

# Partnership FAQ's

**What is Partnership?** What we call Partnership is traditionally referred to as “church membership”. But in our culture, “membership” is a term that typically emphasizes the benefits one receives from buying into the group or club. But ‘koinonia’, the Greek word translated “partnership” or “fellowship” in the Bible, is more about our *participation* together and less about enjoying ‘perks’ as individuals.

**Should everyone become a partner?** Partnership is simply a formal way to say “amen” to everything the Bible teaches us about living as the church of Jesus. Since God has called us to be committed (“devoted” (Acts 2:42)) to a local church, it is our hope and prayer that every follower of Jesus will find a home church with whom he or she can find their place and fulfill their part in the body of Christ. If you believe **Way of Grace** is your home church, then, yes, you should become a Partner.

**Am I still welcome if I am not a Partner?** Absolutely! We know many people, for one reason or another, are not yet ready to formally commit to **Way of Grace**. While we would love to talk and pray with you about the timing of Partnership, we welcome any and all attenders, and pray that God will richly bless everyone through His word and His people (it is still important for attenders to read our *Relational Commitments* booklet).

**What are the basic requirements for someone wishing to become a Partner?** Potential Partners should have a clear confession of the gospel of Jesus and a clear testimony in regard to their own conversion. Additionally, a potential Partner should be a baptized believer. Also, we ask that those interested attend our one-day Partnership class and agree to our Partnership covenant. Finally, potential Partners should be at least eighteen years of age and have attended **Way of Grace Church** for at least six months.

**Why can't children become Partners with Way of Grace?** We believe children, by virtue of their submissive position under the authority of a believing parent or parents, already enjoy the benefits of God's grace and God's people (cf. I Corinthians 7:14). Since Partnership involves a commitment to the church's accountability and discipline, we believe a recognition of and submission to that authority should be the choice of an adult.

**Why are those interested asked to attend a Partnership class?** If Partnership is simply a formal way to say “amen” to everything the Bible teaches us about living as the church, then it's important we look together at and can affirm together what the Scriptures actually reveal. Our class has also been designed to answer common questions about and describe our distinctives as Way of Grace.

**Is there any practical difference between a Partner and a non-Partner attender?** We work with our Partners in several distinct ways: 1) Partners will meet together at least once a year to discuss and pray over our shared ministry, 2) we will draw from our Partners when it comes to important ministry responsibilities, and 3) we will gather only Partners for special meetings regarding our church family.

**Can someone have dual membership as a Partner of Way of Grace?** In most cases, no. Given what we know the New Testament teaches us about the local church, we believe it is practically impossible for a Christian to be a member or Partner of two churches at the same time. The only exception to this would be a provisional Partnership for seasonal residents who will be attending for four months or longer on a regular basis. Please talk to a leader for more information on provisional Partnership.

Visit the Partnership page of our website for more information: [www.wayofgracechurch.com/partnership](http://www.wayofgracechurch.com/partnership).