



Why Partnership?

Does it really matter if I'm a partner of Abundant Life Church or not?

Why do I have to take a class to even become a partner?

Why do I have to sign anything?

People often ask these questions about our partnership process, skeptical as to why there seem to be so many “hoops” to jump through.

It's true. We take partnership seriously and with a lot of gravity. This is one reason we call it “Partnership” not “membership”. Membership implies paying a fee to obtain a resource for oneself, much like a golf membership.

Partnership brings with it an idea of living life together, in community and giving of oneself to others.

Committing yourself to a body of believers is weighty. But it's also wonderful. When Partners join, they commit to a spiritual family that provides encouragement and support. They are called to a biblical degree of responsibility, service and sacrifice to their brothers and sisters. Our elders and leaders also pledge to assist our Partners with care, counsel, prayer and teaching.

DOCTRINE (Beliefs)

THE BIBLE - God wrote a book

The Bible is God's Word to all people. Human authors under the supernatural guidance of the Holy Spirit wrote it. Because God inspired it, the Bible is truth without any error and is absolutely relevant to our daily lives.

THE TRINITY-God three in one

God has existed in relationship with Himself for all eternity. He exists as one Being in three persons: the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Although each member of the Trinity serves different functions, they each possess equal power and authority.

THE FATHER - God is great, God is good

God is great: He is all-powerful, all knowing, just, ever present, unchanging, completely worthy of our trust, and above all, holy. It is in Him that we live, move and exist. God is good: He is our Father. He is loving, compassionate, and faithful to His people and His promises.

THE SON - God became man

Jesus Christ is completely human but, at the same time, completely God. He is the only plan for bringing people who are far from God back into a right relationship with God. He lived a perfect life, so that He could be a substitution on the cross for us in satisfying God's demands for just punishment of sin. He defeated death in His resurrection so that we could have life.

THE HOLY SPIRIT - God is always present

The Holy Spirit is equal with the Father and the Son as God. His presence assures us of our relationship with Jesus. He guides believers into all truth and exalts Jesus. He convicts people of their sin, God's righteousness, and the coming judgment. He comforts us, gives us spiritual gifts, and makes us more like Jesus.

HUMANKIND-God's image bearers

Mankind is made in the image of God and is the supreme object of His creation. Mankind was created to have fellowship with God but became separated in that relationship through sinful disobedience. As a result, mankind cannot attain a right relationship with God through his/her own effort. Every human personality is uniquely created, possesses dignity, and is worthy of respect and love.

SALVATION-God's only way

Salvation is a gift from God to mankind. Humanity can never make up for his/her sin by self-improvement or good works. The blood of Jesus Christ, shed on the cross, provides the only way of salvation through the forgiveness of sin. Salvation occurs when people place their faith in the death and resurrection of Jesus as sufficient payment for their sin. Salvation is a gift from God, and it cannot be earned through our own efforts.

THE CHURCH-God's design for community

The Church is a local community of believers unified through faith in Jesus. It is committed to the teachings of Jesus and obeying all of His commands, and it seeks to bring Jesus Love to the world. The Church works together in love and unity, intent on the ultimate purpose of glorifying God.

EXPECTATIONS

As a Partner at Abundant Life Church, I will fulfill the following expectations:

1. I will worship the one true God with other Abundant Life Church Partners for as long as I am physically able
And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another, especially now that the day of his return is drawing near.
(Hebrews 10:25)
2. The goal of my regular weekly worship is to give God glory
For everything comes from him and exists by his power and is intended for his glory. All glory to him forever! Amen. (Romans 11:36)
3. I will grow spiritually through regular involvement in Life Groups and classes at Abundant Life Church in addition to regular personal devotional times. I understand the purpose of these groups and classes is building community with other believers and holding each other accountable
They worshipped together at the temple each day, met in homes. (Acts 2:46)
4. I will serve Christ through the mission work of Abundant Life Church. I am created to serve others through good works.
God has given each of you a gift from his great variety of spiritual gifts. Use them well to serve one another. (1 Peter 4:10)
5. I will give to God abundantly and joyfully, recognizing God as the owner of all things.
Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.
(2 Corinthians 9:7)
6. I will seek unity with other church members. I recognize God's design for the church is unity in diversity, and I will put the interests of others above my personal preferences.
Make every effort to keep yourselves united in the Spirit, binding yourselves

together with peace. For there is one body and one Spirit, just as you have been called to one glorious hope for the future. (Ephesians 4:3-4)

7. I will guard the reputation of the church and submit to discipline for any sin problems in my life.

If another believer sins against you, go privately and point out the offence. If the other person listens and confesses it, you have won that person back. But if you are unsuccessful, take one or two others with you and go back again, so that everything you say may be confirmed by two or three witnesses. If the person still refuses to listen, take your case to the church. (Matthew 18:15-17)

8. I will pray for and follow the leadership of Abundant Life Church. I will pray privately and with the church corporately. I will pray for people to accept Christ, and I will pray for more disciples to grow.

Never stop praying. (1 Thessalonians 5:17)

9. I will sacrifice by serving first, following the servant model of Jesus Christ. I will make my attitude that of Christ and through humility make the gospel my priority. Rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant. (Philippians 2:7)

At the end of every Church Partnership class, here are some questions I would like to ask:

- Do you trust Jesus as your Lord and Saviour?
- Have you been baptized by immersion?
- Are you in general agreement with the doctrine (beliefs) of Abundant Life Church?
- Are you willing to fulfill the nine expectations of Abundant Life Church?

*Sources: Abundant Life Church Website - abundantlifekap.com
Sam Rainer - samrainer.com