



WHITE OAK  
Christian Church

## Becoming a Partner at White Oak Christian Church

- ◆ WHY Partner with White Oak?
- ◆ HOW do you become a Partner?
- ◆ WHAT is a Partner's commitment?

### Why become a Partner?

#### The Global Church

When you follow the biblical teaching to receive salvation (faith, repentance, confession and baptism) you are joined to Christ as a part of his Church – the community of all believers all over the world.



#### The Local Church

Living out the Christian faith, though, takes place in the context of a local church – a smaller body of believers who commit to partnering together to obey and serve God in their setting.

#### The Nature of Partnership

The Bible says a lot about the nature of being part of a local body of believers. Three characteristics stand out as being primary qualities of a community of faith.

**Care and Protection.** The first disciples appointed elders in every local church with the responsibility to protect, care for and lead the people in that church. Partnership means entering into a covenant relationship with the church leadership where the leaders commit to protecting and caring for the people, and the people commit to following and obeying the leadership. **1 Peter 5:2-3; Hebrews 13:17**

**Be shepherds of God's flock that is under your care, watching over them—not because you must, but because you are willing, as God wants you to be. 1 Peter 5:2**

**Relationship.** The Bible paints a picture of mutual support and encouragement in the life of a faith community. Partnership means becoming part of a family where people take care of each other and encourage each other to pursue God and spiritual maturity with their whole hearts.

**Acts 2:42-47; Ephesians 4:11-16**



**Mission.** Believers are called to serve and obey God's mission to make more disciples by demonstrating Jesus' love and sharing their faith with others. Partnership means joining together in this mission by using the gifts and resources God has given to each

individual to serve him and expand his Kingdom.

**Matthew 28:19-20; 1 Peter 2:9**

**As you can see, partnership with a local church is much more than just one hour on Sunday morning!**

## How do I become a Partner?

Partners at White Oak are followers of Jesus Christ who have declared him to be their Savior and Lord and who have been baptized by immersion into his name.\* If this describes you, then these are your steps to partnership with White Oak:

- ◆ **Read the partnership commitment statements (which start on the next page) and agree to live by them to the best of your ability.**
- ◆ **Tell a staff member or elder that you would like to become a White Oak Partner. We'll give you a form to complete so your decision can be included in the church records.**
- ◆ **Begin to engage in partnership by:**
  - ⇒ **Attending worship regularly**
  - ⇒ **Finding a place to serve**
  - ⇒ **Getting connected with a Life Group**
  - ⇒ **Giving financially to the mission of this church**

**We will grow to become in every respect the mature body of him who is the head, that is, Christ. From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.** *Ephesians 4:15-16*

*\* A declaration of faith means you have made the decision for yourself to become a follower of Jesus and have shared this decision with others. Immersion means you were placed completely under the water when you were baptized. Your baptism does not have to have been done at White Oak and you do not need to be re-immersed to become a White Oak Partner. If you have questions about baptism, you can attend our FaithShift sessions or contact one of our staff or elders.*

## A Partner's Commitment

At White Oak, the following statements reflect the commitment we ask of our Partners. By agreeing to them, Partners take on the responsibility of helping White Oak to be a church that functions the way the Bible describes as she fulfills her mission:

*Growing communities where people are becoming fully-devoted followers of Jesus*

### As a Partner of White Oak Christian Church...

#### **I will engage with the community of believers at White Oak.** *1 Corinthians 12:12-27*

I embrace the metaphor of partnership. It's not like membership in a civic organization or a country club; it's the kind of partnership shown in 1 Corinthians 12:27: "Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it." Because I am a part of the body of Christ, I must be a functioning partner. So as a partner I will give. I will serve. I will meet the needs of others. I will tell others about Jesus. I will obey God's Word. I will seek to be a blessing and encouragement to others. I will remember that my partnership is a gift and an opportunity to serve and love others alongside other believers. It is a privilege to be a part of a team that is capable of something much greater than any one person. I want to serve with this team and join its mission every day!

#### **I will seek to be a source of unity at White Oak.**

*Ephesians 4:1-6*

I know there are no perfect pastors, staff, or other church partners. But neither am I. I will not be a source of gossip or dissension. One of the greatest contributions I can make is to do all I can in God's power to help keep the church in unity for the sake of the gospel.

#### **I will recognize that church life is not about me.**

*Philippians 2:1-8*

I will not let my partnership with White Oak be about my preferences and desires. That is self-serving. I am a partner of this church to serve others and to serve Christ. My Savior went to the cross for me. I can deal with any inconveniences and issues that just aren't my preference or style because the mission to reach lost people is our primary focus.

#### **I will lead my family to be healthy White Oak partners.** *Joshua 24:14-15*

We will pray together for our church. We will worship together in our church. We will serve together in our church. And we will ask Jesus to help us fall deeper in love with this church because He gave His life for her.

**If you have any encouragement from being united with Christ...then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and of one mind. Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others.**

*Philippians 2:1-4*

## Still have questions?

If you have questions about partnership, or about White Oak Christian Church, please contact the church office and someone from the staff or eldership will get back to you.

**Phone: 513.385.0425**

**Email: [info@thewocc.com](mailto:info@thewocc.com)**

**Web: [www.TheWOCC.com](http://www.TheWOCC.com)**

### **Colerain Campus**

Meeting at 3675 Blue Rock Rd  
Rick Shonkwiler, Senior Pastor  
[rshonkwiler@thewocc.com](mailto:rshonkwiler@thewocc.com)

### **Ross Township Campus**

Meeting at Ross High School  
Nathan Hinkle, Campus Pastor  
[nhinkle@thewocc.com](mailto:nhinkle@thewocc.com)

### **Elders**

[elders@thewocc.com](mailto:elders@thewocc.com)

