



Connection Church Partnership Covenant

The purpose of this covenant is to demonstrate a commitment to the mission and body of Connection Church. This covenant is not a set of standards where those that most closely adhere to them are granted rightful access to the church. The Gospel stands opposed to this way of thinking and operating. God the Father's love and approval over our lives comes by grace through faith in Jesus Christ alone. It's through faith in Jesus' finished work on our behalf as the One who was crucified, buried, and resurrected that we can gain access to God's family. God's family is the Church. It is not a social club, an activist group, or a religious association.

However, when a person trusts in Christ and is living for His glory and purposes in the world, that person should seek to participate in a local church. Therefore, the following list of "Partnership Expectations" are not things to achieve to become part of the family. Instead, they are things that the New Testament describes as the lifestyle choices of one who by God's grace, is pursuing a relationship with Christ. In other words, these are not rites of passage; they are indicators of love and submission.

We ask that those who sign this Partnership Covenant only do so if the individual is willing to be considered a part of the Connection Church family. This means that they can be counted on as active participants in church life by partnering with like-minded people to fulfill our mission while also committing to loving and laying our lives down for Christ and one another. All of these expectations are meant to contribute to the unity of Connection Church.

Expectations for Partnership with Connection Church

- 1. Have made a confession of faith in Jesus Christ as Savior and displayed it through baptism** (*Acts 2:38-41, John 1:12-13, Mark 16:16, Romans 10:8-10*).
- 2. Affirm the Connection Church Statement of Faith** (*Colossians 2:8, 2 Thessalonians 2:15, 1 Timothy 1:1*).
- 3. Pursue a life that reflects a commitment to biblical ethics, biblical relationships, a biblical worldview, and spiritual practices** (*Galatians 5:13-26, Romans 8:1-13, Colossians 2:6; 3:17; 4:2, Titus 1:15-16, 1 John 5:1-5, 1 Peter 2:2*).
- 4. Participation in corporate worship gatherings** (*Hebrews 10:25, Acts 2:42-47*).
- 5. Participation in meaningful Christian community** (*Acts 2:42-47, 2 Timothy 2:2, Hebrews 3:12-15*).
- 6. Intentionally choose to love people within the Connection Church family and be a promoter of unity** (*John 17:21-26, Colossians 3:16, 1 Peter 1:23-2:10; 4:8, 1 John 4:7-12, Romans 12:3-5; 9-13*).
- 7. Serve the church body by finding a ministry** (*Romans 12, 1 Corinthians 12, Ephesians 4, James 2:14-26, 1 Peter 4:10*).
- 8. Sacrificially and regularly give a percentage of their income and participate in church-wide giving campaigns as they are able to** (*2 Corinthians 8-9, Acts 2:42-47*).
- 9. Practice God honoring (open, honest, kind and refusing to gossip) communication in every environment of Connection Church** (*1 Thessalonians 5:11, Eph 5:19-20, Matthew 18:15-19, James 1:19-27; 3:1-12, Titus 3:1-2&10*).
- 10. Honor the Elders and Pastoral Staff by following their leadership** (*Hebrews 13:7& 17; 1 Thessalonians 5:12-14*).

What Partners Can Expect from Connection Church Elders and Pastoral Staff

- 1. Faithfulness to Christ and His mission** (Matthew 28:18-20; Acts 20:28).
- 2. Commitment to public ministry of the word and prayer** (*1 Timothy 4:11-13; 2 Timothy 3:16-17; Acts 6:1-7*).
- 3. Commitment to lead, feed, protect and care for the church** (*1 Peter 5:1-4; Acts 20:28-30*).
- 4. Commitment to equipping God's people for ministry** (*Ephesians 4:11-13*).
- 5. Integrity in decision making, financial stewardship, and lifestyle** (*1 Timothy 3, Titus 1; 1 Timothy 4:16*).
- 6. Operate in the best interest of the Church body and not in self-interest** (*Matthew 20:26; Mark 10:45; 1 Peter 5:1-4*).
- 7. Transparent, loving and honest communication** (*Ephesians 4:15; Romans 12:9-10*).
- 8. Practice church discipline with humility, love, and gentleness** (*1 Corinthians 5; Galatians 6:1-2*).