



## What is Partnership?

Partnership at Oasis Church is simply this: becoming an important part of helping people to *Seek*, *Belong*, and *Serve*. It's not like membership where people are just joining a group; Partnership is when you use your faith and service to make a positive impact in peoples' lives. By partnering with Oasis, you're taking responsibility over God's call in your life!

- Partnership is celebrating the journey in our faith, together.
- Partnership is taking ownership over your role in Jesus's kingdom.
- Partnership is allowing God to work through you in the Oasis community.
- Partnership is a way to demonstrate commitment to the mission of Oasis.

We believe the mission of the church was given to us by Jesus himself. In Matthew 28:19-21 Jesus said *"Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you."* The mission of the church is to make disciples; the life rhythms of a disciple, as we see in the bible, are to SEEK God, BELONG to community, and SERVE each other and the world.

## Seek

- **Matthew 6:33** – *Seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.*
- **Psalm 63:1** – *You God are my God, earnestly I seek you, my whole being longs for you*
- **Deuteronomy 4:29** - *But if from there you seek the LORD your God, you will find him if you seek Him with all your heart and with all your soul.*
- **Psalm 14:2** - *The LORD looks down from heaven on all mankind to see if there are any who understand, any who seek God.*  
**Hebrews 11:6** - *And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to Him must believe that He exists and that He rewards those who earnestly seek Him.*

## Belong

- **Hebrews 10:24-25** - *And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.*
- **Acts 2:42-47** - *They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. All the believers were together and had everything in common. They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.*
- **1 Corinthians 12:25-27** - *So that there should be no division in the body, but that its parts should have equal concern for each other. If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honored, every part rejoices with it. Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it.*

## Serve

- **Hebrews 6:10** - *God is not unjust; He will not forget your work and the love you have shown Him as you have helped His people and continue to help them.*
- **Galatians 5:13** - *You, my brothers and sisters, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the flesh; rather, serve one another humbly in love.*
- **Romans 12:9-13** - *Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good. Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves. Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord. Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. Share with the Lord's people who are in need. Practice hospitality.*
- **Mark 9:35** - *Sitting down, Jesus called the Twelve and said, "Anyone who wants to be first must be the very last, and the servant of all."*

Our mission statement not only describes our purpose but it also describes the process by which we grow as disciples of Jesus. Everything starts with our seeking God as the most important aspect of our lives. To live as God would have us live, we need to know what He desires of us; by seeking Him we begin to know Him, love him, trust in His goodness and wisdom and to receive His forgiveness through Jesus. In the days following His death and resurrection, Jesus instructed the community of His followers to live out His ways and to call others to follow Him as their Lord and Savior. Jesus then returned to the heavens and God the Spirit came to live among these new believers and empower them to follow and serve God the Father. And so, The Church was born. The Church is a community of people who have chosen to trust Jesus for forgiveness and follow Him as God of their lives. These very first believers devoted themselves to meeting together to learn God's ways, to pray, to love others and to serve the needs of the world around them. The roots of Oasis church go all the way back to the first church.



## Is Partnership Important?

We believe partnering with a healthy church is very important. God wants us to be intimately connected to other Christians to mature into the men and women God intends us to be. You will never learn to be a great football player by playing football alone. Similarly, you'll never fully grow into a spirituality mature Christian by yourself; by God's design we need others to help us mature.

Our call to Seek, Belong and Serve requires that we commit together as a community – pooling our time, stories, talents and resources to make a maximum kingdom impact. The bible tells us that the first followers of Jesus “devoted” themselves to the work of the church community: prayer, teaching, giving, serving, and worship (Acts 2:42-47). Partnership is a practical way for people to commit themselves to the life and work of Oasis Church.

## The “How” of Partnership

The process of becoming a partner is relatively simple, but as you will see the commitment level is high. Jesus said “If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross daily and follow Me” (Luke 9:23). Here is how it works.

First we would like you to be attending Oasis consistently for 3 months, this will allow you to get to know us. The next step is to make known your desire to investigate partnership to one of our Elders or a member of our Senior Leadership Team. There will be a short 10-15-minute informal interview to ensure that you are ready to take the next steps. If you have not yet done so you will be asked to attend our Welcome Breakfast to learn more about Oasis Church. From there you will fill out a partner application which is part of this literature you are now reading and sign up for the Partnership 101 classes, which consists of two 1 ½ hour classes that take place twice a year, spring and fall. Through this class you will learn more about Oasis Church, what it means to be a partner and the 7 expectations of partnership. During the first meeting, you will receive a book called *I Am a Church Member* by Thom Rainer to read for discussion at the second 101 meeting.

## Am I a Partner Forever?

No, though we do hope that you will partner with us for a very long time. We ask our partners to consider partnership as something that is important enough to review and renew on a yearly basis. You can voluntarily end your partnership by not renewing, or writing a letter explaining why you are removing yourself from partnership before your 1 year commitment is complete. Upon receiving your letter, you will be asked to meet with the elder board to discuss the matter in person. In addition, the church Elder Board may end your partnership if a core commitment is consistently or blatantly being ignored. A decision of removal will never be made without first meeting face to face with you to understand your heart in the matter. Ending someone's partnership is a rare decision that is only made after considerable prayer and having made every attempt to resolve the issue.



## Why Have a Formal Process?

The bible nowhere requires partnership or a partnership process in a church, but we believe that there are healthy reasons for one. Partnership is a tool to help people devote themselves to values and practices that will help them move toward maturity as a disciple of Jesus Christ. A good comparison is to ask “is it necessary to make public vows through a marriage ceremony to be married?” The answer is no, but it is a healthy practice that highlights the importance of commitment in a marriage. In a similar way, formal partnership is a healthy practice that highlights the critical importance of commitment in a church community.

These commitments highlight the rhythms of a healthy church community. It helps people see that church is not just a building or a once a week get together, but a mindset and a lifestyle. A partner of Oasis Church is a person committed to a discipleship process that helps each person grow into who God has called them to be.

## 7 Expectations of a Committed Oasis Church Partner

- 1) **I will regularly participate in the Sunday gathering of Oasis Church for training, worship, prayer, and connecting with the church community.** (There is no threshold number of services one must attend to maintain partnership. We understand that season of life issues can impact how often one may attend services. Given the importance of Sunday worship gatherings, we ask and expect partners to make attending them a high priority.)
- 2) **I will maintain a consistent time of practicing the spiritual disciplines of prayer and bible reading.** (We don't require you to commit to a specific amount of time each week to read the bible and pray. We do, however, believe in the importance of these disciplines and know that there is wisdom in making them a consistent part of your daily life.)
- 3) **I will use my God-given talents and abilities to serve on a ministry team of Oasis Church.** (There are many ways in which you can serve the Oasis community. We will come along side of you and help you connect with a ministry leader in the church to find the best fit for your calling and gifting's.)
- 4) **I will connect with others in the Oasis community by joining a small group.** (These groups run 6-8 weeks 3 times a year. Signups are communicated through our church email and are done online.)
- 5) **I will support the Oasis community by participating regularly in Oasis Community Prayer.** (Community prayer happens on the first Wednesday of each month, 7-8pm, at the church building.)
- 6) **I will serve at Oasis Church outreach events during the year.** (Traditionally we host 2 -3 community outreach events per year.)
- 7) **I will sacrificially and generously give of my financial resources by engaging the biblical principle of tithing.** (Tithing is not a dollar amount but a percentage of your income. The biblical standard is 10%.)



## Small Groups (Life Groups)

Made in the image of God, we are relational people. We need the love and care of others in our lives just as we need to extend love and care. Consider just a sampling of what God says we need to give and receive from other people:

- Honor one another above yourselves. Romans 12:10
- Accept one another as Christ accepted you. Romans 15:7
- Love one another deeply from the heart. 1Peter 1:22
- Encourage one another daily. Hebrews 3:13
- Comfort one another. 1 Thessalonians 4:18
- Teach and admonish one another with all wisdom. Colossians 3:16
- Be devoted to one another in brotherly love. Romans 12:10
- Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ. Ephesians 5:21
- Serve one another in love. Galatians 5:13
- Carry each other's burdens. Galatians 6:2
- Be kind and compassionate to one another. Ephesians 4:32
- Forgive whatever grievances you have against one another. Colossians 3:13
- Confess your sins to each other, and pray for each other, so that you may be healed. James 5:16

For these things to occur we must be relationally engaged with each other. As the church, we must be intentional about getting together in settings where we can develop relationships that go beyond the surface. When the church first emerged 2000 years ago they met in large gatherings and in smaller home groups (Acts 2:46). We believe it is crucial that our church is meeting together regularly in smaller home gatherings so people can build relationships, teach and encourage one another, pray together, and help meet each other's needs.

We believe that these small group gatherings are essential in helping us SEEK God, BELONG to community and SERVE the world. Things happen in these groups that cannot possibly happen in our Sunday morning gathering at the building. For this reason, we would like every person who calls Oasis Church their home to belong to a small group.



## Application for Partnership

I hereby make application for partnership in Oasis Church. I have read and understand Structure for Ministry along with the expectations of partnership and I am in full accord with them, both in word and in spirit.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: (    )

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Town/City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Occupation:

Marital status:    single    married    divorced    remarried    widowed

Names Of Children

Age:

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Have you been baptized since becoming a Christian?                       yes                       no  
If yes, when and where?

Date of application: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of applicant: \_\_\_\_\_



# Partner Commitment Form

## 7 Expectations of Oasis Church Partnership

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Do you believe and affirm our 10 point statement of faith?      yes      no

**AFFIRMATION: I will pursue the 7 expectations of Oasis Church Partnership. I support Oasis Church Statement of Faith and will cooperate with the Elders and other leaders of Oasis Church. I understand that I will be asked to reaffirm my partnership each calendar year.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date



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Elder Signature

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Date