



# SANCTUARY

## CHURCH

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PARTNERSHIP

PVD

OUR **VISION** IS JESUS.  
OUR **MISSION** IS RENEWAL.  
OUR **CAUSE** IS LOVE.

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*in providence  
as it is  
in heaven*

## OUR CULTURE

We are a community of Jesus followers called to demonstrate and announce the good news (gospel) that God is renewing all things in and through us. In part, this looks like...

- Giving hope to the hopeless.*
- Serving the poor and oppressed.*
- Learning to celebrate and rest well.*
- Sharing the truth in love.*
- Being peacemakers.*
- Exploring the Bible together.*
- Caring for the common good.*
- Taking care of one another's needs and seeing church as family.*

Simply put, to love as we are loved. That said, we mess this all up quite often. We believe in a God who loves us exactly where we are at, and far too much to let us stay there.



# *Why partner with a local church?*

## **A BIBLICAL REASON**

*Christ is committed to the church.*

It is absolutely true that we don't need to sign a paper in order to be committed to something. However, if for some reason we are not willing to go through a formal process to be committed to the local church, then we are forced to ask the question, "Why"? What is it about a formal commitment that is scary or not necessary?

## **A CULTURAL REASON**

*It is an antidote to our society*

We live in an age where very few want to be committed to anything: a job... a marriage... a mission. This attitude has even produced a generation of disconnected consumers. Partnership is an unselfish decision where we come together and formally agree to invest in each other.

## **A PRACTICAL REASON**

*It defines who can be counted on.*

Every team must have a roster. Every school must have an enrollment. Every business has a payroll. Every army has an enlistment. Even our country takes a census and requires voter registration. Partnership helps identifies those who are ALL IN.

## **A PERSONAL REASON**

*It produces spiritual growth.*

The New Testament places a major emphasis on the need for Christians to be accountable to each other for spiritual growth. Personal experience tells us that we cannot be accountable when we're not committed. This process of partnership will help us with that. Committing compels you into accountability, which in turn deepens knowledge, maturity, holiness and Christ likeness.



# PARTNERSHIP

## ONE IN HEART & ONE IN MIND

Joining a local church community is profoundly significant. Below is our document that defines what it means to “partner” with Sanctuary Church. Partnership helps make visible the reality of relationships, commitments, struggles, and aspirations of those joined in God’s calling for our church. It strengthens our identity with an invitation to move from consumer to contributor - from observer to participant. As partners we are secure in participating in something authentic and real, thus being open to invite others to join. Because of the nature of this commitment, partnership is an “opt-in” process that must be prayerfully reviewed and renewed year after year.

*“Christians are not just called to share a worldview or a theological commitment, but hearts and lives, consolations and desolations, and the big moments and small moments that form who we are.”*

We are interested in what the Scriptures have to say about community, and there is a whole lot there. We understand that life-giving and God-honoring community is built on the teachings of the Bible. Amongst many other things we are called to...

*“Be at peace with each other” (Mk. 9:50), “Wash one another’s feet” (John 13:14), “Love one another” (John 13:34, & 12 other references), “Be devoted to one another in brotherly love” (Rom. 12:10), “Honor one another above yourselves” (Rom. 12:10), “Live in harmony with one another” (Rom. 12:10), “Stop passing judgment on one another” (Rom. 14:13), “Instruct one another” (Rom. 15:14), “Accept one another, as Christ accepted you” (Rom. 15:17), “Greet one another with a holy kiss” (Rom. 16:16, 1 Cor. 6:20 and 2 Cor. 13:12), “When you come together to eat, wait for each other” (1 Cor. 11:33), “Have equal concern for each other” (1 Cor. 12:25), “Serve one another in love” (Gal. 5:13), “Let us not become conceited, provoking and envying each other” (Gal. 5:26), “Carry each other’s burdens” (Gal. 6:2), “Be patient, bearing with one another in love” (Eph. 4:2), “Be kind and compassionate to one another” (Eph. 4:32), “Forgiving each other as God in Christ has forgiven you” (Eph. 4:32), “Speak to one another with psalms, hymns and spiritual songs” (Eph. 5:19), “Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ” (Eph. 5:21), “In humility, consider others better than yourselves” (Phil. 2:3), “Do not lie to each other” (Col. 3:9), “Bear with each other” (Col. 3:13), “Forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another” (Col. 3:16), “Teach one another” (Col. 3:16), “Admonish one another” (Col. 3:16), “Make your love increase and overflow for each other” (1 Thess. 3:12), “Encourage one another” (1 Thess. 4:18, and 5:11), “Build each other up” (1 Thess. 5:11), “Encourage one another daily” (Heb. 3:13 and 10:25), “Spur one another on to love and good deeds” (Heb. 10:24), “Do not slander one another” (Js. 4:11), “Don’t grumble against each other” (Js. 5:9), “Confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed” (Js. 5:16), “Love one another deeply from the heart” (1 Pet. 1:22 & 4:8), “Live in harmony with each other” (1 Pet. 3:8), “Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling” (1 Pet. 4:9), “Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others” (1 Pet. 4:10), “Clothe yourselves with humility toward one another” (1 Pet. 5:5)*

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## CORE ESSENTIALS

FOR BECOMING A PARTNER

### / LIFE IN CHRIST

Sincere, active pursuit of life in the way of Jesus.

### / CONFESSION OF FAITH

A profession of Orthodox Christian belief as revealed in Scripture, affirmed in the consensual creeds\* of the Christian church, and embodied in the life of Jesus' followers throughout time and across cultures.

### / BAPTISM

at Sanctuary or in a previous church community.

### / MEANINGFUL PARTICIPATION

Regular involvement in the rhythms of worship, fellowship and service in and through Sanctuary.

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## SHARED COMMITMENTS

OF PARTNERS OF SANCTUARY

### / UPHOLD OUR VISION + MISSION

"I commit to fully support, uphold, and help fulfill the mission of Sanctuary Church - a community of Jesus followers joining God in the renewal of all things."

**LIVED OUT:** We are committed to follow Jesus together, which compels us to demonstrate and announce the Gospel – the good news of Jesus. We define this as such:

"The gospel is the good news that God, the Creator, has come to rescue us from sin, and renew all things in and through the work of Jesus Christ on our behalf, to establish his kingdom, through his people, in the power of the Holy Spirit."

We envision a community of people deeply committed to loving one another in tangible, thoughtful ways, who support each other's callings and gifts in the workplace and world. We want to live in the way of Jesus and be a counter culture working for the common good and renewal of the city.

This looks like giving hope to the hopeless, serving the poor and oppressed, celebrating, learning, and taking care of one another's needs... together. *To love as we are loved.*



### *our guiding prayers:*

"Lord, I have heard of your fame; I stand in awe of your deeds, Lord. Repeat them in our day, in our time make them known; in wrath remember mercy."

+ Habakkuk 3:2

"May your kingdom come on earth as it is in heaven."

+ Matthew 6:10

## / BE SHAPED BY OUR VALUES

expressed in our directions: upwards, inwards, outwards.

**▲ UP** We believe that having a deep and connected relationship with God is the best possible way to live. We celebrate the divine in the daily, pursuing lives of hope, gratitude, and worship. We believe worship is the submission of all of our nature to God. It is the quickening of the conscience by his holiness; the nourishment of mind with his truth; the purifying of imagination by his beauty; the opening of the heart to his love; the surrender of will to his purpose—all this gathered up in adoration, the most selfless emotion of which our nature is capable.

**▶ IN ◀** We believe that God wants to bring about a new humanity by redeeming every part of us. We embrace the salvation Jesus offers as the only hope for the healing of our relationships with God, each other, ourselves, and creation. We believe that all of life is spiritual, and that all of our fears, failures, and brokenness can be restored and made whole. We value the inner journey because we want to be fully integrated people—mind, body, and soul, emotions and experiences all offered together to God. This leads us to follow Jesus in the way He invested in the relationships of those around him.

**◀ OUT ▶** We believe that Jesus is God in human form and that the Church is God's ongoing presence in the world. Led by the Spirit of God, we are passionate about relieving suffering and fighting injustice, joining the God of the oppressed in living out the transforming message of the resurrected Jesus. Jesus calls his Church to be a compelling force for good in the world, and we believe that the Church is at its best when it serves, sacrifices, and loves, caring about the things God cares about. We were created to live for something larger than ourselves.

## IN ALL THINGS

We are called to journey together as one body. We value the image of God in all people, everywhere. We believe that we were created to live deeply with one another, carrying each other's burdens, sharing our possessions, to pray for and confess our sins to each other, to suffer and celebrate together. It's in these honest, loving relationships that God transforms us and truth becomes a reality. The way of Jesus cannot be lived alone.



## / SINCERELY AND ACTIVELY PURSUE GOD

through prayer, scripture study, fasting, service, hospitality and other classical spiritual disciplines and practices.

## / FORMATION

Partners should engage in a formation plan (provided) and review it regularly, seeking pastoral guidance and resources when helpful.

Partners should find a place of meaningful ministry through Sanctuary Church that fits who God made them to be.

## / VITAL PARTICIPATION

Partners should commit to Christ-like participation in the community of Sanctuary Church, supporting other members by their actions and in prayer, receiving support and encouragement in their life in Christ and among his people. We encourage every partner to make Homegroups\* the central place of participation. They commit to contribute to the life of the church by giving of themselves in the following areas, and any others they see fit or called by God to explore:

**Time & Dedication:** partners commit to participate in the ongoing rhythm of life and ministry in and through the church community.

**Gifts & Abilities:** partners commit to discovering, developing, and sharing their personal abilities, style, spiritual gifts, and life experiences in a way that honors God, blesses others, builds up the church community, and deepens their own faith.

**Finances & Resources:** partners commit to regular, intentional financial support of the mission and ministry of this local church with which they've covenanted. They will give a generous and sacrificial portion of their income to God's work, looking to the scriptural examples of generous and sacrificial giving, often 10% or more. They will only give joyfully! (2 Cor 9:6-8)

# HOMEGROUPS\*

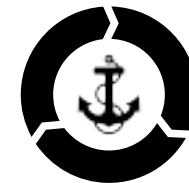
*Our homes are to be hospitals—refuges of healing radiating the light of heaven. And our dinner tables are to be operating tables — the place where broken souls are made whole again. In our churches people should find rest from their battle for acceptance and release from the lie that they are nothing more than the goods they possess. When we lower our defenses, when we remove our façades and our peepholes, and we begin to be truly present with one another—then the healing power of the gospel can begin its work.*

+ Skye Jethani

We believe that a vital part of what makes church, “church” happens in our neighborhood groups. It's here where we pray, eat, serve and study together.

**Our Monthly Rhythm:** Because we believe discipleship (becoming more like Jesus) happens through self & communal reflection (a community), study (following Jesus), and service (into renewal) we have developed a monthly rhythm for our homegroups.

**A COMMUNITY**  
*debrief & interpret*



**FOLLOWING JESUS**  
*hear the word*

**INTO RENEWAL**  
*active response*





*“The story of the Bible is one of increasing relational intimacy and commitment. May this be our story.”*

## OUR COMMITMENTS to PARTNERS

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**DIRECTION** / Christian spiritual nurture from pastors, leaders, and church community.

**EQUIPPING** / We should see the time spent in a place of work as an opportunity to see the kingdom of God leave the confines of traditional church programming, come to the workplace and begin to do its work of industry and city renewal.

In order to move toward this vision, our church disciplines through community (Homegroups) and hosts industry roundtables called Collectives. Collectives are designed to bring people from various industries together and help them form a theology of kingdom renewal for their respective career fields.

**SCRIPTURAL INTEGRITY** / Solid scriptural instruction in the context of preaching at worship gatherings and teaching in Bible studies and other gatherings.


**VIBRANT COMMUNITY** / The love and support of a vibrant Christian community that seeks the best of its members, including tangible support of ministry dreams and aspirations with the use of Sanctuary's resources to make those dreams a reality.

**CARE AND SUPPORT** / Expectation of pastoral care, and the significant support of your church community as a “priesthood of believers.”

**A VOICE & A VOTE** / In accordance with the leadership of our local church, in fellowship with the Evangelical Covenant Church, members will vote on major decisions in the life of the church once we become a member church.

*The church will be a listening and responsive community.*





*“History is the story of God giving away power. After entrusting the human species with the gift of free choice, God invited its representatives to act as partners, even to argue and wrestle with the One who created them. Yet, virtually everyone God picked to lead a new venture – Adam, Abraham, Moses, David – proved disappointing in part. Apparently God committed to work with human partners no matter how inept.*

*Jesus stayed on earth barely long enough to assemble a dozen followers (no less flawed), to whom he handed the keys of the kingdom of God. Against all odds the movement took off, and the human partnership has not stopped since. We are “God’s fellow workers,” the apostle Paul said. We collaborate with God’s actions in the world. And as God’s coworkers we are encouraged to submit our requests, our desires, our petitions in prayer.”*

*+ Yancey*



THE  
TRI-STORE  
BRIDGE  
*Cherry Wood  
Gladdings  
Shepard*

*IN PVD AS IT IS IN HEAVEN*