

Partnering

WITH MITCHAM

HILLS CHURCH



MITCHAM HILLS

church



part·ner·ship |

/ˈpɑːtnər,ʃɪp/

(noun)

- › the state of being a partner : participation
- › the persons joined together in a partnership
- › relationship usually involving close cooperation between parties having specified and joint rights and responsibilities.

Mitcham Hills Church seeks to be a generous, relaxed and inspiring church community where all people are called into an adventure of joy and into a closer relationship with God. This booklet provides information about what it means to partner with us in this adventure.

WE WOULD LOVE YOU TO JOIN US BY PARTNERING WITH OUR:

VALUES

BELIEFS

VISION

STRUCTURE

LEADERSHIP

| You will find further information of
| each of these in the following pages.

Partnering

WITH
MITCHAM HILLS
CHURCH

I thank my God every time I remember you.

In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with
joy because of your partnership in the gospel...

Philippians 1:3-5





At Mitcham Hills, we are drawn to the word partnership. We appreciate it because it's biblical. The Greek word in the Bible for partnership is Koinonia, the word Paul uses in Philippians 1. It also means participation and we are looking for people who can be counted on and who fully participate in the life of the Church here at Mitcham Hills.

While we aim to be a welcoming place for everyone, we need a committed team of people who are willing to put their shoulders to the wheel, roll their sleeves up, get their hands dirty ... you get our drift! But we don't see this as a chore. We see it as an opportunity to invest in something that matters for the Kingdom of God.

Jesus was committed to the church, Ephesians 5:25 says '.... Christ loved the church, and He gave His life for it.' Partnership is an unselfish decision to serve the Church for the sake of the gospel. We think it is a good thing as well because such a commitment is a sign of spiritual growth. In fact, ongoing commitment – whether to friends, family or church – produces character and spiritual growth.

**Mitcham Hills Church is a faith community
of the Uniting Church and is a member of
the Generate Presbytery.**

Partnering

WITH OUR VALUES

We have a number of core values that, in Christ, hold the Church together. These are best expressed as behaviours that characterise Mitcham Hills Church. All activities of the Church will be expressions of these five values. They guide and direct everything that we do.

We are inviting you to responsibly serve Mitcham Hills Church, committing yourself to grow in each of these five values. We are not expecting “perfect” people at Mitcham Hills Church – but that Partners will seek to uphold, live out and promote these values.

DECLARE JESUS IS LORD

We believe that Jesus is not only the most influential person in human history, but He is the Son of God and Lord of everything in all creation. As a Partner, I will develop my relationship with God and grow as a disciple of Jesus.

ENGAGE WITH THE BIBLE FOR LIFE CHANGE

We believe that the Bible is inspired by God and contains truth, wisdom and beauty that can change lives. As a Partner, I will read the Bible and apply biblical principles to my life.

FOCUS BEYOND OURSELVES

Following the example of Jesus, we believe God calls us to a life focussed on those around us. As a Partner, I look out for the needs of others and model Jesus’ life of love, witness and serving to all people with passion and respect.

BUILD RELATIONSHIPS THAT MATTER

God not only calls all of us into relationship with Him, but also into meaningful relationships with others. As a Partner, I will act in love and kindness toward others and in a way that grows community and faith.

EMPOWER PEOPLE TO LEAD

We want to be a church that equips and supports people to lead in their homes, workplaces, communities and church. As a Partner, I will develop and use my gifts and talents by serving God at home, in my workplace, my community and in Mitcham Hills Church.

As we continue to grow, we hope that these values will serve each person who joins us in this 'adventure of joy'. These values are vitally important to us.

We believe that the greatest cause on earth is reaching all people with the good news of the gospel of Jesus Christ. It is important to us that every person joining us has the opportunity to contribute to the Church and we invite you to take seriously the opportunity to regularly:

- › Bring your energy and imagination
- › Share faith with others
- › Read the Bible
- › Pray for the Church
- › Use your gifts and talents
- › Support the Church financially.



The opportunity to covenant with us in this way is provided on the last pages of this booklet.

Partnering

WITH OUR BELIEFS

Mitcham Hills Church holds to a reformed, evangelical and historically orthodox view of the Christian faith.

WE BELIEVE THAT

- › God is Father, Son and Holy Spirit one God, known in three persons, and is defined by the dynamic and loving interaction between those three persons. God is Love. (1 John 4:8)
- › The Bible, including both the Old and New Testaments, is the inspired Word of God.
- › On the Cross Jesus made an all-sufficient sacrifice for the sins of the world, and that when we confess Him as Lord and believe God raised Him from the dead, we are saved from eternal judgement and receive the promise of eternal life (new life) in Him. (Romans 10:9)
- › In the church in the New Testament, everyone has gifts and abilities given by the Holy Spirit in order to serve others (1 Peter 4:10).
- › The church, empowered by the Holy Spirit, has an Acts 1:8 mandate and a Matthew 28 commission to witness to Jesus and go and make disciples of all the world.

As a church we hold to these beliefs that are core to our existence.

Partnering

WITH OUR VISION

As a church we share a common vision of the church we want to see grow through Jesus Christ.

We seek to be a generous, relaxed and inspiring church community where all people are called into an adventure of joy and into a closer relationship with God through Jesus Christ.

We want to ensure that every person who attends an activity of Mitcham Hills Church experiences a welcoming atmosphere of warm hospitality and relational connectivity and that every person who attends our Sunday morning gathering (Christian and those unused to 'church culture') experiences an encounter with God through God-honouring, culturally appropriate, life-related worship.

We see ourselves as a church for everyone, irrespective of age or background.

Children have a special place amongst us. We place a high priority on ensuring that every child has the opportunity to engage in safe, enjoyable, age-appropriate activities that lead them to faith and growth in Jesus.

As an outwardly focussed church, our hope is that every person is resourced and supported to share Jesus with people who do not own faith in Christ with a view to giving them every opportunity to move closer to God.

As a worshipping community, we are aware that there are many different but helpful and wonderful ways of worshipping. At Mitcham Hills, we are particularly conscious of the words of 1 Corinthians 10:33, where the writer, Paul, says:

I try to please everyone in everything I do, not doing what I like or what is best for me but what is best for them, so that they may be saved.

In response to that encouragement, we seek to be intentional in assessing the needs of people and focussing on the Mitcham Hills community, particularly those on the 'fringe' of faith.

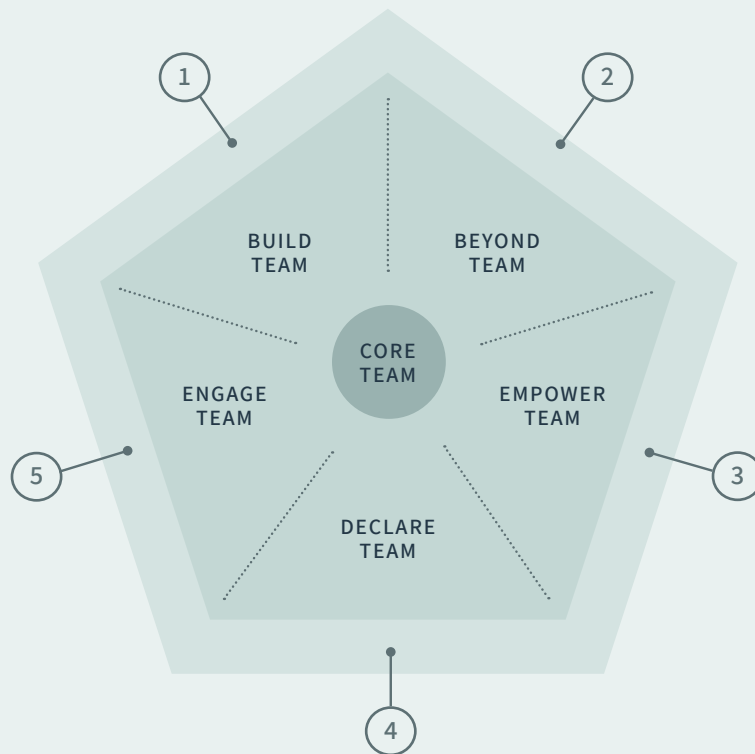
Partnering

WITH OUR STRUCTURE

With a backdrop of much prayer, we seek to organise ourselves in a way that encourages local decision-making and provides space for our Partners to explore and innovate. Rather than a top-down model which looks like this:



There are five teams that correspond to each of the five core values and look like this:



1 BUILD RELATIONSHIPS
THAT MATTER

2 FOCUS BEYOND
OURSELVES

3 EMPOWERING PEOPLE
TO LEAD

4 ENGAGE WITH THE BIBLE
FOR LIFE CHANGE

5 DECLARE JESUS
IS LORD

The task of each of these teams is to prayerfully discover how our purpose and values will be achieved within their particular domain while being held together by our common commitment to our vision, values and beliefs.

At the same time, we seek to surround our organisational efforts with much prayer as we know that as hard as we try, we need God's Spirit and God's grace daily as individuals and as a church.

A Partner is expected to join one of these teams and be a part of God's purpose for Mitcham Hills. Naturally, and hopefully, many of us will have God-inspired ideas and initiatives. Obviously, not every idea or thought will be acted on as a Church. However, when a significant team of people are committed to an idea and this is shown to support the values and purpose of Mitcham Hills, there is every likelihood that it will go ahead.

Partnering

WITH OUR LEADERSHIP

All people are welcome at Mitcham Hills Church. There are no requirements to attend.

For those who want to take a first step of commitment to Mitcham Hills Church, they are encouraged to become Partners.





However, at Mitcham Hills Church we also highly value leadership. We believe that those who are called to serve in any positions of leadership are required to make some further commitments. These are outlined in our Leadership document.

Two key leadership roles at Mitcham Hills Church are **Core Team Leaders** and **Core Value Leaders**.

Partnering

WITH OUR LEADERSHIP

CORE TEAM LEADER

The Core Team provides oversight of the Church. This is a leadership role that ensures that space is provided for people to seek to discover and use their gifts. Within that oversight, the Core Team will seek to monitor and protect the purpose and values, guide the future directions and coordinate the various parts of Mitcham Hills Church. Matters of policy and protocols in relation to the Uniting Church are other things that this team sees as its task.

A Core Team leader will be a person who is a faith-filled, daring, courageous and prayerful disciple of Jesus who is baptised, and called and equipped to give significant priority in terms of time and energy to the oversight of the Church.

As well as being a committed Partner, the person will exhibit significant leadership and organisational capacities including strategic and team building skills and model Christlike humility, resilience and grace. She/he will be passionate about this role and have an acute sense of responsibility for the whole Church and its growth in Kingdom outcomes. He/she will be expected to commit to the values, beliefs, vision and structures of Mitcham Hills Church and be able to work within the polity of the UCA.



CORE VALUE LEADER

A Core Value leader will take responsibility for leading one of the five values of Mitcham Hills Church.

She/he will be a person who is faith-filled, daring, courageous and a prayerful disciple of Jesus who is baptised, and called and equipped to give significant priority in terms of time and energy to develop a team and, with that team, to take responsibility for the outworking of a particular Core Value.

As well as being a committed Partner, the person will exhibit significant leadership and organisational capacities and a deep passion for the particular Core Value he/she leads. She/he will have strategic and team building skills and model Christlike humility, resilience and grace.

He/she will also have acute sense of responsibility for the whole Church and its growth in Kingdom outcomes. She/he will be expected to commit to the values, beliefs, vision and structures of Mitcham Hills Church.







MITCHAM HILLS FAMILY **PARTNERSHIP COVENANT**

.....
We acknowledge Jesus Christ as
our Saviour and Lord.

.....
We agree to commit ourselves as Partners
to the Values, Beliefs, Vision, Structures
and Leadership of Mitcham Hills Church.

.....
We commit ourselves to God and
other Mitcham Hills Partners to do
the following:

DECLARE JESUS IS LORD

As Partners, we will each develop our relationship with God and grow as disciples of Jesus.

ENGAGE WITH THE BIBLE FOR LIFE CHANGE

As Partners, we will read the Bible and apply Biblical principles to our lives.

FOCUS BEYOND MYSELF

As Partners, we will look out for the needs of others and model Jesus' life of love,
witness and serving to all people with passion and respect.

BUILD RELATIONSHIPS THAT MATTER

As Partners, we will act in love and kindness toward others and in a way that grows
community and faith.

EMPOWER PEOPLE TO LEAD

As Partners, we will develop and use our gifts and talents to serve God at home,
at school or in the workplace, in the community and in Mitcham Hills Church.

FAMILY NAME DATE

SIGNED SIGNED SIGNED

SIGNED SIGNED SIGNED



MITCHAM HILLS PERSONAL PARTNERSHIP COVENANT

.....
I acknowledge Jesus Christ as my Saviour and Lord.

.....
I agree to commit myself as a Partner to the Values, Beliefs, Vision, Structures and Leadership of Mitcham Hills Church.

.....
I commit myself to God and other Mitcham Hills Partners to do the following:

DECLARE JESUS IS LORD

As a Partner, I will develop my relationship with God and grow as a disciple of Jesus.

ENGAGE WITH THE BIBLE FOR LIFE CHANGE

As a Partner, I will read the Bible and apply Biblical principles to my life.

FOCUS BEYOND MYSELF

As a Partner, I will look out for the needs of others and model Jesus' life of love, witness and serving to all people with passion and respect.

BUILD RELATIONSHIPS THAT MATTER

As a Partner, I will act in love and kindness toward others and in a way that grows community and faith.

EMPOWER PEOPLE TO LEAD

As a Partner, I will develop and use my gifts and talents to serve God at home, in my workplace, my community and in Mitcham Hills Church.

NAME DATE

SIGNED



MITCHAM HILLS
church

