

Partnership Agreement

Freshwater Community Church

Thank you for your interest in becoming a Freshwater Partner. This document will help you understand what a partner is, what is expected of our partners and the process of becoming a partner.

What is partnership at Freshwater?

Becoming a Freshwater Partner is the step you take when you are ready to fully commit to our mission, our church culture and our ministry at large. We have chosen the term “Partner” (in lieu of “member”) because it expresses the need for mutual cooperation, responsibility and accountability. Freshwater Partners commit to grow in their relationship to Christ and our church, and agree to be challenged and held accountable to this commitment.

To what do FW Partners commit?

1. **Jesus Christ** – Partners have accepted by faith the Biblical truth that Jesus is the Son of God who died for the sins of the world, and that a relationship with Him is necessary for us to be saved from our sins. A Partner is striving to become a fully devoted follower of Christ as outlined by God’s instructions in the Bible. (*1 John 4:14-16; Act 4:12; Rom. 7:14-25; Phil. 3:9-12*)
2. **Baptism** – We believe baptism is in accordance with the commands of Jesus and is an important step of obedience in your faith journey. Partners will have been baptized as a believer either before coming to Freshwater or at one of our public baptisms. Because we believe it most closely models scripture, Freshwater practices baptism by immersion. (*Matt 28:19; Rom. 6:1-11; Acts 2:41; Acts 8:12*)
3. **Spiritual Growth** – Partners have adopted a Christ-like lifestyle and do their best to live in a way that represents Biblical Christianity. Furthermore, they have committed to coach and correct each other to bring forth the best image of Jesus in each follower. The general conduct expected of Christ-followers and Partners is to mirror Jesus’s lifestyle of love, compassion, obedience to God’s commands and living in Christian unity. (*1 Peter 2:1-3; Eph5:1-2; Gal 6:1-5; Col 3:12-14*)
4. **The Church Body** – A vibrant, healthy church is made up of people who are active in the body. Partners commit to supporting our church through:
 - a. Regular attendance at Sunday worship and church special events
 - b. Regular financial support of the church and its ministries, including an individual commitment to grow in the biblical principles of tithes and offerings
 - c. Regular serving within the body, such as on a Sunday morning ministry team or some other way that helps our body achieve our mission each week
 - d. Partners agree to support the Freshwater doctrinal statement and our bylaws.(*Heb 10:25; Acts 2:46; 1 Cor. 16:1-4; Mal. 3:8-12; 2 Cor. 9:6-8; Gal 5:13-14; Rom. 12:4-8; Titus 2:1; 1 Tim 4:16*)
5. **Our Mission** – Our mission is to help all people say ‘yes’ to Jesus in every area of their lives. We believe our mission, vision and values are to be lived out not just in the church, but in our personal communities. We desire to be a church “in the community & for the community.” For that reason, our

Partners have also committed to serving outside our church body, whether through church-sponsored community events, or personally volunteering in community activities. (*Mark 2:17; Matt. 9:10; Matt. 28:18-20; Acts 1:7-8*)

6. **To biblical shepherding** - God makes it clear that those who are part of the body should have relationships where growth and faith are challenged. We are our brother's and sister's keeper. This means that brothers and sisters should encourage, exhort, confront, comfort, bear with and forgive each other. Those who are spiritually strong should restore those who are struggling with sin. Those who have strayed should be pursued. Those in conflict should be brought to peace. Partners have agreed to these type of close encounters with their leaders and fellow followers. Partners welcome being held accountable to the biblical principles and the commitments made in this partnership document.

What can FW Partners expect from the church?

As those fully vested in the our mission, FW Partners can expect to be well-informed of and well-connected to the vision and movement of the church. Our staff and leadership commits to share important information and decisions with our partners before sharing with the body at large. We will communicate with and solicit feedback from our partners through the use of exclusive partner emails, newsletters and meetings. Partners are also awarded certain voting responsibilities as outlined in our bylaws; those include the acquisition of land / buildings and the hiring / firing of the Senior Pastor.

How does one become a FW Partner?

Partnership plays such an important role in our church that we have developed a process so those seeking to become partners can fully understand what it means and the expectations that accompany it. The process is as follows:

1. **Attend Growth Track class** - this will deepen connection and ensure one fully understands our "dna"
2. **Be an active attender for 6 months** (exceptions can be made if transferring membership)
3. **Read the Partnership Agreement** - this will spell out what you are committing to
4. **Fill out the Partner Application** - this helps us get to know you and your story
5. **Partner Interview** - you will meet with one of our pastors or GuideTeam members to go over your application, ask questions and clarify expectations
6. **Sign the Partner Commitment** - you will sign this after your interview with the pastor as witness

Freshwater Partner Commitment:

I fully commit to the above Partnership Agreement and agree to be held accountable to that commitment.

Print Name

Date

Signature

Witness

Date

Freshwater Partnership Application:

Please answer the following questions honestly to the best of your ability

1. How and when did you come to a saving relationship with Jesus Christ?
2. Describe how your faith has grown or been challenged in the last year. How have you seen God working in your life?
3. In your own words, explain what partnership means to you.
4. After reading the partnership expectations, what would you consider the most difficult expectation?
5. What things / feelings / motivations are prompting you to become a partner?
6. Do you have any questions in regard to what it means to be a partner?
7. How long have you been coming to Freshwater and what led you here?
8. Describe your baptism experience. What led you to take that step? What did it mean to you?
9. What God-given gifts and abilities do you believe you bring to our church?
10. What ways can we pray for you? Spiritual struggles? Spiritual goals?