



Partnership

Trinity Community Church

The responsibilities of a church partner



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Thank you for your interest in becoming a partner in the gospel with us at Trinity Community Church. In this document you will find out more about what it is to be in partnership with us. Your mentor will spend some time with you, exploring partnership and this booklet, with an opportunity to ask any questions you may have. Each year we will hold a 'Covenant Sunday' service, at which we will affirm and re-affirm our commitment to partnering with one another at Trinity. Central to this service are the commitment promises we make to God, to one another and to our community. At the back of this booklet you will find the words we will say together, at the 'Covenant Sunday' service, as we renew our covenant of partnership.



PARTNERSHIP – What is Church Partnership?

In his letter to the Philippians, the Apostle Paul begins by thanking God for their 'partnership in the gospel' (Philippians 1:5). Paul is filled with joy because they were saved and therefore partners in sharing the good news about Jesus. The word 'Partnership' (Greek: koinonia) has the root meaning of 'sharing something in common'. There are a number of things that the Philippian Christians shared in common: their love for God, their faith in Christ, the grace of God, their possessions, their money, their love for each other, their prayer and thanksgiving, their care for the need's others.

The most important thing the believers in Philippi shared in common, was Christ and their unity in Him. 1 Corinthians 1:9 says, 'God is faithful, who has called you into fellowship (*partnership*) with his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.' Their partnership in the gospel came from their faith and trust in Jesus their Saviour and Lord. That is the basis for their partnership in the gospel and as 'partners' in the gospel, they were actively involved in growing as disciples of Christ and sharing the good news of Jesus.

That is the vision we have for Trinity Community Church - believers in Christ, who share in common their unity in Jesus, actively involved in growing as disciples and making disciples in Accrington.



Being a 'partner' is primarily about discipleship. That means,

- **Life with Jesus** - Being committed to becoming more and more like Jesus
- **Life together** - Being committed to encouraging others in the church family to grow in and persevere in the faith
- **Life for all** - Being committed to sharing the good news of Jesus, through our words and our lives

On the following pages, you will find an outline of what partnership is under the headings of our mission statement, 'Life with Jesus', 'Life together', 'Life for all'.



LIFE WITH JESUS

Bearing testimony to my own experience of the risen Jesus in my life

- Either adult baptism or confirmation
- Confession that Christ is my Lord and Saviour
- Share experiences of how the risen Lord has shaped my life

‘Then he asked him “But who do they say I am?” Simon Peter answered, “You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God”’

MATTHEW 16:15-16

Engaging in a journey of discipleship, seeking to live a life consistent with the example of Jesus and seeking to become more like him

- Ready to grow through the living presence of the Spirit of Christ
- Willingness and understanding of how to become more like Jesus

‘Be imitators of me, just as also I am of Christ’
1 CORINTHIANS 11:1 (NLT)

Centring my life daily on Jesus through prayer, reading scripture and engagement with the Bible

- Committed to pray on a daily basis
- Engage daily in God's word, the Bible, which could be through devotions, videos, talking books or Bible Study for example

'Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus'

1 THESSALONIANS 5:16-18 (NLT)

'So faith comes from hearing and through the word of Christ'.

ROMANS 10:17 (NLT)



Engaging with fellow believers in praying, learning and worshipping together

- Sharing life with other Christians and meeting together regularly, to study the word, to pray, to carry out God's promises for humanity and to worship Him. This could be attending church services, prayer meetings, small groups for example.

'The human body has many parts, but the many parts make up one whole body. So it is with the body of Christ. Some of us are Jews, some are Gentiles, some are slaves, and some are free. But we have all been baptized into one body by one Spirit, and we all share the same Spirit'

1 Corinthians 12:12-13 (NLT)

A large, dark blue ink splatter or watercolor blotch is centered on the page. The edges are irregular and feathered, with some smaller droplets scattered around it. The text "LIFE TOGETHER" is printed in white, bold, sans-serif capital letters across the middle of the splatter.

LIFE TOGETHER



Regularly and reliably participating in the corporate prayer and worship activities of this church

- Regularly attend worship activities such as Sunday Morning Services, Midweek Services or Messy Church
- Regularly share Communion

Living in loving fellowship with fellow church members, seeking to encourage their faith journey and praying for all who share together in the life of this church.

- Actively encourage each other at all times
- Make time to pray for each other; this could be personal prayer, using a prayer diary or praying with others
- Engage with small groups, to meet, worship and study together

'Let us think of ways to motivate one another to acts of love and good works. And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another, especially now that the day of his return is drawing near'

Hebrews 10:24-25 (NLT)



Being actively involved and engaged in the activities of the church according to my gifts and capacity, recognising this as an act of service to God and not personal interest

- Recognise that we all have gifts to offer
- Where appropriate, use my gifts to participate within all activities
- Always have a willing heart to serve Jesus and the community, ready to help in all areas of church life
- Don't limit your service to your personal interests, but help in all areas of church activities respecting each other's ability, including preparation and cleaning for example
- Be aware of others workloads and support one another with individual jobs and responsibilities.

'God has given each of you a gift from His great variety of spiritual gifts. Use them well to serve one another'

1 Peter 4:10 (NLT)



Taking active interest in the government and discernment of the church including appropriate participation in church meetings

- Individually and collectively pray & listen to God's voice, to discern His plans for the church and community
- Regularly attend church AGM, quarterly, planning and extra ordinary meetings
- Prayerfully consider my contribution and vote in church meetings
- Participate in church meetings, in an appropriate way, treating each person's views respectfully

'The Lord says, "I will guide you along the best pathway for your life. I will advise you and watch over you'

Psalm 32:8 (NLT)

Offering my time, talents and resources as an expression of commitment to the church and my own journey of discipleship

'Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver'

2 Corinthians 9:7 (NIV)

- Give joyfully because all I have is a gift from God
- Support God's work in this place by generously serving through the act of giving. Prayerfully consider and continually review what this might look like for me
- Giving is expressed in many forms, from financially supporting the work of our church, to offering our time to serve, to using our talents to further the work of our church
- Explore the unique identity God gives me as His child, being open to how God might be developing me as a disciple of Jesus



Recognising, respecting and supporting those that the church has appointed to positions of leadership and oversight

- Uphold those who lead us in regular prayer
- We are a community founded on God's love and we have faith in His word. Follow those He has designated as leaders so we may live out His true design for us as His church

'Have confidence in your leaders and submit to their authority, because they keep watch over you as those who must give an account. Do this so that their work will be a joy, not a burden, for that would be of no benefit to you. Pray for us. We are sure that we have a clear conscience and desire to live honourably in every way'

Hebrews 13:17-18 (NIV)

Seeking to maintain my unity in Christ by interacting constructively and harmoniously with everyone, seeking to address any disputes in ways that reflect our identity as God's people

- Seek to restore broken relationships quickly and privately
- Be willing to consider what God may be challenging in my character
- Seek counsel from a leader if I am struggling with a difference or dispute with another
- Love each other by honouring, serving and forgiving one another

'Love each other with genuine affection, and take delight in honouring each other'

Romans 12: 10 (NLT)

Looking out for others with particular sensitivity and care for the well-being of those who face difficult and painful circumstances

- We are a family united in our love for God and for one another
- Let's walk through life together. Share in the joy of others. Comfort those in distress. Listen and really love

'Don't just pretend to love others. Really love them. Hate what is wrong. Hold tightly to what is good'

Romans 12:9 (NLT)

'Work at living in peace with everyone, and work at living a holy life, for those who are not holy will not see the Lord. Look after each other so that none of you fails to receive the grace of God'

Hebrews 12:14-15a (NLT)

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LIFE FOR ALL



Taking an active and prayerful interest in the outreach activities of the Church

- We are not all called to be evangelists, but we all have a story to tell of God's saving grace in our lives
- Be ready and willing to share my journey of faith with those on my frontline
- Look for opportunities to invite friends, family and neighbours to outreach events, to come, see and hear the good news
- Regularly pray for our unbelieving friends, family and community, recognising it is God who changes hearts

'But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect'

1 Peter 3:15 (NIV)

Recognising all people as made in the image of God and loved by God, respecting their identity and life choices

- The gospel is for all people
- All people are created by God and bear His image; therefore, we believe all people have value and are valuable

'So God created human beings in his own image. In the image of God he created them; male and female he created them'

Genesis 1:27 (NLT)

'Then Jesus said to his disciples, "If any of you wants to be my follower, you must give up your own way, take up your cross, and follow me. If you try to hang on to your life, you will lose it. But if you give up your life for my sake, you will save it.'

Matthew 16:24-25 (NLT)

- Part of sharing the good news of God's love is being honest about the cost of being a follower of Jesus



Accepting the call of Jesus to go into the world to make disciples by seeking to encourage and bring others to a place of encounter with Christ

‘Jesus came and told his disciples, “I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth. Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age”’

Matthew 28:18-20 (NLT)

‘Follow God’s example, therefore, as dearly loved children and walk in the way of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God’.

Ephesians 5:1-2 (NIV)

- As we go into the world to make disciples we go in love, just as Christ loves.



Covenant Sunday



Covenant Sunday

Here are the words that we will say together, as a church, as we affirm and re-affirm our covenant of partnership.

I commit to Life with Jesus

*Responding to Your love for me, Sovereign Lord,
I commit my life to loving and serving You.
You are my Lord. You are my Saviour. You are my example.
Please help me Lord, by the power of Your Spirit, to become
more like You.*

I commit to Life Together

*Recognising that God wants us to live out our faith together
to encourage each other to grow more like Jesus,
and to persevere in the faith,
I commit to serving, loving and caring for this church family.
Please help us Lord, by the power of Your Spirit, to live out
the vision and values of this church in partnership with your
people here.*

I commit to Life for All

*Joining in with God's mission,
to see people become disciples of Christ,
I commit to sharing God's good news,
in love, in my attitudes, in my actions and in my words.
Please help me Lord, by the power of Your Spirit, to be salt
and light in this world.*