resolution of legal matters within the assembly of the church in 1 Corinthians 6).

- c. I will refrain from illegal drug use, drunkenness, gossip and other sinful behavior as the Bible dictates (Romans 1:28-32, 13:13; Galatians 5:19-21; Ephesians 5:18; James 3:3-18).
- 7) to refrain from such activities that the Scriptures would deem foolish (Romans 14:14-23).
- 8) to take seriously the responsibility of Christian freedom, especially actions or situations that could present a stumbling block to another (1 Corinthians 8:1-13).
- 9) to participate in the ongoing mission of Park Church to seek the spiritual, cultural, and social renewal of Denver, Colorado through:
 - a. loving, serving and speaking the truth in love to those outside of the church.
 - b. active participation in the cultural life of Denver, Colorado.
- 10) to submit to the discipline of God through His Holy Spirit by:
 - a. following the biblical procedures for church discipline where sin is clearly evident in another -- the hope of such discipline being repentance and restoration.
 - b. receiving righteous and loving discipline when approached biblically by fellow believers (Psalm 141:5; Matthew 18:15-20; 1 Corinthians 5:9-13; Hebrews 12:5-11).
 - c. to partner with other believers and the pastors/elders of Park Church in actively fighting sin in my own heart and life.