

# Partnership at Christ Church of Dubuque

*WELCOME!*

If you are new to us because you have recently become a part of Christ Church of Dubuque, or if you are a long-time friend, welcome! This document is intended to share with you the idea of partnership at Christ Church of Dubuque and to help you understand how God is at work among and through us. You will read here of many of the features of this work, with the aim of enthusing you for your part in it, so that together we may be involved as partners in bringing the gospel of Jesus to desperately needy men and women, boys and girls, in Dubuque and around the world. Our desire is to partner together with Him in reaching His world with the great news of the Lord Jesus Christ.

## *PARTNERSHIP IN THE NEW TESTAMENT*

We have deliberately chosen the term partnership as opposed to membership because the New Testament talks about Christians being not only members of the body of Christ, but also partners in the ministry of the gospel. In his letter to the Philippians, Paul wrote: *“I thank my God for all your remembrance of me. In all my prayers for all of you I intercede with joy, grateful for your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now. And I am sure that He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Jesus Christ.”*(Philippians 1:3-6)

The Philippians were more than converts of the apostle Paul – and more than members of the church – he and they were partners in the gospel working together in its proclamation. They were co-labourers in the gospel mission together, working in a variety of ways as they sought both to defend and confirm the gospel. The term partner implied an active involvement in this ministry. Their partnership did not consist of a collection of names on a roll who did nothing together, rather it was group of followers of Christ who laboured together in the common cause of building the church and assisting in the proclamation of the gospel. Partnership meant sharing in the world mission (Acts 1:8; Matthew 28:18-20) using the varied gifts God had given to each of them for this purpose.

## *PARTNERSHIP AT CHRIST CHURCH OF DUBUQUE*

In 2004, some folks from Galena Bible Church had a desire to see a church start in Dubuque that was committed to the proclamation of the gospel. After much prayer and the support of other partners in ministry, Christ Church of Dubuque was formed. Built on a commitment to the final and divine authority of the Bible and to the teaching and preaching of the whole Bible, it is the vision of Christ Church of Dubuque:

“To glorify God  
by proclaiming  
our Savior  
the Lord Jesus Christ,  
in prayerful dependence  
on the Holy Spirit,  
so that everyone  
will hear His call  
to repent, trust and serve Christ in love,  
and

be established  
in the fellowship of His disciples  
while they await His return”

This is a very clear statement of our ongoing task of living as Christians – a task that unites the partners of Christ Church of Dubuque, as it did the partners of Philippi, in the common cause of the proclamation of the gospel of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Generally speaking, partnership at Christ Church of Dubuque provides for two things:

First, although Christ Church of Dubuque is governed by a Council of Elders, there are many important decisions that will be made by vote of the congregation – including the call of future pastors, the approval of elders, the approval of annual budgets, and constitutional amendments. Having such decisions made by the partners of Christ Church of Dubuque works to ensure that the individuals who will be responsible for making such decisions are committed to both the Lord Jesus Christ and to His work through Christ Church of Dubuque.

Second, becoming a partner ties us to a body of believers and to a cause that is bigger than us all. We join in partnership with men and women across the world who love Christ and are committed to His work. We join a partnership that is not merely a collection of names, but rather a group of followers of Christ who labour together in the common cause of preaching the gospel by proclaiming the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ.

So, we ask those who have been involved with us for some time and have decided that they wish to be committed to the work of the gospel at Christ Church of Dubuque to consider being partners with those already involved.

### *GROWING AS A PARTNER*

*“I am grateful for your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now.  
And I am sure that the One who began a good work in you  
will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.” (Philippians 1:5-6)*

Critical to growing as a partner in the gospel is the continued growth in your own life and walk with God. Partners are active day by day - living for Christ in their homes, with their families, with their friends, and in their work. Central to their lives is regular Bible reading and prayer – listening to God as he speaks to us in His Word and speaking to Him in return is the core of the Christian life.

As a partner of Christ Church of Dubuque, you join a group of people who gather together that they may grow together by hearing from the Bible about how they may:

- Love and serve God more
- Give praise to God for Jesus’ death and resurrection
- Become better equipped to carry out the purpose of telling the world about Jesus
- Learn to care for each other better
- See their lives become more like Jesus

We encourage one another in these things so that we will be growing in our lives as Christians. In public and in private we seek to become more like our Lord, to repent of sin, to be godly in the way we relate to others, and to bring forth in our lives the fruit of His Spirit. We seek to make biblical decisions concerning the way we handle our families, our finances, and all decisions affecting our lives.

### *SERVING AS A PARTNER*

Partners are servants of Christ and as such give of their time and energy to ensure that the body of Christ is built up in love so that we may all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God. At Christ Church of Dubuque, there are people serving in many different ways and the list continues to grow – and there is plenty of room for you! As you get to know the people who *are Christ Church of Dubuque* we believe you will be deeply encouraged by the examples of many in being the servants of others. Across all ages, income levels, academic achievements and backgrounds the gospel of Jesus Christ has profoundly changed many – as we trust it will continue to change you.

In addition to our time and energy, our financial support of the work of God at Christ Church of Dubuque is a very important part of partnership. To recognize God as our provider and to give of what He has given to us that it may go to the spread of the gospel is a special and joyful privilege for His people.

### *JOINING AS A PARTNER*

How about you? Do you understand what it means to have a relationship with God through Jesus Christ? Does that relationship exist for you? Would you like to join in the partnership of the gospel at Christ Church of Dubuque? If so, we would love to have you partner with us in the exciting work that God is doing and will continue to do. Fill out the final page of this form and call the church office at (563)582-5014 to speak with one of our elders. If you have questions about any of these things or are unsure about your relationship with God through Christ, please call our church office. We would love to talk with you and answer any questions you may have.

## Partnership at Christ Church of Dubuque

I want to be a partner of Christ Church of Dubuque:

- I acknowledge the Lord Jesus Christ as my personal Lord and Saviour.
- I want to be committed and involved in God's work in the world through Christ Church of Dubuque.

**NAME** \_\_\_\_\_

**ADDRESS** \_\_\_\_\_

**PHONE** \_\_\_\_\_

**SIGNED** \_\_\_\_\_

**DATE** \_\_\_\_\_

Pray, and then talk with an elder of Christ Church of Dubuque about how you can be involved.

- Please contact me about how I can be involved in the work of Christ Church of Dubuque.