

**Requirements for Applicants for Ministry Partnerships with
Covenant Bible Church
of Taylorsville North Carolina**

We believe that the local church is the God-ordained means of gospel ministry on the earth today. The manifestation of Christ's body, and the specific sphere of His promised presence and work until the end of the age, is the local, gathered, covenant-community of the saints. As such, it is not the privilege of the local church to come along side of and support other (para-church) organizations/ministries, but it is the privilege of those ministries to partner with the local church.

A "ministry partnership" in this sense is just that. It is a non-church/para-church ministry coming along side of and serving the ministry of a local church in its God-ordained and Biblical ministry within its own community and/or around the world. The tail (the non-church ministry) is not to wag the dog (the local church). This partnership may involve prayer, ministry updates, invested time, or financial support.

That being the case, Covenant Bible Church is under obligation by God to maintain a focused devotion to the ministry we have been given here in our local community and also the providential partnerships we already have with other local churches around the world. We are committed to protecting this focus and are un-apologetic in limiting ourselves to doing a few things well rather than doing many things half-heartedly.

It is in this vein, which we believe is Biblical, that we do not seek to have outside ministries come and "share" with our church, especially during the times set aside for corporate worship and also why we scrutinize very closely the ministries which apply to us for such an opportunity. We believe that Christ's church is being abandoned by many "rogue" missionaries, ministers, and ministries that have not the blessing of Christ and we want do our due diligence in addressing this problem.

For those reasons, we have drafted the following Ministry Partnership Application process.

All applicants for ministry partnership must read our Positions on Missionary Partners(found on our website) and agree to those positions.

The following documents are also required by all who seek to partner with CBC in gospel ministry locally and around the world. Returning these documents does not ensure any type of ministry partnership.

We require:

1. A letter from your sending church containing the following information:

- Request for partnership from the elders of the sending church
- Analysis of Subjective Call¹ by the elders of your local church
- Analysis of Objective Call² by the elders your local church
- Your current position at your sending church

2. A letter of testimony from applying minister/ministry

- Detail your local Church ministry experience at your current home church. This should include

- various duties and years served.
- Details of your Subjective call to ministry
 - Details of your Objective call to ministry
 - Partnership requests; plans for your time with our church; any other helpful details

Once the documents are received, they will be reviewed by our elders and some time will be spent in prayer to determine whether or not our church body can, in good faith and cooperation with our present work, partner with the minister or ministry.

¹ Subjective call - The subjective call to ministry is one's own inner witness of the call of the God on their life to the gospel ministry. As we know, our hearts can deceive us (Jeremiah 17:9). Therefore, this subjective call needs to be tested by a wise, unbiased counsel who has your best interest and God's glory in mind.

² Objective call - The objective call to ministry is the ministry work in which a person has already been participating within their local church. This work will display very clearly a person's gifts and calling from God, as well as weaknesses and areas that need improvement. Again, wise and unbiased counsel from the elders of the church will help to either sharpen the skills of one who has been called, or help a person see that this particular gospel ministry is not where they are gifted.