

An aerial photograph of a group of people on surfboards in the ocean. The water is a deep teal color. The surfboards are various colors, including white, blue, orange, and yellow. The people are scattered across the frame, some standing on their boards, some in the water. The text "practicing the way" is written in a white, lowercase, sans-serif font at the top center. The word "community" is written in a large, white, cursive font in the center of the image.

practicing the way

# community

## Partnership

### Based on last week's Practice, ask yourself:

Which of the five rhythms of community did you practice this week and how did it go?  
What were some of the roadblocks that you faced?

### Overview

Our Partnership Covenant is an expression of our shared desire to learn and live as a family together on mission with Jesus.

North Ridge Church is built around the idea of practicing the way of Jesus together in our city, which is why we've been studying each of the disciplines that Jesus modeled throughout his life. We believe that to be an apprentice of Jesus of Nazareth is to order your life around three goals: be with Jesus, become like Jesus, and do what Jesus did. As we live this way, the hope is to see our lives, our communities, and our city transformed.

We believe the Church is not a building or a weekend activity, but a people. We strive to live out the Gospel in our city throughout the week and gather each weekend as a collection of Communities. Our prayer is, as Jesus prayed, that God's will would be done in Asheboro as it is in Heaven.

### Scripture

Hebrews 13:17, Ephesians 6:12, 1 Peter 5:8

### Discussion Questions

Do you see church membership as preference or biblical obedience? Why?  
How does being part of a Church provide guidance and protection?  
What is your obligation to the Church?

### Community Practice (tonight!) + Individual Practice (throughout the week)

Every year we enter into a season of Partnership Renewal. If you've committed to being a Partner at North Ridge throughout 2021, you have made a conscious decision to be at North Ridge Church, to walk as an apprentice

of Jesus (be with Jesus, become like Jesus, do what Jesus did), and make the following commitments to North Ridge Church. If you're thinking of becoming a Partner with our church in 2022, look over these commitments and consider whether you're being called to walk with us this year as we pursue the life that Jesus modeled.

For those who are already Partners, discuss how you practice these commitments in your Community and as an individual:

*1) Gathering regularly with the church family on Sunday*

*2) Regularly Serving North Ridge Church*

*3) Practicing the Way of Jesus in a North Ridge Community*

*4) Giving financially to the mission of North Ridge Church*

- I agree, by God's grace, to walk in holiness as an act of worship to Jesus Christ, who has saved me from my sin so that I could live a new life.*
- I have read and understood the North Ridge Statement of Faith ([northridgenow.org/mission-values](http://northridgenow.org/mission-values)) and will not be divisive to its teaching. I also understand the importance of submission to church leadership and will be diligent to preserve unity and peace.*
- I covenant to submit to the authority of Scripture as the final arbiter on all issues.*
- I covenant to submit to discipline by God through his Holy Spirit, to follow biblical procedures for church discipline in my relationships with brothers and sisters in Christ, and to submit to discipline when approached biblically by brothers and sisters in Christ.*

### **Closing Questions**

1. What is your reaction to the words "commit" and "submit?"
2. Which commitments do you struggle with?
3. How does Partnership show your love for the local and global church?