PARTNERSHIPS / TEAM GUIDE

Church partnership conversation

Shared ministry starts with listening.

Explore doctrinal alignment, leadership, resources, and congregational care before making partnership commitments.

HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE

Use for an initial conversation between authorized leaders. This worksheet supports discussion; it does not create an agreement.

1 Name the purpose together

Let each congregation describe its mission, strengths, needs, and hopes. Ask what a partnership could make possible for gospel ministry and community service. Record the concerns and questions alongside the opportunities.

2 Explore conviction and culture

Compare statements of faith, preaching convictions, worship expectations, leadership structures, and approaches to discipleship. Discuss which practices are biblical commitments and which are preferences or traditions.

3 Clarify responsibilities

Discuss who would lead, how decisions would be made, and how each congregation would be heard. Identify questions about budgets, staffing, buildings, insurance, records, and safeguarding. Do not assume shared expectations without discussion.

4 Agree on a careful next step

A trial outreach project may be a useful first step before a deeper partnership. For a merger or property transaction, seek independent legal and financial advice. Follow each congregation's bylaws, required votes, and communication process.

CONVERSATION WORKSHEET

Listen. Discuss. Write it down.

Complete together or type into the fields before your next meeting. Save a copy for your team.

01 What gospel purpose would this partnership serve?

02 Where are our convictions aligned or different?

03 What concerns must be addressed before moving forward?

04 What decision authority does each church retain?

KEEP THE CONVERSATION FOCUSED

- What can we do together that neither church can sustain alone?
- How will members share concerns and receive updates?
- What would cause us to pause or end the conversation?

NEXT STEPS / TAKE IT BACK TO YOUR TEAM

Make the next step clear.

Choose one priority you can act on. Assign responsibility and agree when you will review it.

Our next ministry priority

Responsible leader

Review date

Three practical actions / person responsible / target date

People, supplies, budget, or support needed

BEFORE WE MOVE FORWARD

- [ ] Authorized representatives are part of the conversation.
- [ ] Doctrinal agreements and open questions are recorded.
- [ ] Both congregations have a plan for communication.
- [ ] Professional review is planned before binding commitments.

Prepared for local church ministry. Adapt this tool to your congregation. Partnership and search decisions remain with the local church; this guide is not a contract or professional advice.