



# HOPE PARTNERS

If you regularly attend Door of Hope Christian Church, have accepted Jesus Christ as your Saviour, are growing in your Christian faith, and call Door of Hope your church and spiritual home, our hope is that you would become a Hope Partner.

The following is an explanation of what's involved...



Door of Hope  
CHRISTIAN CHURCH

[door-of-hope.org](http://door-of-hope.org)

# Hope Partner

A Hope Partner is someone who is both deeply committed to God and deeply committed to the Vision, Mission and Ministry of Door of Hope Christian Church.

## OUR VISION

To be a door of hope, through Jesus Christ, in a fragile and uncertain world.

## OUR MISSION

To be Jesus Centred, Others Focused, Together in Community

## OUR KEY VALUES

These are the spiritual values that underpin and inform the Vision, Mission and Ministry at Door of Hope Christian Church, and are listed in order of priority:

Praying

Inviting

Connecting

Growing

Becoming

Giving

A Hope Partner sees themselves as being in partnership with God and other people who are part of this local church. The purpose of a Hope Partner is to grow spiritually and to play their part in helping our church achieve its God-given Mission.

In the years ahead, we trust that many people who are involved in and become part of Door of Hope Christian Church will also become Hope Partners.

Our Vision, Mission and Ministry could be summed up in the simple idea that we want to become increasingly "Jesus Centred, Others Focused, Together in Community".

If we are Jesus Centred, Others Focused, Together in Community (MISSION) we will become a door of hope, through Jesus Christ, in a fragile and uncertain world (VISION). Because of this, Door of Hope welcomes people who are at any stage of their spiritual journey with Jesus, and particularly people who are exploring the idea of commencing this journey, or who are simply curious about God.

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For these reasons, not everyone who calls Door of Hope Christian Church their church, spiritual home or community of friends will be ready to become a Hope Partner straight away.

We believe being a follower of Jesus is not about religion, or following rules, but about growing a relationship with God through Jesus - getting to know Jesus, understanding what He has done for us, and putting Him at the centre of our lives. This is how we grow a relationship with God.

As being a Christian and growing spiritually is not about following rules, our Elders are reluctant to make a list of "qualifications to be a Hope Partner". We all know from experience that humans are not good at following rules consistently over a long period of time. In fact, that's exactly why the Son of God, Jesus, died on the cross and rose again! His righteous life paid the price for our sin (rule breaking) and makes it possible for us to have a relationship with a perfect God, despite our imperfections. This really is Good News.

Instead of making a list of qualifications to be a Hope Partner, our Elders have developed a list of guidelines for Christians wanting to become Hope Partners. Each guideline is based on principles of living in a way that honours our God. They come from the Bible, and we hope they will help remind each of us about living the best way possible - God's way - because it's best for us and shows our love toward God and each other.

The Elders invite everyone at Door of Hope Christian Church each year to pray over these guidelines, discuss them with others at Door of Hope and if they are ready, become a Hope Partner for the year ahead.

The decision to become a Hope Partner is about committing to honour God by choosing to live in this partnership each year. It is a solemn commitment to both God and Door of Hope Christian Church, which we will all struggle to keep because we are sinners (rule breakers). God's grace (unmerited favour) toward us, and the sacrifice of His Son Jesus who died to make up for our imperfections, will see us through and help us become more "Jesus Centred & Others Focused", if we continue to love and follow Him.

# GUIDELINES FOR HOPE PARTNERS

## 1. SPIRITUAL JOURNEY:

**We choose to actively follow Jesus; committed to continual growth, dependant on the Holy Spirit to be disciple makers.**

*"I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me." Galatians 2:20*

*"Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one gets the prize? Run in such a way as to get the prize." 1 Corinthians 9:24*

Our spiritual journey of discipleship is to become Jesus Centred, Others Focused, Together in Community. This is a personal life-long commitment to live life to the full by following Jesus and making disciples. It's about growing stronger in our relationship with Jesus and developing the disciplines of prayer and studying God's Word. Discipleship can be defined as: to become and behave like Jesus. We strongly recommend every Christian be baptised by full immersion as a part of their spiritual journey. We believe this to be an act of humble obedience following Jesus' example. A person should be baptised when they are ready spiritually and feel right before God to take this step.

## 2. MEETING TOGETHER IN COMMUNITY:

**Regular participation in weekly church services and communion, where the emphasis is more on giving than receiving – giving worship to God and friendship and encouragement to each other.**

*"Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another." Hebrews 10:25*

We believe in radically inclusive community where believers welcome non-believers and invite them to accompany us on a spiritual journey with Jesus. Biblical Fellowship is being as committed to each other as we are to Jesus Christ. Only in regular contact with ordinary, imperfect believers can we learn real fellowship and experience the New Testament truth of being connected and dependant on each other. The Bible says a Christian without a church home is like a sheep without a flock, or a child without a family (Ephesians 2:19). You are not in the Body of Christ on your own – we are His body.

### 3. SERVING:

#### **The Body of Christ needs you – exercising your spiritual gifts to build up the church.**

*"Try to excel in gifts that build up the church."* 1 Corinthians 14:12

We believe we will not grow to maturity just by attending worship services and being a passive spectator. Participation in the full life of a local church builds spiritual strength. As a participating partner you learn to care for others and share the experiences of others. Our serving extends beyond our church to our neighbourhood and to the world.

### 4. GIVING:

#### **Supporting our ministry and mission through tithing.**

*"Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse..."* Malachi 3:10

We believe that because God has redeemed us through the death of His own Son Jesus, all we are and all we have belongs to Him. On this basis the attitude of Christians toward giving should be to give generously of their money retaining only what is needed for their own and family needs. In terms of giving to the local church the principle of a tithe (minimum of 10%) of our income is consistent with both Old and New Testaments (Luke 11:42 & Matthew 23:23).

For the majority of us a tithe is something to guide us and exceed as God prospers us. Giving over and above the tithe may be directed either to the local church or further afield as God leads us.

### 5. CONTRIBUTE TO THE BIG DECISIONS:

#### **Having input and giving feedback in various ways to leadership.**

*"To the person who pleases him, God gives wisdom, knowledge and happiness..."* Ecclesiastes 2:26

We have a wonderful committed Eldership and Staff whose primary responsibility is to hear where God is leading us as a Church. Wanting to be wise leaders, the Elders wish to hear from individuals about how God is prompting and leading them, so this can be taken into account in the decision making process. We have vision planning meetings, forums, surveys and feedback opportunities to help us as a church make decisions together.

# GUIDELINES FOR HOPE PARTNERS

## BASED ON THE IDEA OF COVENANT...

Each year special opportunities to become a Hope Partner will be available and we will all be invited to renew or commence our commitment to be a Hope Partner for the year ahead. This commitment is based on the idea of "Covenant" which has its origin from the Ancient Near East, and was a binding agreement in which covenant members had certain obligations and could expect certain benefits in return. Through covenant, God continually called people back to the kind of life He intended for them. For example, God covenanted with Noah, Abram and with the people of Israel at Mt. Sinai, and eventually brought about a new covenant, available to all through Christ. What makes a covenant different from a simple binding agreement is that covenant implies meaningful relationship. In the Bible, covenant meant an agreement that lasted for life. At Door of Hope we recognise that a Hope Partner covenant may not be for life.

## IT'S AN ANNUAL COMMITMENT...

The role of members of Door of Hope Christian Church described in our Constitution will be the annually renewed list of Hope Partners. Prospective Hope Partners must be approved by the Elders before they can be added to the list of Hope Partners.

The Eldership reserves the right, if required, to remove individuals from the list of Hope Partners from time to time.

## VOTING...

Hope Partners will have certain specific responsibilities to do with decision-making before God about the future of Door of Hope Christian Church in terms of its property and leadership.

- On sale and purchase of property – Hope Partners will vote
- On appointment of Ministers and Elders  
Hope Partners will receive an invitation to give to give feedback as per Matthew 18 on any concerns they have about the candidate's appointment.

A general invitation from the stage will be made to the whole congregation to give relevant feedback as per Matthew 18 as well.

After considering any feedback in writing, the Elders will either put forward the candidate for Hope Partners support through voting or not.

Hope Partners will vote on the appointment of Ministers and Elders indicating their support or otherwise of the candidate put forward.

# DEFINITIONS

## MATTHEW 18 FEEDBACK

To help in the process, of appointing Elders and Ministers, we provide an opportunity for the whole congregation to contribute to the decision-making. From time to time the Elders will carefully select suitable candidates to join them as Elders for a 3-year term and carefully select suitable people to be appointed as Ministers for various periods. At Door of Hope, we teach the process as described in Matthew 18 as the Biblical way to handle any disagreement or conflict. If anybody has an objection to the appointment of any of these individuals, on the basis of their character or Christian witness, then they should go directly to the candidate concerned, in private, and express those concerns. If they are dissatisfied with the candidate's response, then they should write to the Elders expressing the concerns that they have already discussed with the candidate, so that the Elders can look into the matter prior to the candidates going forward for appointment. Any written expression of concern must be received by the Chairman of Elders.

## PLANNED GIVING

The 'Planned Giving' (Tithing - minimum of 10% of our income) program is also launched annually. Tithing is WHAT we do as a Jesus follower – Planned Giving is HOW we do

this. It is planned, prayerful, and consistent. People are asked to prayerfully plan what their tithe and other offerings to Door of Hope will be over the coming year, and make a promise between themselves and God to honour that plan throughout the year ahead.

**IMPORTANT NOTE:** You do not have to be a "Hope Partner" to do Planned Giving and you do not have to do "Planned Giving" to be a Hope Partner.

## WHAT IS A HOPE PARTNER?

The term Hope Partner describes how people who are committed to the life of Door of Hope can be fully involved in the Vision, Mission and Ministry God has given us. Your decision to become a Hope Partner signals to the Door of Hope family your desire to belong and contribute to this Vision.

## WHO IS A HOPE PARTNER?

A Hope Partner is a person who is developing in a growing relationship with Jesus Christ and expresses that through partnership with the Vision, Mission and Ministry of Door of Hope. It's a genuine partnership; not only with our finances but also with the mission God has given us. Hope Partners are loyal, faithful people who have a desire to see our vision of being a door of hope, through Jesus Christ, in a fragile and uncertain world, become a reality.

A door of hope, through Jesus Christ, in a fragile and uncertain world.



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