

Church Partnership Guide.



 **kingsway**
community.
church.

Shared life. Shared mission.

The heart of partnership.

Partnership flows from who God is and how He has always worked.

More than commitments or activity, partnership is about about relationship. Biblical partnership grows out of the relational life of God Himself. God exists as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit: distinct, united, and working together in love and purpose. Everything God does flows from that shared life.

Jesus prayed that His followers would live with this same kind of unity - not just so we'd get along, but so the world would believe (John 17). Partnership then isn't optional or secondary, it's central to God's mission. In a divided world, unity and partnership becomes essential to our witness.

The New Testament vision of the Church is deeply communal. We're not meant to follow Jesus in isolation. Scripture describes the Church as one body with many parts, joined together by the Spirit, dependent on one another for growth and health. (Romans 12; 1 Corinthians 12; Ephesians 4).

The Bible uses the word *koinōnia* to describe this shared life. It's often translated as *fellowship*, but it also means *participation* or *partnership*. To share life in Christ is to share responsibility for His mission in partnership with God and each other.

Biblical partnership includes:

- Sharing in the work of the Gospel
- Sharing our gifts and resources
- Sharing hardship and persevering together
- Sharing joy and impact

This is a biblical call to a **shared life** and **shared mission** in God's kingdom.

"I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy, because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now." Philippians 1:3-5

Shared life.

Shared mission.

The purpose of Partnership.

Partnership exists so that God's mission can move forward and Christ's Body can be built up.

God intentionally imparts gifts, callings, and strengths - through His Spirit, across His people. No single person, church, or tradition carries everything needed to fully express or accomplish God's work.

Partnership enables us to:

- Reflect the fullness of Christ through unity and diversity.
- Work together with a shared sense of belonging.
- Extend the reach and impact of the Gospel.
- Guard against isolation, pride, and fragmentation.

Partnership isn't just about *doing* more, it's about *becoming* more. When we walk together in partnership, we're shaped together - we learn humility, patience, gentleness, and love. Partnership helps form us in the context of shared purpose and mission.

Scripture consistently links unity with blessing. Where God's people live in unity, He brings life and favour (Psalm 133). Where division takes root, our witness is weakened. How we relate to one another always affects how the Gospel is received.

In this way, partnership points forward. It offers the world a glimpse of the reconciled community God is creating and points toward the perfect unity we'll one day share.

Simply put: Biblical partnership is sharing life on mission together, with humility, and for the sake of the Gospel.

"If you focus on community, you never quite get there. But if you focus on a shared endeavour together - that's missional - out of that comes extraordinary community."
- Ps Nic Gilmour

Shared life. Shared mission.

An invitation to Partnership.

Whether you've been part of Kingsway for years or are relatively new, partnership is an invitation to move from simply attending church to sharing fully in the life, responsibility, and mission of our community.

This isn't about signing up to an organisation, it's about purposeful belonging to a Spirit-filled community, learning to follow Jesus together.

As a partner at Kingsway, we share responsibility for stewarding the direction and wellbeing of our church, this includes:

- Taking part in key decisions in the life of the church, including governance matters such as appointing Elders, calling senior leadership, and major property decisions.
- Supporting and encouraging the spiritual health, unity, and direction of our church.
- Helping shape the future of Kingsway as we seek to love God, love others, and serve our local community.

Who can become a partner?

Church partnership is open to anyone who:

- is 18 years or older.
- has accepted Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour.
- has been baptised or confirmed by their choosing.
- desire to live out their faith in committed community.

What does partnership require?

Partnership does come with responsibility - not as a burden but as a shared joy. By God's grace and through the work of the Holy Spirit, partners commit to:

1. Growing as a disciple of Jesus.
2. Sharing life in real relationship.
3. Serving faithfully and generously.
4. Living with purpose and missional intent.

“...speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.” Ephesians 4:15-16

Shared life.

Shared mission.

My commitment to Partnership.

Everyone is on a journey of faith, and growth happens over time. With grace for ourselves and one another, and trusting the work of the Holy Spirit, I commit to:

1. Growing as a disciple of Jesus:

- shaping my life around God's Word and the way of Jesus.
- engaging regularly in prayer and Scripture.
- practising rhythms that nurture a healthy inner life.
- participating in gathered worship and smaller communities.
- living with integrity, humility, and Christlike character.
- helping others know and follow Jesus.

2. Sharing life in real relationship:

- being part of a Life Group or smaller community.
- loving others and protecting the unity of the church.
- walking humbly and cooperatively with church leadership.
- being warm, welcoming, and attentive to those who are new or exploring faith.
- practising hospitality and generosity.
- walking with others through seasons of joy and suffering
- being present in times of need

3. Serving faithfully and generously:

- discovering and using my God-given gifts
- growing through learning, training, and hands-on service
- giving time, energy, and financial resources to support God's work through Kingsway

4. Living with purpose and missional intent:

- using my gifts and abilities to serve others.
- participating in outreach and mission, locally and beyond.
- partnering with others for the advancement of God's Kingdom.
- prayerfully discerning God's leading through changing seasons of life.

This is my commitment: to remain grounded in the love of God, shaped by the way of Jesus, and empowered by the Holy Spirit as I walk with others for the sake of God's Kingdom. By God's grace, and in dependence on the Holy Spirit, I commit to this partnership.

Name: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____