
Partnership

**a clear, practice-oriented
path toward being church**



Partnership Overview

What is Partnership?

Partnership is a visible and tangible commitment to being Artisan Church.

Partnership becomes visible and tangible by sharing a commitment to the following:
Vision, Practice, Unity

Common Vision

Our Vision (Mandate, Mission, Measures, Map) expresses why we exist, what kind of change we want to see, where we're heading, and how we are going to get there

Common Practice

Our Apprenticeship to Jesus is the very center of who we are and what we do. We practice the way of Jesus—both personally and collectively.

Common Unity

Our Unity (theological and relational) is the way we show that Jesus is Lord in our common life, as we apprentice our lives together.

What's the difference between Partnership and Membership?

Koinōnos is the noun form of the word, meaning "a partner, associate, or companion."

Three key ideas come out of understanding *koinōnos*:

- "to hold in common" — namely a relationship with Jesus
- "to share with" — the sense of giving to others, to share in common
- "to take part together"— the sense of partnership or participation

So with this in view, we can see some of the differences between membership and partnership. Let's contrast the two:

	Membership	Partnership
Posture:	Passive	Active
Question:	Who is In/Out?	Where are we going?
Focus:	Belonging	Participating
Outcome:	Rights	Responsibilities
Mode:	Believing	Practicing

When contrasted in this way, partnership provides a more active framework for participation.

What is Partnership for?

A Biblical Reason — We believe belonging to a healthy local church is vital for all believers. As you read the New Testament, you read letters to local communities of believers who had been joined together by the Gospel of Christ (Romans 16:3-5). The people who made up these communities consistently worshiped together (Hebrews 10:24-25), were accountable to one another (Galatians 6:1), encouraged one another (1 Thessalonians 5:11), served one another (1 Peter 4:10), and contended for the Gospel together using their spiritual gifts, and financial means to edify the church and move the mission forward (Philippians 1:5, 27; 1 Corinthians 12).

A Cultural Reason — It's an antidote to individualism and consumerism. We live in an age where few want to commit to anything — a job, a marriage, family, friends. Partnership goes against the grain of the 'consumer religion' that is pervasive throughout the Western church. It is an unselfish decision — one that builds lasting character.

A Practical Reason — It defines who can be counted on. Every team needs a roster. Every school must have an enrollment. Every business has a payroll. Even our country takes a census and requires voter registration. Partnership identifies who's in, as we need a core group of people in Artisan Church to partner together in ministry for the following reasons:

Our Viability— In order for us to exist as non-profit organization with charity status, we need a core group of people to take ownership for the ongoing sustainability of the church.

Our Accountability— In order to be a healthy congregation we need to know who is accounted for (who are we?) and to be accountable to one another. By making commitments to one another, we enter into relationships of accountability.

Our Sustainability— In order to fulfill our vision, we need a committed group of people to hold common practice so that God's work of renewal can continue through us in this city.

Who can become a Partner?

Anyone who wants to make their commitment visible and tangible!

What changes when a person commits to Partnership?

Artisan's formation pathway takes commitment. For many people their commitment will look like getting themselves or their crew to church on a Sunday morning. Depending on the season, this could be a costly commitment, and we honour that. For others, their commitment will be serving on a team and being in a group, but for whatever reason, they are unable to commit to the Unity piece as expressed in *The 123's*. We honour the commitments they are able to make.

For those seeking more responsibility, more commitment is required. Commitment creates relationship, which creates responsibility and possibility. Some of the outcomes of commitment are:

- Visibility**—our pastoral staff know you're here and leaning into community
- Relationship**—belonging, new connections, to know and be known
- Voice**—voting on budget and staffing at ACM and Family Meetings
- High Support + High Challenge**—you grow
- Responsibility**—you're someone who can be counted on and trusted

How do I become a Partner?

This is what the process for officially partnering with Artisan looks like:

Step One: Content

Hopefully you've already done this! You've watched/read the Partnership Overview, Vision Overview, Practice Overview, and Unity Overview videos and docs and clicked 'SIGN ME UP!' Next you will enter the second part of the partnership process – the conversation.

Step Two: Conversation

After you click 'SIGN ME UP!', you will be directed to submit some basic contact info, then a staff member will follow up with you to confirm that we got it. We'll attach a short questionnaire to learn more about you. After you've filled out and submitted the questionnaire you will be scheduled for a face-to-face meeting with a member of our staff/lead team to discuss and discern the questionnaire together.

Step Three: Commitment

When the discernment period is complete you will be invited into partnership with Artisan and to attend the next partners feast in the Spring. By committing to being a partner with Artisan you are committing to a relationship of high support and high challenge. Partners will hold each other accountable in how you

choose to practice the way of Jesus. You will have the opportunity to collaborate with other partners and will have access to our partners database. You will be responsible for voting in new lead team members and passing our annual budget. Also, if you are interested in and feel called to leadership, this process is required.

If at any time you have questions or concerns about the process, please don't hesitate to contact us at admin@artisanchurch.ca

Finally, Why Partnership?

Because church is more like basketball than fencing—it takes a team not solo efforts.

Because as Richard Rohr writes, “We do not think ourselves into new ways of living. We live ourselves into new ways of thinking”—it takes practice.

Because we've eaten enough of the bad fruit of individualism and consumerism, which have left our city lonely, disconnected, and empty—we need genuine community.

Because the beautiful possibility of *konōnia* still exists—sharing a common commitment for the sake of renewal is reason to stay in Vancouver.

Because we exist to be a people who practice the way of Jesus—who's in?