

# PARTNERSHIP

AT THE HOUSE



"In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your **partnership** in the gospel from the first day until now..."  
Philippians 1:5



## WHY PARTNERSHIP?

We exist to make fully committed followers of Jesus. This isn't something we accomplish on our own, nor is it something reserved for the "professionals". It requires a community joining together with a shared purpose. We believe each person is a unique contributor in God's Kingdom and that together, we accomplish more. Simply put, the church is at its best when we partner together.

## WHAT IS PARTNERSHIP?

Partnership is a commitment to join our community in a tangible way. It indicates you're in, not simply as a spectator but as a partner on mission with us. Becoming a partner at The House means committing to three simple ideas:

1. **SHARED VISION** - Partnering together first requires a shared vision.
2. **SHARED INVESTMENT** - Partnering together means taking ownership for our community through shared investment.
3. **SHARED RHYTHMS** - Partnering together means committing to some shared rhythms we believe are crucial for our spiritual formation.

## WHO CAN BECOME A PARTNER?

Anyone who is over the age of 18, who has attended The House for six months, is in agreement with our vision, values and beliefs, and is ready to commit to our community in a tangible way.

## WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN MEMBERSHIP AND PARTNERSHIP?

Although these terms are functionally interchangeable, membership implies more of the "voting and business" side of the church, while partnership places an emphasis on participating in our shared vision, investment and rhythms. Perhaps another way to say it is that membership often emphasizes the question "What can I get?", while partnership emphasizes the question "What can I give?"

## WHAT DOES THE PROCESS LOOK LIKE?

1. Read over the vision and expectations in this partnership outline and if in agreement, fill out a partnership application online.
2. Someone from our Partnership Committee will follow up with you to get to know you better and answer any questions you may have. This helps ensure partnership is a mutual fit.
3. Once the Partnership Committee approves your application your name will be put forward at our next Pastor's Council meeting to become a partner. Confirmation will be provided following that meeting.

# SHARED VISION



"All the believers were one in heart and mind."  
Acts 4:32

# SHARED VISION



As a community, our mission, vision and values are the engine driving everything we do. Behind Sunday services, discipleship and mentorship meetings, mid-week groups, social gatherings, special events, and everything else we might fill the calendar with is a bigger purpose. We believe partnering begins with a shared vision, outlining who we are, why we exist, and where we're going.

**MISSION:** Making fully committed followers of Jesus.

**VISION:** Encountering the Spirit, Empowering people, and Embodying Jesus in our city.

**CULTURE:** Invitational. Informal. Interdependent.

## **VALUES:**

1. We value encountering God's life changing presence together in community.
2. We value empowering each person as a unique contributor to the Kingdom of God.
3. We value embodying the love, justice, and reconciliation of Jesus in our city.
4. We value reaching and investing in younger generations.
5. We value creating safe spaces for spiritual discovery and growth.
6. We value both big and small gatherings as equally important and beneficial to our spiritual formation.
7. We value innovation and pursuing excellence in technology and worship arts.
8. We value invitation over manipulation.
9. We value whole life generosity.
10. We value gathering around a common faith in Jesus while making room for a rich diversity of views on secondary issues.

## **FUTURE:**

When we envision our future together, we envision an emotionally healthy church community, empowered by the Spirit to be on the leading edge of God's Kingdom in the Okanagan Valley. We envision owning a venue large enough to facilitate a thriving spiritual community with a diverse range of ministry gatherings for all age demographics. Further along, we envision multiplying to new campuses to expand our reach and impact in the Okanagan Valley.

# SHARED INVESTMENT



"In humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interest of the others."

Philippians 2:4

# SHARED INVESTMENT



At The House, we believe we're better together. Each one of us has an intrinsic need to be known by others and contribute to something bigger than ourselves. In a culture of hyper-individualism and isolation, we believe building lasting and meaningful connections together is vital for effective and sustainable ministry, and is needed more now than ever.

We also believe investment should go both ways. As you invest in our community with your time, finances, resources and skills, we'll also invest in your relational health, growth and spiritual formation. The more we know you, the better we can support you. The more you know us, the better we can see the gaps that might be present in our community and the better equipped you'll be to contribute to the solution.

## HOW DO WE INVEST IN OUR PARTNERS?

- Regular communication throughout the year about our ministry needs, finances, decisions, and ministry highlights.
- Encouragement and intentional equipping to help empower you in your unique gifts, passions and calling within our community.
- Open door access to our leadership.
- An invitation to participate in strategic discussions regarding big picture decisions and future direction.

## HOW DO OUR PARTNERS INVEST IN US?

- Pray for our church, our leaders, and the impact of our ministry.
- Support the church financially, and look for ways to contribute to our community with your unique gifts, resources and experience.
- Attend our Annual General Meeting and thoughtfully engage in other discernment processes as our church grows and moves forward.
- Commit to our shared rhythms of worship, serving, prayer & scripture, generosity, and community.



We believe each person is a unique contributor to the Kingdom of God, not just those with a title or formal position on staff. Committing to shared investment means you'll receive support and challenge as we partner together to reach our city. This could look like asking you to step in and fill a gap on one of our volunteer teams. It may mean we ask for your input on a key decision. More than anything it means knowing what you bring to the table is wanted, needed, and insightful for our future together.

# SHARED RHYTHMS



"Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me—put it into  
practice."  
Philippians 4:9

# SHARED RHYTHMS



Though each person connects to God and others uniquely, our shared rhythms help bind us together in community, informing how we live our lives seven days of the week. These rhythms are not a checklist to accomplish or a comprehensive overview. They simply provide some context for some of the different ways we can embody Jesus in our city, together.

You may have some of your own rhythms established already but here are the basic rhythms we invite you to take up together with us in community:

**WORSHIP:** Consistent attendance at our Sunday worship gatherings. We believe shared spiritual moments together are a central rhythm for our lives.

**SERVE:** Consistent rhythm of serving. We want to be people who serve faithfully and willingly within our church community or city. This may be once a month, or more.

**PRAYER & SCRIPTURE:** Consistent rhythm of prayer and reading scripture. We believe regular times of listening to Jesus and reading His word are crucial for ongoing growth and discipleship.

**GENEROSITY:** Consistent rhythm of whole life generosity. We want to be a community that models the generosity of Jesus by sharing our finances, our time, our gifts and talents, our homes, and our friendship.

**COMMUNITY:** Consistent connection with others outside of Sunday gatherings. This could mean joining a community group, becoming a mentor, or just simply opening your home to newcomers. Maybe it means meeting with a few trusted friends regularly to talk about life and faith. There is no one-size-fits-all approach but we believe sharing life together is vital to our faith in Jesus.



These rhythms are the starting point for our community. We realize different ages, stages of life, personalities and experiences will inform your rhythms in any given season. They're less of a list of rules and more like guiding principles for our shared life together. Lastly, our shared rhythms are not a form of legalism or earning God's approval. They're simply the outward expression of a commitment to follow Jesus, both personally and corporately.



# PARTNERSHIP COMMITMENT



"Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it."  
1 Corinthians 12:27

# PARTNERSHIP COMMITMENT



To be signed upon partnership acceptance.

## SHARED VISION

I will seek to advance and embody the mission, vision and values of The House through my words, actions and lifestyle. I will protect the unity of the church, honour those in leadership, and act in love towards one another.

(Rom. 15:5, Eph. 4:29, Heb. 13:17, 1 Pet. 1:22)

## SHARED INVESTMENT

I will commit to praying for The House and its leaders, and will participate in discerning the Lord's direction in community. I will support the church faithfully with my finances and will look for ways to use my unique resources, gifts and experience to further the mission of the church.

(1 Pet. 4:10, 1 Thess. 1:2, Phil. 2:3-4,7)

## SHARED RHYTHMS

I will participate in the shared rhythms of The House that include attending Sunday services regularly, serving faithfully, modelling generosity, regular times of prayer and scripture, and an ongoing connection in community.

(Heb. 10:25, Matt. 5-7, 1 Cor. 16:2)



## PARTNERSHIP DETAILS

It's understood your status as a partner with The House automatically lapses when you no longer attend for a period of six months or greater. In matters of church discipline The House seeks to operate under three guiding principals: 1) seek first to understand 2) extend grace and restoration wherever possible, and 3) hold to scriptural teaching. Your status as a partner can be removed in matters of church discipline, according to the constitution and bylaw requirements. As a part of the Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada, The House also recognizes membership transfers within our fellowship of churches.

- I agree with the partnership details and shared commitments.
- I agree with the PAOC Statement of Essential Truths.
- I agree with the by-laws in the PAOC Local Church Constitution.

Applicant Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature and Date: \_\_\_\_\_