

PARTNERSHIP

FULLY COMMITTED HERE AND NOW



Name: _____

Partnership Start Date: _____

A word from
Pastor Ryan

MORE THAN SIMPLY GOING TO CHURCH

Growing up, I thought of church as a building where our family would go on Sundays because my parents believed God was important and it was the right thing to do.

However, walking with God revealed that “going to church” was merely a small but critical piece in experiencing a rich spiritual life. God has invited us each into a grand story and a world-changing mission, something so much bigger than a set of beliefs or routine habits. And that invitation is worth the commitment it calls for. By following and trusting Jesus, we can find what it means to be truly human.

We become a part of the Church through Baptism and are, at that point, members of his body (1 Corinthians 12:12-14). This is our connection to Christ and other believers that transcends the local community we worship with. Membership is not a name on an official list but a marker of our place in the global church.

Yet, in his wisdom, Jesus established the church as more than a global idea. No, the church is also local, hands-on, and organized. This local church is the most basic expression of Christ's body and is the means by which he chose to build his eternal kingdom here on Earth.

He gave us a mission to love God, love people, and make disciples, and has invited Valley Chapel to be transforming into a community through whom God's love flows.

To be that commissioned local church and to complete that mission, we need more than just church-goers;

We need PARTNERS

People who are devoted to Christ committed to the Church, and see the work of Jesus Christ through Valley Chapel as their own. Partners don't merely help the organization do ministry; they share in it. This is never to be an obligation. It is instead a high calling to experience the goodness of God by being all-in for God's mission in and through Valley Chapel.

I pray that if you have committed to partnership, you will continually fall deeper in love with Christ and the Church that he loves so much and witness the kingdom of God grow before your very eyes..

—Pastor Ryan



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OUR MISSION

LOVE GOD | LOVE PEOPLE | MAKE DISCIPLES

Our mission is that of the whole church at all times and in all places. Jesus' command is a common thread that reminds us that our local community's work is a part of something larger and more ancient than any single time or culture. The following three statements are that mission.

LOVE GOD (Matthew 22:37-38) "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment."

LOVE PEOPLE (Matthew 22:39) "And the second is like it: Love your neighbor as yourself. All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments."

MAKE DISCIPLES (Matthew 28:19-20) "Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."



OUR VISION

*Transforming into a community
through whom God's love flows*

"Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect."

ROMANS 12:2

Transformation is not something we hope to arrive at, but something we hope to be constantly pursuing. Also, as a church, we are not individuals, nor a building, but a community. God's love flows into us, but it also flows through us and into the people around us within the church and everywhere we go.



PARTNERS

The Mission and Vision matter, not because they are unique statements, but because they represent real people who turn to our church community to search for the living God. Our calling is too great not to be “all-in.”

Partners are not simply “people who go to church at Valley Chapel.” They are “all-in” Kingdom Builders, seeking God’s will for their lives and community. They are devoted to the mission and strive to live out the vision in whatever way the Spirit moves.

Living into this mission and vision depends on the reliability and dedication of our partners. Without such committed partners, discipleship, leadership, and authority become like a building on an unstable foundation (Luke 6:49) that crumbles when trying to provide lasting change.

Therefore, we are intentional about only entrusting authority to those who embody this commitment and consistency. Partners are crucial if we are to achieve our divine mandate of Love God, Love People, and Make Disciples.



TRANSFORMED THROUGH PARTNERSHIP

We have seen transformation happen because of our partners, but we've also seen it happen to our partners. When you actively engage in the spiritual growth and betterment of your community, you grow closer to God yourself. It's a journey of pursuing maturity yourself on behalf of the people in your community. Join us in this fulfilling endeavor as we seek to become a vibrant and supportive community where each member's dedication contributes to the realization of our shared mission.



5 PROMISES

Partners at Valley Chapel are Members of the FMCUSA. All Members of the FMCUSA make the following promises as they engage in their local communities.

1

Do you have the assurance that God has forgiven your sins through faith in Jesus Christ?

2

Do you believe the Bible is God's written Word, uniquely inspired by the Holy Spirit, and do you accept its authority for what you must believe and how you must live?

3

Do you here resolve, by God's grace, to be Christlike in heart and life, opening yourself fully to the cleansing and empowering ministry of the Holy Spirit, the guidance of the scriptures, and the nurture and fellowship of the church?

4

Do you accept the Book of Discipline of the Free Methodist Church, with its articles of religion, Membership covenant, and its principles for the lives of its members and the governance of the church?

5

As a follower of Jesus Christ will you embrace the mission of the Free Methodist Church within and beyond this congregation and will you join us in giving sacrificially of your time, talents, and resources to help us carry out that mission?

3 PRACTICES

The commitment of a Partner is meaningless if it's just words. Therefore, our partners are committed to the following three core practices,

1

ATTEND REGULARLY

Partners are present in the community. The mission and vision God has called us to are communal, so partners show up. We all miss worship occasionally; vacations, sickness, and unexpected needs happen. This is a part of life for us all, AND partners choose to make participation in weekly worship gatherings a top priority, often making hard decisions about what to say NO to so they can say YES to the mission.

2

PARTICIPATE ACTIVELY

Partners who are invested in the life and mission of a community do more than attend worship gatherings. They play an active role by serving, joining, signing up, and contributing. They are team players, not just spectators. Although each partner's contribution may vary depending on their talents, everyone is important, and no one is left out.

3

GIVE CONSISTENTLY

For many partners, the belief that everything they possess belongs to God is a guiding principle in their lives. This leads to a habit of sharing resources, but it goes beyond simple sharing. Partners prioritize giving by adhering to a consistent schedule that the community can depend on - not just when they feel like it. This regular obedience to scripture and the guidance of the Holy Spirit is the foundation of their giving.

OUR ROLES

EXPLORER

You are just getting started here. That's great!

ATTENDEE

Valley Chapel is your current church home and you make us who we are and we're glad you're a part of our shared community.

LEADER

God has invited you to lead a Team, Cause, Group, Event or Class so that others have the tools they need to grow in their faith.

PARTNER

You are all-in, formally and fully committed to the mission and vision.

ADVISOR

You have a specialized volunteer leadership role custom to your calling and gifting here at Valley Chapel.

LOCAL MINISTERIAL CANDIDATE

You've begun exploring whether you may be called into vocational ministry with our community.

CONFERENCE MINISTERIAL CANDIDATE

You are exploring with the Genesis Conference whether you may be called into ordained ministry.

DEACON

You are ordained and commissioned to serve as a part of the Pastoral Team at Valley Chapel.

ELDER

You are ordained and appointed by the Genesis Conference to lead the community at Valley Chapel.

LEADERSHIP

LEAD PASTOR

Appointed by the Genesis Conference, the Lead Pastor is the primary leader of our community and is responsible for guiding us in WORD (our understanding of and adherence to the scriptures), SACRAMENT (upholding the sacredness of the Lord's Supper and Baptism) and ORDER (organizing, guiding, and equipping the people of God to do God's work and build up the kingdom of God).

PASTORAL TEAM

Paid or unpaid LMCs, CMCs, Deacons, and Elders who give primary direction to the church's work.

STAFF

Paid workers who serve the church professionally in anywhere from part-time to full-time roles. These folks support the work of all the other leadership areas.

DELEGATES

Volunteer leaders who serve as liaisons between the Lead Pastor, the BOA, the Congregation, and the Genesis Conference.

BOA

The Board of Administration (comprised of only Partners) oversees the care of our Finances, Facilities, and Policies. They also are critical in the process of discerning who would be appointed as Lead Pastor.

PASTOR'S CABINET

This small but critical team of partners serves as advisors to the Lead Pastor with special regard to the care of our ministry Partners, Staff, and Pastoral team.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

This Team nominates partners who can serve as Delegates, BOA members, and Pastor's Cabinet Members.

SHARING RESOURCES

Everything that exists belongs to God, including what we often consider ours (Psalm 24:1). The scriptures are clear that we own nothing; instead, we serve as stewards of God's possession (Genesis 2:15, 1 Corinthians 4:2).

We do not give to a needy God to earn his favor in our lives. Our God does not need our giving. Giving is instead for our sakes; God encourages us to give because it is in that act that we grow in our faith and trust in him. Therefore, Giving is best when it's done cheerfully, consistently, and intentionally.

"Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver." - 2 Corinthians 9:7

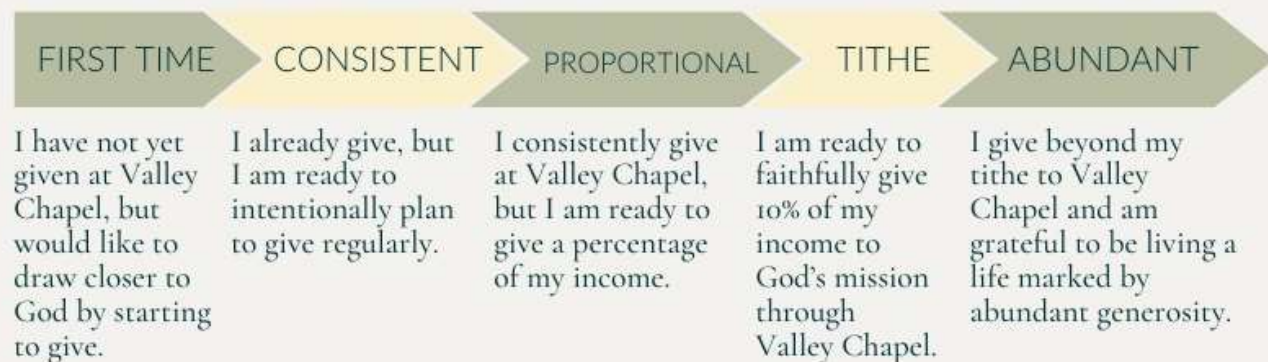
We are all at different places in our giving journeys, yet we are all being invited to continue growing as stewards and givers. The scriptures give us a key target to aim at, called the "tithe," meaning "10%". We are invited to return 10% of everything we earn back to God to be used for the good of his mission in the world through his Church.

"Bring the full tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. And thereby put me to the test, says the Lord of hosts, if I will not open the windows of heaven for you and pour down for you a blessing until there is no more need." - Malachi 3:10

As you consider your giving as a Partner in our community, we encourage you to:

LISTEN TO GOD Matt. 7:7-8 Prayerfully seek God's guidance as you consider.	EVALUATE Matt. 25:14-30 Consider all the resources God has entrusted to you	GET SPECIFIC 2 Cor. 9:7-8 Determine how those resources can be used for the Kingdom	WALK BY FAITH Mal. 3:10 Choose your plan and trust God to provide as you live it out
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DRAWING CLOSER TO GOD THROUGH GIVING



*If you would like to learn about giving out of your investments or consider Valley Chapel in your Estate planning, we have tools to help. Simply reach out to a Pastor for more info.

Valley Chapel is a part of the Free Methodist Church USA (FMCUSA)

Since its founding under the leadership of B.T. Roberts in Western, NY in 1860, The Free Methodist Church has spread into over 100 countries and has a global membership of over 1.2 million people. The FMCUSA alone covers over 40 countries and is led by three bishops who are elected by representatives from churches once every four years at the General Conference. Those same representatives also discuss and vote on changes to the guiding statements and policies as documented in the Book of Discipline (BoD). For more information about the FMCUSA and the Book of Discipline, visit fmcusa.org

Valley Chapel is located in the Genesis conference, which includes over 60 churches throughout Western and Central NY. Genesis is led by a Superintendent and exists to oversee, encourage, and equip churches and pastors in the work of ministry.

Each May, pastors and leaders from all over the Genesis region gather for the “Annual Conference” to do business and set policy, ordain new Pastors, as well as equip and encourage one another. Lead Pastors in the FMC are appointed by the Superintendent and Ministerial Appointments Committee and these appointments are reviewed and updated at each Annual Conference.

The governance and theology of Valley Chapel is rooted in the BoD.

This book also serves as a regulatory manual for all FMCUSA Churches and contains statements of belief for Free Methodists around the globe. As a connectional church, we believe that truth is best discovered in the context of community; therefore, our leaders and partners are expected to live, teach, and work within the guidelines of the BoD.

Partners carry a legal responsibility within the FMC and New York State.

At least annually, our partners gather for a “Society Meeting,” where they vote to elect volunteers to serve in key roles and consider the budget. Tracking our partners (or what used to be called members) is a requirement for us to maintain our 501(c)3 status in NYS

The Free Methodist Way

The Free Methodist Church is but one expression of Christ's Church on earth, but we feel it's important to articulate what makes our community unique. The following 5 values are the core of how we aspire to be as uniquely Free Methodist Christians.



Life-Giving Holiness

God's call to holiness was never meant to be a burden, but a gift that liberates us for life that is truly life by delivering us from the destructive power of sin.



Love-Driven Justice

Love is the way we demonstrate God's heart for justice by valuing the image of God in all men, women, and children, acting with compassion toward the oppressed, resisting oppression, and stewarding Creation.



Christ-Compelled Multiplication

The gospel of Jesus Christ — the message He proclaimed, the life He lived, and the ministry He modeled — set into motion a redemptive movement destined to fill the whole earth.



Cross-Cultural Collaboration

From the beginning, God intended to have people from every nation, culture, and ethnicity united in Christ and commissioned to carry out His work in the world.



God-Given Revelation

We hold unwaveringly to our conviction that the Bible is the inspired Word of God and our final authority in all matters of faith and practice.

FOR A SEASON

We live in a transitional world. People move, jobs change, life changes. For some, a day will come when Partnership at Valley Chapel is no longer a part of God's invitation for your life. This can be a hard season to communicate clearly as transitions often include ambiguity. We understand and we are here to help! What matters is that you transition intentionally. It's always wise to set up a meeting with a Pastor to discuss your transition so that your community can support you in the process. Depending on what is suitable for you, you have a few options when you can no longer, in all honesty, maintain your partnership commitments.

Transferring to/from another FMCUSA Church

This happens most often when someone moves. In most churches, the language of "membership" is used. As a Partner at Valley Chapel, you are a member of the FMUSA, so if you would like to start attending a different FMCUSA church, or if you are coming from one, you simply need to send us an email, letter, or even a phone call requesting that your membership be transferred to your new community. This normally takes less than 1 business day to complete.

Transferring to/from a non-FMCUSA Church

Whether your partnership with Valley Chapel will transfer to another church is dependent on the policies of that church. In most cases, it is best to inform us that you will be ending your partnership with Valley Chapel so that you can begin your journey in your new community. If you are coming from another Evangelical and theologically Wesleyan Church, we may be able to accept a transfer of your membership into our Partnership. These situations are best worked out with a pastor.

Becoming "Inactive"

When an active partner ceases to engage in all three core practices (attendance, participation, and giving) for more than 1 year, they are considered "Inactive." This means that they no longer count in our rolls, they no longer have a vote, and they can no longer serve in elected roles. You can always be reactivated after a review with a Pastor.

Ending Your Partnership Permanently

Sometimes God simply calls us in new directions. Whether it's merely a season where you can't in good conscience honor the promises and practices, or a season where you are leaving the community, know that we love you and desire to come alongside you. In these cases clarity is kindness. One meeting with a Pastor can help your community know where you stand and pray with you on your journey. You can always request that your partnership be ended via email, phone call, or letter as well.



Valley Chapel

Available in App Stores



Roku



Apple



Google

Fuel the mission





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