



## **WHAT IS THE MINISTRY PARTNER CLASS?**

The Ministry Partner Class is the connection point for those who want to commit to Trinity Chapel as their church home, for a season or for a lifetime. Our version of “membership,” it also serves as the biblical overview of the foundation from which our theology, structure, and community springs.

## **WHY IS MINISTRY PARTNERSHIP IMPORTANT?**

We believe that making a commitment to a local church is vital, whether it’s Trinity Chapel or somewhere else. To us, Ministry Partnership is more than just attending church gatherings and writing an offering check. As a Christian, you are held to a higher standard of responsibility and service. We are members of God’s household (Ephesians 2:19), called to participate and minister in a particular place within the body of Christ. A healthy church requires that each of us do our part well: that we are committed and well-equipped to do the works of service that God has prepared in advance for us to do (Ephesians 2:10; 4:12).

Historically, church has a poor track record of “members” becoming observers, while an exhausted, burnt-out pastor and staff do all the work in the church and the community around it. Trinity Chapel is committed to being a church that reflects God’s heart for His children, who live out the Gospel in every realm of their lives. That’s why we have chosen to call our body “Ministry Partners” rather than “members.” It is not a status symbol or social club. Ministry Partners who acknowledge they are part of the body of Christ and enter into a commitment to Trinity Chapel are called to a high degree of responsibility. At the same time, the Shepherding Team and leadership are committed to each Ministry Partner, to counsel, serve, and assist, as well as to pray, equip, and guide our body.

## **WHAT IS THE CONTENT OF THE CLASS?**

The Ministry Partner Class includes an overview of our church and our core values, our leadership and ministry structure, and the basic, “big-picture” points of our theology. We also look at spiritual gifts, places you can serve within the church, and our expectations for you if you are a Ministry Partner. At the end of the class, you have an opportunity to decide whether being a Trinity Chapel Ministry Partner is a commitment you can make. It gives you a chance to make an informed decision about joining the church as you meet some of our leadership and build community with others in the class. If you choose to make the commitment at the end of the class, you are considered a Ministry Partner, committed in what God is doing at Trinity Chapel.

## **WHAT IS THE MINISTRY PARTNER COMMITMENT?**

The Ministry Partner commitment is your written covenant with Trinity Chapel that you make as you are joining the vision and journey of the church. A full form is available will soon be on our website, but the basic commitment falls in line with Trinity Chapel’s values. In other words, you’re committing to be...

- God-exalting
- Truth-centered
- Grace-filled
- Relationally-focused
- Servant-minded
- Missionally-driven

A full explanation of values can be found at [www.trinitychapelbc.org](http://www.trinitychapelbc.org)

## **WHY IS MINISTRY PARTNERSHIP REQUIRED FOR TCBC LEADERSHIP ROLES?**

Part of the outflow of Ministry Partnership is that it helps Trinity Chapel’s staff and leadership identify the people committing to support our ministry with their time, gifts, and finances, and to living out and being held accountable to the vision and values of Trinity Chapel. Therefore, positions of leadership across the church require the commitment of a Ministry Partner.