CONNECTION
CHURCH

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. **Confess faith in Jesus Christ as Savior and be baptized** (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, 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. **Regularly participate in corporate worship gatherings** (Hebrews 10:25, Acts 2:42-47).
5. **Prioritize intentional Christian community** (Acts 2:42-47, 2 Timothy 2:2, Hebrews 3:12-15).
6. **Practice God honoring (open, honest, kind and refusing to gossip) communication in every environment of Connection Church** (1 Thessalonians 5:11, Ephesians 5:19-20, Matthew 18:15-19, James 1:19-27, 3:1-12, Titus 3:1-2, 10).
7. **Serve the church body in ministry** (Romans 12, 1 Corinthians 12, Ephesians 4, James 2:14-26, 1 Peter 4:10).
8. **Invite others to church and share the good news of Jesus Christ as the opportunity arises** (Matthew 28:18-20, Acts 1:8, 1 Peter 3:15-16, Romans 10:13-15).
9. **Sacrificially and regularly give a percentage of their income and participate in Kingdom Builders as the Lord enables** (2 Corinthians 8-9, Acts 2:42-47).
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).*

I have read and understand this Partnership Covenant and would like to become a Partner of Connection Church

_____ _____

Signature Date

_____

Print First and Last Name

Connection Church Statement of Faith

- **We believe that the Bible is inspired by God and hold it as our highest authority for faith and practice** *(2 Timothy 3:16-17, 2 Peter 1:20-21, Matthew 4:4, Psalm 19:7-11).*

- **We believe there is one true God who is eternally self-existent and the creator of all things. He is one being in three distinct persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit** *(Deuteronomy 6:4, Exodus 3:13-14, Matthew 28:19, 1 Peter 1:2).*

- **We believe Jesus Christ was fully human and fully God and was born of a virgin, lived a sinless life, died a substitutionary death on the cross, and rose from the dead on the third day. He will return again for his church** *(John 1:1, 14, Matthew 1:18-23, Hebrews 4:15, 1 Corinthians 15:3-4).*

- **We believe the Holy Spirit dwells in every believer and gives gifts to every believer for the glory of God. We believe every Christian empowered by the Spirit can be an effective witness for God** *(Acts 1:8, Romans 8:9-11, 1 Peter 4:10-11, 1 Corinthians 12:4-7, 11).*

- **We believe humankind is created in the image of God but all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. We believe all people can receive the love, forgiveness and eternal hope found in Jesus Christ through the repentance of their sins and faith in Christ** *(Genesis 1:26-27, Romans 3:23, John 3:16-18).*