

What is Covenant Partnership?



Covenant Partnership focuses on two relational dynamics.

God's Relationship to his Church: God initiated a covenant relationship with Noah, Abraham, Moses, David and then a new Covenant through Jesus! In each of these Covenants, God establishes a relationship for a purpose: **Partnership with Purpose.** God invites us into a Covenantal relationship to receive his blessing in order to bring that blessing out into the world.

Covenant Partners are invited by God's grace to make a **Covenant Commitment** to Jesus and to one another, reflecting an intentional commitment to be an apprentice of Jesus and a blessing to one another and to reflect that blessing out into our community. This commitment to each other includes but is not limited to prayer, empathy, believing the best in each other, patience, generosity, forgiveness, and loving one another sacrificially in a manner fitting of the gospel.

What do I do? Instead of requiring certain behaviors or levels of commitment, we are inviting you to decide how you want to commit as a Covenant Partner in each of the four areas outlined below. We have chosen this path because our goal is formation and not perpetuating legalism. We have attached a planning sheet to this letter to assist you in laying out your Covenant commitments. Here is our promise to you: you don't have to share this with anyone! It is ultimately between you and the Lord. You will always have the option of sharing your commitments with the Partner Care Team, but it is always optional, and everything will be kept confidential. On the next page, you'll find an outline for each of our four Covenant Commitments.

Commitment # 1: Participation in the Community

- **Covenant Commitment:** I commit to prioritizing participation in the community of Hope as part of my ongoing formation as a follower of Jesus.
 - Sunday Morning Worship Gatherings
 - Congregational Meetings
 - Other examples:
 - Church events when able
 - Joining a Sunday Morning Formation Hour small group
 - Staying a little later on a Sunday to connect with people
 - Inviting someone to get together outside of church
- **Goal:** To inspire Covenant Partners to invest in the life of Hope Covenant through regular participation as able.
- **Key Statement:** I am formed through relationship and by my participation in the body of Christ.
- **WHY:** Because we are formed by Jesus in community. We are "in this" together!
- **Guiding Questions:**
 - How would you describe your current involvement at Hope Covenant on Sunday mornings, congregational meetings, and overall involvement in the life of the church?
 - How might the Lord be inviting you to grow in your commitment to participate in the body of Christ this year?
 - Could it be an increased priority of Sunday morning worship?
 - Staying a little longer after the Sunday service?
 - Attending congregational meetings?
 - Encourage someone to join you on Sunday morning?
 - **Option:** Use the Covenant Partner Commitment Planner to indicate your commitment goals for 2026.

Commitment #2: Practice Generosity

- **Covenant Commitment:** I commit to the practice of generosity through my investment of time, talent, and resources into the mission and vision of the church, conference, and denomination.
- **Examples:**
 - Regular giving to the mission and vision of Hope Covenant.
 - Donate items to food drives, benevolent funds, or special needs as they come up throughout the year, as you are able.
 - Be creative and allocate resources (time, talent, treasure) to practice generosity and bless someone around you.
- **Goal:** To cultivate a generous community of Covenant Partners formed through whole-life stewardship.
- **Key Statement:** I am formed by my investments and through the practice of generosity.
- **WHY:** Generosity is formative, stewardship is more than money, and everything we have is an invitation to trust God and bless others.

- **Guiding questions**

- How would you describe your current investment in the mission and vision of Hope Covenant to be Hope for the life of the world?
- How might the Lord be inviting you to grow in your commitment to invest in whole life stewardship (time, talent, and treasure) and practice generosity.

- **Option:** Use the Covenant Partner Commitment Planner to indicate your commitment goals for 2026.

Commitment #3: Take the Next Steps Toward Growth

- **Covenant Commitment:** I commit to investing in my walk with Jesus both individually and corporately.

- **Examples:**

- Bible Reading Plans
- Discipleship Collective Pathways
- Books
- Small Groups/bible studies

- **Goal:** To inspire Covenant Partners to invest in one's walk with Jesus.

- **Key Statement:** I am formed by my commitment to walk with Jesus and his church.

- **WHY:** Without investment, we tend to atrophy in all areas of our life, including our faith journey towards becoming more like Jesus. We become what we pay attention to!

- **Guiding questions**

- How would you describe your current investment in your growth as a follower of Jesus?
- How might the Lord be inviting you to grow in your walk with Jesus?
- Is there a topic (or two) from the Discipleship Collective or the formation opportunities provided that you could utilize more fully?

- **Option:** Use the Covenant Partner Commitment Planner to indicate your commitment goals for 2026.

Commitment #4: Growth Through Service

- **Covenant Commitment:** I commit to using my giftedness in service of the local church, conference, and denomination.

- **Goal:** To inspire Covenant Partners to invest in the life of Hope Covenant (Conference & Denomination) through acts of service

- **Key Statement:** I am formed by the way I serve through my unique giftedness and together in community.

- **Guiding questions:**

- How would you describe your current level of service to Hope Covenant, conference or denomination?
- While the emphasis is not necessarily on more, what goals would you like to set for yourself or what areas would you like to explore serving this year?

- **Ideas:** HCK (Nursery, Pre-school, elementary), HCY, Welcome Team (Usher, Welcome Desk, Greeter), Hospitality (Coffee Crew, Special Events, baker), Conference Annual Meeting Delegate, Denominational Annual Meeting Delegate, Mission's Team, People to People, Properties Team (building repairs, painting, grounds keeping), Hope Care Team (meals, rides, acts of service, calls/ texts, visits), Men's Ministry, Women's Ministry, Confirmation Mentor, Tech Team and many more options.

- **Potential First Step:** Connect with Service Discipleship Collective Shepherd (Keith Krueger) to discern potential areas of service here at Hope?
- **Option:** Use the Covenant Partner Commitment Planner to indicate your commitment goals for 2026.

In conclusion, we invite you to take the next couple of weeks and consider your commitment goals for 2026. The Discipleship Collective Shepherds and pastoral staff are excited to walk alongside you again in this journey of growth as Covenant Partners. We invite you to share your commitments with others, but that is entirely optional and up to you. The point is not having someone looking over your shoulder and keeping track of your success, but to grow together as followers of Jesus. The Partner Care Team will reach out to you in the next month and will set up a time to meet face-to-face for support and encouragement. In the meantime, please reach out to me with any questions or concerns you might have so we can work together to make this a fruitful experience for you!

Blessings,
Pastor Brian