

Partner Weekend Retreat

Friday Evening, 6:00-8:15- Trust

Materials: name tags, pens, discussion questions on screen, communion elements- one set per table, reflective baptism/communion video with music, solo cups (four per table), string and rubber bands preassembled for each table, permanent markers

Dinner (30 min)- Retreat starts at 6pm with prayer and a light dinner of sandwiches, chips, etc. Participants will be sitting at tables and those tables will become discussion groups during the retreat. Ask them to wear name tags and during dinner have conversation starters displayed on a screen.

What do you like about being a Christian?

What expression of worship to you most enjoy?

What do you love about our community?

Lead Pastor (6:30) – The Past, Present, and Future- shares the story of how The Chapel began, a snapshot of the present, and a direction for the future.

Table Talk- What brought you to The Chapel? What do you love most about The Chapel?

Executive Pastor (6:45) - What is a Partner at The Chapel?

- A Partner is someone who commits to become more like Christ as we work together to accomplish God's work in our community and our world. Let's talk a little bit about how that looks at The Chapel:
 - God's vision- People becoming like Christ
 - Our Assignment- creating environments where people encounter God and fall in love with Jesus.
 - Our Process: Trust and Become : Talk about programs and ministries in the Trust area- three key questions: Trust Christ, Trust us, Trust others; Talk about programs and ministries in the Become area: a Worshiper, a Community, and a Missionary.
 - Because we care about your spiritual growth, we hope everyone will eventually get to the point where they are ready to partner with a body of believers, whether it's here at The Chapel or somewhere else. If you go through this retreat and don't think you're ready to take on this level of

commitment, that's OK! But we know that by participating in this retreat, you'll gain some valuable information about how to move forward in your spiritual journey.

- Lay Leader (7:00)- Let's explore the idea of partnership before we move forward. If you were to give me a definition of a partner, what would it be?
 - o A partner is... someone you share your life and/or business with
 - o A partner is... someone who shares in the risks and benefits of a joint venture
 - o A partner is... shared, ownership assumes they have total control- partnership is shared. This is one part of God's big church and he invites us to be a part of it, not own it
 - o A partner is... someone who complements and cooperates like in a dance partner
 - o Let's explore what partnership at The Chapel looks like...
Activity with partners to demonstrate teamwork and true partnership- First have people draw some faces on the cups with a sharpie marker to resemble people- 1 minute count down. Have 6 solo cups lined up in a row along the edge of the table. Have one rubber band tool on each table (a rubber band with 6 strings attached- enough stings so each person has one string to hold). Ask people to use their rubber band tool to move the solo cups and stack them into a pyramid. Explain that they can not use their hands or anything else to move the cups- only the rubber band tool! Continue until every table has successfully made a pyramid.

Debrief after the activity- It's going to take all of us working together in sync to grow spiritually, support our church through giving, and in sharing Christ with others. This weekend we'll explore in depth what it means when we say A Partner Becomes a Worshiper, a Community, and a Missionary.

Lead Pastor (7:10) Trust Christ, Trust Us, Trust Others- What kind of church is The Chapel?

- o Before we get into specifics of how we will accomplish our assignment and God's vision, let's take a look at The Chapel as a church.
- o We are a congregation of The United Methodist Church- How many of you are familiar with the United Methodist Church?
- o We are a connectional church- we are linked with other UMC congregations under the structure and oversight of districts, conferences, jurisdictions. That means we have parameters we operate within outlined in the Book of Discipline. This provides a safety net of resources and accountability for churches and pastors
- o Let's talk about what it means to be a Methodist-
 - We value a trained mind- We encourage you to always be learning and

growing. One of the ways we encourage this is by offering a variety of content small groups, biblically based teaching in children, youth, and adult ministries, and providing you with opportunities to deepen your faith at home with Drive it Home resources that extend what you've learned during our weekend worship services. I start planning every message with the question, "What do I want them to know?"

- We value a warm heart- Our worship should be full of emotion and our hearts full of praise. We provide opportunities for your hearts to engage during weekend worship through prayer, during weekly communion, and engaging worship music. When planning a message, the second thing I ask is, "What do I want them to feel?"
- We value active hands- The United Methodist church realizes that it's our job to help meet the social injustices of the world. Each month we pay money, called apportionments, to the denomination. Through these funds we support ministries around the globe. At The Chapel, we do this through ministries like Faithworks, Faithbridge, and the Ministry Resource Network. As a part of every worship service we plan, we also ask, "What do I want them to do?" We know that knowledge is useless without action.
- We value tolerant spirits- Let's read the Apostle's creed together (found in your participant's notebook). These are the core beliefs of the church- the foundation of our faith. These are the things we don't compromise on. Even though we do not compromise where truth is concerned, we are tolerant of styles and preferences in worship styles and methods of baptism. John Wesley said, "If your heart is as my heart, give me your hand." The last thing we ask when planning our messages is "How does the Gospel motivate our response? " We know that everything begins and ends with this important truth. There are three important requirements for Partners that are mentioned in the Apostle's creed: Salvation, Baptism, and Communion.
 - Salvation – Before you partner with us, we want to make sure you're part of the family of God. Salvation is admitting you're a sinner in need of God's grace. We've all fallen short of God's plan for our lives. We've walked away from Him and chosen to follow our own path. The next step is to believe that Jesus was who He says He was- God's Son who came down to earth to be take the punishment for our sins. He lived among us as both God and man, took the punishment for all the wrongs we've done through His death on the cross, and rose again. He is living and active in the world today and desires a relationship with us. The last step in the salvation process is to

confess your sins and commit to living for Him. Confession simply means you tell God that you need Him- that you don't have the power to make things right. Confession is asking Him for forgiveness and help in living a life that pleases Him. Salvation is the first requirement of being a Partner in Ministry at The Chapel. If this is a decision you haven't made and would like to talk about it, please see me after our class tonight. We really need to talk because this is the most important decision you'll ever make in life! If you have already made this decision, it's important for you to know how to share this plan with others to help them make this decision too.

- Baptism- "Baptism is an outward and visible sign of the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ" – the book of worship, p. 7. After you have accepted God's gift of Salvation, it's important to affirm that commitment through baptism. Because we have tolerant spirits, we aren't picky about the way in which people are baptized- it can be through sprinkling, pouring, or dunking! We also believe that it's appropriate to baptize babies, kids, or adults! The Methodist church baptizes babies as a sign that the parents will agree to raise them in the faith. Children and adults are baptized after they have made the decision to follow Jesus on their own. Baptism is an important step in your spiritual journey and it's declaring your intent to lead a Christ-filled life. The next step after baptism should be membership- that's why baptism comes as a part of our membership process. If you have not been baptized yet, we'll baptize you in two weeks when you join the church. Tomorrow before you leave, you'll fill out an information form that will let us know if you plan to join and need to be baptized.
- Communion- Communion is a way of remembering what Christ did for us. Here at the Chapel, we serve communion almost every weekend because we need a weekly reminder of His grace. Because we are a church of tolerant spirits, we don't require membership in the church in order to take communion and we don't mandate the way in which it should be taken. Here at TC, we usually take by intinction which means we receive the bread with open hands- not taking it, but receiving it as a gift. Serving communion is one of the ways you can serve others at The Chapel and it is truly one of the greatest blessings you will experience in ministry. Before you come to communion we ask you the following questions...
 - Do you love God?

- Do you seek the forgiveness of your sins?
 - Will you be an instrument of God's grace to others?
- Let's take a moment of reflective prayer and think about God's gift of salvation, our baptism covenant, and follow that up with taking communion.

Display the following questions on the screen during a time of personal reflection. Play instrumental music in the background:

Remember when you first heard about God's love for you?
Remember the first time you shared God's love with another?
Remember your baptism. Why did you choose to be baptized? Why are you choosing to be baptized now?
Remember Jesus' gift of salvation on the cross.

End this time by giving each table supplies for communion. Place the bread and the cup in the center of the table and ask people to serve communion to each other- the Table Leader starts by breaking off a piece of bread and placing it in the hand of the person sitting to their left, then offering them the cup. The person who was served then serves the next person as the cup is passed and everyone has received communion.

- Having the opportunity to serve communion is one of the most humbling and meaningful ways to serve at The Chapel. Now that you've experienced this opportunity I hope you'll consider joining our Communion Team.
 - Take a restroom break
- Associate Pastor (7:50)- What else do we need to know about The Chapel?
- We're growing smaller to grow deeper- We don't want to be a big mega-church. We want people who go to The Chapel to feel at home, like we're a small church. We do this through multiple worship services (talk about times) and focus on small groups. This provides a small-church feel for both adults and kids and helps people make meaningful connections with others. Our small groups provide an environment that fosters care and accountability- to be fully known and supported by others- even our youth and kids have the opportunity to engage in small groups!

- We are an Orange church- What happens at home is more important than what happens at church- on average, individuals (adults and kids) will only spend about 40 hours a year at church, but you'll have about 3,000 hours of free time each year (not including time spent at school, work, or sleeping. The Orange philosophy combines the color red (the heart of the home) with yellow- which represents the light of the world, the church to create orange- transformational change. We want to make sure that in the 40 hours you'll spend here at The Chapel, we are equipping you to make the most of your 3,000 hours at home. We do that through our family ministry newsletter, drive it home in the worship service and children's ministry, daily scripture emails, seasonal devotionals, articles in The Dirt, small groups that encourage you to keep thinking at home, etc. Before you leave tonight you'll have the opportunity to sign up to receive the scripture email or The Dirt, our weekly e-newsletter.
- Church Structure-
 - Church Board- we have a church board made up of volunteers whose job it is to make important decisions regarding the structure and direction of the church. Our church board members are listed in the notebooks in case you ever need to contact any of them with any suggestions or concerns.
 - Other Important Teams- HR, Trustees, finance, lay leadership
 - Staff - The staff provides environments and opportunities for partners to step up into ministry and leadership to do the work of the church. The staff's job is empowerment
 - Service Team Captains- Our volunteer teams are lead by dedicated team captains. These leaders shepherd and care for those serving on their teams as well as providing oversight of their ministry areas.
 - How decisions are made- Decisions at The Chapel are run through a decision making process. Any decisions requiring committee approval are submitted for approval and if necessary, a recommendation is submitted to the Board for approval. Your voice can be heard by speaking to staff or committee leaders directly and through attending Partner meetings and Charge conferences.
- We are a changing church- we value self-reflection and program evaluation. "We're going to do something a little different today" is a joke you'll often hear in the in the service. We don't change just for change sake- we are very intentional about our approach. Because our world is constantly changing and evolving, we want to make sure that we are constantly looking for ways to improve our ministries and make God's timeless Word relevant to the people in our community.

- We are an authentic community, open to accountability- When you agree to partner with The Chapel in ministry, you agree to be held accountable for living out the expectations of Partners: to be a worshiper, a community, and a missionary. This means we're going to keep tabs on your progress. It's not because we want to be nosy and get in your business. It's because we care enough about you that we'll walk with you through every stage and challenge of life.

Now that we've had the opportunity to share a little bit about The Chapel, we'd like to ask you three questions. Do you trust Christ? Do you trust others? Do you trust us? If not, then it would be best for you to keep coming and wait until you can answer "yes" to those three questions before you make the commitment to partnership.

Q & A with pastors and leaders (8:10)- We've given you a lot of information, now we want to hear from you. Are there any burning questions you have about the structure, vision, and ministry of the Chapel? (take questions from the group, then invite them to speak to you individually after this is over if they have a question they do not feel comfortable asking in the whole group)

Saturday Morning, 9-Noon- Become

Materials: name tags, pens, highlighters, makers, colored pens, instrumental music, Flip videos-out-takes and testimonies, servant leader testimony video

Lead Pastor (9:00)- Welcome back! At your tables take time to talk about the following questions: What do you love about being a Christian? What expression of worship do you enjoy most? What do you love about our community?

Yesterday we learned a lot about the DNA of our church- what we hope to accomplish and our approach and structure for getting this accomplished. We hope you've come to trust us, trust each other, and trust Christ. Today we're going to move beyond trust and focus on what we need to become. At The Chapel, we are less concerned with the number of partners we have than if our partners are becoming the people God intends us to be. Today we'll explore how a Partner becomes a worshiper, a community, and a missionary. Please keep in mind that these are not ways to earn God's love- we already have that! They are simply ways of opening ourselves up to the relationship with God that is freely available to us.

Let's explore what it means to Become a Worshiper.

- Worshiper-Associate Pastor (9:10)
 - Read Revelation 4:1-11. How do you feel when you hear this passage? The God who sits on that throne in Heaven in all His holiness and splendor is the same God we worship every weekend at The Chapel. How would it change the way we worship if we really believed that?
 - What is worship? The word worship is defined as, "The act of showing love and respect for God." It's ascribing "worth" to God. We need regular worship to keep life in perspective- to remind us that God is God and we are not. During worship services at The Chapel, we provide you with a balanced mix of opportunities for instruction and worshipful expression. We want you to learn about God, but more importantly, we want that knowledge to spur you to worship and praise God for who He is. When you miss a weekend worship service, your spirit misses the chance to connect with other believers who are all worshipping God with one heart and mind.
 - Group Discussion- What are the ways you encounter God through worship at The Chapel?
 - A partner in ministry becomes a participating worshiper.
 - Hebrews 10:24-25 says, "And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of

some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.”

Regular worship participation isn't about what you get out of it- it's what you put into it. When you aren't here, people miss you! What if your presence and encouragement was just what someone needed on a Sunday you decided to stay home? What if that friend you've been inviting to church for months decides to come on a day you aren't here? When you aren't here, you are missed... that's the bottom line.

- Regular attendance is crucial! Statistics tell us a “regular attender” only spends 40 hours a year engaged in discipleship programs at church. We expect our partners to exceed that. In order to truly be a partner, you need to attend regularly so you can stay involved with what's happening. We often teach messages in a series and we'll advertise and promote upcoming series in the church. Attending one or two weekends during a series is kind of like skipping around in chapters of a book- you don't get the complete picture of what's being said. If you need to miss a weekend due to illness or a conflict, don't forget you can catch up on what you missed through our online viewing on the website.
- Flip to the front of your notebook and find the page that says, “Partner Covenant.” Under the heading, “Become a Worshiper” write a personal goal for your worship participation.

- Senior Pastor (9:20) A partner becomes a Tither.
 - 2 Corinthians 9:6, “Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously.” At The Chapel, we want to be a people who demonstrate radical generosity. We want to Flip your understanding of giving and realize that it's something God wants *for* you, not something that God wants *from* you. When we talk about giving, we'll focus on two key areas of giving: Tithing and Serving.
 - Jay- Tithing- So go ahead and take a deep breath and slowly let it out. I get it... you're nervous... we're about to talk about money and it's scary. Let's see what some of our members have said about generous giving: <<play out-take video>>
 - Let's face it... It is hard to talk about money because people act funny when you start to talk about money. When we try, we stumble and fumble and fall, but it is so important that we need to keep at it until we get it right. Because the reality is our money is right at the heart of our spiritual formation. Jesus was totally about spiritual formation. He wasn't fund raising

to build a ministry. He didn't have a capital campaign. BUT he talked about money more than any other topic. He talked about money more than he talked about heaven and hell put together. The bible has a lot to say about the way we handle money and there is nothing that can free our heart more than managing well the resources that have been entrusted to our care so that we can become generous participants in God's work. So let's try this again. <<Video Testimony Clip>>

- We need to help FLIP the way we view generosity. God doesn't need your money. The Chapel doesn't need your money. Generosity is not something God wants from you. It is something incredible that he wants for you.
- Let's take a moment and look at some scriptures on giving and tithing to see if we can flip our view on money. We've included a passage from 2 Corinthians 9:6-15 in your notebooks. Take a moment to read it and highlight or underline any phrases that stand out to you in those verses. Then we'll talk about a few specifics.
 - V. 6- God wants us to give expectantly.
 - V. 7- He wants us to give cheerfully.
 - V. 8- He will provide what you need.
 - V. 11- Your generosity brings glory to God.
 - V. 15- Generosity is a correct response to God's gifts to us.
- What does generous giving look like? It starts with tithing. Malachi 3:10, "Bring the whole tithe to the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this, 'Says the Lord Almighty', and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that you will not have room enough for it."
 - What is a tithe? A tithe is 10% of your income
 - What should I tithe? The first part of what you earn.
 - Where should I tithe? Where ever you worship.
 - Why should I tithe? As an act of worship
- Tithing is just the beginning! God wants us to give generously over and above as people have need. Listen to what Luke wrote about the early church in Acts. Acts 2:42-47.
- How do I get started?
 - Figure out what percentage you are giving right now.
 - Figure out how much you will need to increase your giving to reach 10%.
 - Develop an incremental plan to reach 10% by a certain date.

- Flip to the front of your notebook and find the page that says, “Partner Covenant.” Under the heading, “Become a Worshiper” write a personal goal for your tithing.
- Associate Pastor- (9:50) A Partner becomes a praying worshiper
 - Colossians 4:2, “Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful.”
 - What is prayer? Prayer is simply an honest conversation between you and God.
 - Why should I pray? Prayer helps us connect with God and reminds us that He is the source of our strength, blessing and provision. Prayer puts things in proper perspective- it reminds us that God is God and we are not.
 - Praying for others- One of the most powerful ways you can support others is through prayer. Prayer is not just a casual conversation with a friend. It’s crying out to the Holy God of the Universe on behalf of someone else. It’s approaching the throne of God on behalf of someone else. We often underestimate the power of our prayers. Make sure you take time to pray for others during your daily prayer time. We have a prayer list here at The Chapel that goes out once a week with prayer requests that were submitted in the weekend worship services. This will help you know of specific people who are in need of prayer. You can also make your own list of people to pray for in a personal journal- keeping track of their requests and celebrating as you see your prayers being answered.
 - Flip to the front of your notebook and find the page that says, “Partner Covenant.” Under the heading, “Become a Worshiper” write a personal goal for your prayer life.
 - We’re going to take some time right now to pray. Please take a moment to talk about any prayer requests you may have among the people sitting at your table. Write down these prayer requests in the margin of your notebook. We’ll also give you the list of our weekly prayer requests. After you’ve had time to talk about prayer requests in your groups, I’ll give you time to pray for the people sitting at your table and those on the list. We’ll all pray out loud at the same time, and then after a while I’ll close us in prayer.

10:10- **Take a snack and restroom break- have bottled water, coffee, fruit, cheese, etc.**

- Lay Leader (10:20)- Partners become a Community- Let’s explore how we can become an authentic, growing community. Look around you in this room. How many perfect people

do you see? None! We are all imperfect people pursuing a relationship with a perfect, holy God. Because of our own flaws and imperfections, we will fail others and others will disappoint and let us down. It's human nature. Without Jesus, we're all lost causes. Because of the nature of human relationships, it's important that we not just pursue friendships *with* other Christians, but to pursue Jesus *together as* Christians. When we make Jesus the focus of our relationships, our own imperfections and flaws aren't center stage and we're able to discover what true, authentic community is like because we let Jesus set the tone of our friendship. Let's take a look at what an authentic community looks like.

- We're going to spend some time in our groups here learning what Christian community is all about. Your table leader will take you through some exercises that are designed to help you reflect and grow in your relationship with God and others.
- Home Church Soul Care Format
 - Group Leader prays an introductory prayer
 - Lectio Divina- Acts 2:42-47 (20 minutes)
 - Read- Listen as your group leader reads the passage slowly and reflectively. Let God's Words sink into your heart.
 - Meditate- Read the passage silently on your own, reflecting on the context and meaning of key words
 - Pray- Using your journal, turn this passage into a personal prayer.
 - Contemplate- How is the Holy Spirit prompting a response in your heart? Where is God moving through this scripture?
 - Soul Care (15 minutes)
 - When has God used authentic community to touch your life?
 - What relationships in your life right now are authentic, Christian relationships - where you give someone else permission to speak truth into your life?
 - What holds you back from fully trusting others in authentic community?
 - How can your conversations go deeper than just surface level concerns and move toward soul care?
 - Group leader or one of the group says a closing prayer (5 minutes)

We want each of you to become a part of this type of community- a group of believers that supports each other, encourages each other, cares for each other, and is willing to speak the truth with love. As a matter of fact, it's so important that your participation in one of these community groups is part of our accountability process. We want to make

sure you're having encouraging and difficult conversations with someone who can help mold you into the person Christ is calling you to be.

We call this type of accountability group, Home Church. It's church around the table and we're going to ask each of you to be a part of one! We'll be starting some new Home Church groups and we're asking each of you to get involved in one. Home Churches meet regularly in a small, intimate environment. If you are already a part of a tangled/huddle group and you'd like to adopt the home church group format, please let us know. If you have a few people you'd like to start a group with, please let us know that as well- we want to help train a leader for your group in order to make sure you're being supported and challenged throughout the year.

If you don't already have a home church, we'll help you connect to a group that fits you.

- Flip to the front of your notebook and find the page that says, "Partner Covenant." Under the heading, "Become a Community" write the names of the people with whom you are currently doing "home church." If you do not have a home church group, please leave it blank so we help you get connected.

- Volunteer Coordinator- (11:10) A Partner Becomes a Missionary

- So what happens when you have reached the point where you're trusting us as a church, trusting others, and trusting Christ? You've become a worshiper and you're in a community group. Have you reached the pinnacle of your faith? Are you good to go... ready to sit back and relax? Not exactly! Remember the environment that others worked hard to provide for you while you were learning to trust? Remember the worship services, the family ministries, the outreach events, and the care ministries you took advantage of in that trust building phase? Well, as partners have the opportunity to help provide those trusting environments for others. This is where you become a missionary.
- Partners become Serving Missionaries- Are you aware that there are over 300 individuals that volunteer on our weekend service teams over the course of one month? 170 of those people serve in children's ministry alone! The amount of volunteer power that it takes to pull off a full slate of weekend worship services is astounding, but what a blessing for the people who have the opportunity to encounter Christ through serving our church in this way.
- Did you know that most guests who come to our church decide if they'll be back within the first 10 minutes of coming to The Chapel? What do they experience in the first 10 minutes? (ask for answers from participants) They probably haven't

- heard the music yet and they definitely haven't heard the message. You are the first face of The Chapel and you have a direct impact on whether or not they'll be back.
- Let's talk a little bit about serving at The Chapel. Ephesians 4:11-12 says, "It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, to prepare God's people for the works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up."
 - At the back of your notebook you'll find a Service Teams Handbook. Let's flip through this handbook and learn about how to plug into service at The Chapel. (Breeze through the information in the book- highlighting the general guidelines and expectations, grievance procedures, safe sanctuaries and job descriptions.)
 - Flip to the front of your notebook and find the page that says, "Partner Covenant." Under the heading, "Become a Missionary" write the name of the service team in which you will serve or are already serving at The Chapel.

Director of Missions/Outreach 11:30)- Finally, we ask Partners to become Speaking Missionaries

- You can become a speaking missionary by sharing your story- Let's take just a moment to share your faith story. Consider the answers to these questions and share the answers to one or more of them with the people at your table: What was your life like before you began a relationship with Christ? How did you recognize your need for Him and accept His gift of forgiveness? What are some ways you've seen God work in and through your life? What is one Bible verse that has been meaningful in your life? How has your relationship with Christ changed your life?
- Why do you think it's so hard for us to share our faith story with others? The decision to follow Christ is the most important decision you'll ever make. If you saw a friend going through something difficult that you could help with, wouldn't you give them advice? Your story has the power to change the trajectory of someone's life. By seeing how God has worked in your life, others begin to understand and see how He can work through their own lives.
- You can become a missionary through your actions. Did you know that your actions can also speak loudly? Matthew 5:14-16 says, ""You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven." Many times the best way to share your faith is through your actions. When you lead a Godly life and make choices that honor God, these actions shine like lights in a very dark sin-filled world. Jesus said

- that the purpose of our light is not to bring glory to ourselves, but to shine a spotlight on Christ- the source of our strength and peace. Your actions speak volumes about your character and what is important to you. Make sure you lead your life in a way that you point people toward the source of your light- Christ.
- You can become a missionary by inviting others to church- As a partner, we hope it's easy for you to invite others to come to church with you. We want you to be proud of our church and eager to share it with others.
 - There are many ways to invite someone to church with you. Here are some suggestions if you're looking for a great way to help your friends get plugged into what's going on here at The Chapel.
 - Celebration Events- these events are the perfect time to invite friends who don't typically associate with church!
 - Small Groups- Attend with a friend! These groups are formed with the purpose of providing an entry point to the church and an opportunity to meet Chapel people.
 - Worship Services- It's helpful to invite people to church at the beginning of a new series so they don't miss a thing. It's harder for new people to feel connected when they come in the middle of a series.
 - Hang Out- Before inviting guests to church, simply invite your friend to spend time with you and some more Chapel friends. That way when you invite them to church with you, you won't be the only one they know.
 - Service Opportunities- Help people become a part of something bigger than them! It helps put them in the right perspective to receive God's gift of salvation.
 - You can become a missionary by sharing the gospel. You don't need us to do that! In fact, there are people in your life who won't come here but they will listen to you because they love and respect you.
 - Flip to the front of your notebook and find the page that says, "Partner Covenant." Under the heading, "Become a Missionary" write the names of three people you commit to intentionally pointing toward Christ. If you do not have names to put here yet, please be in prayer that God will reveal someone who needs to know Him.

Senior Pastor- (11:45) Accountability Structure

So let's talk about what it means to invest in each other as we live out this Partnership. As we discussed yesterday, a partnership is a relationship where all parties share equal responsibility. Part of that responsibility is entering into a relationship where all parties are open to investing in each other through accountability.

- We will be accountable to you. We want you to be on the lookout for areas where we might be straying from our assignment- creating environments where people encounter God and fall in love with Jesus. When you see something that causes you concern, please raise your “red flag” and bring it to someone’s attention. If you hear anything being talked about inside or outside these walls that is something we should know about or address, please bring it to the attention of the appropriate staff member or leaders we talked about yesterday. We want you to be on the lookout and help us head off trouble before it becomes a problem. We promise to listen to your concerns.
- We expect you to be open to accountability from us. You’ve identified some goals on your Partner Covenant Page. As partners, we need to work together to hold each other accountable so we can all work toward God’s ultimate vision for The Chapel: people becoming like Christ. One of the ways our leadership is committed to help accomplish this vision is through accountability. If we don’t see you in worship for a few weeks, we want you to know that you’ve been missed. If you’re not involved with small groups or Christian community, someone may call and ask if there is a way we can get you plugged in. If you’re not giving, I may call and ask what changed in your life that’s not allowing you the opportunity to give. We don’t want you to be surprised by this accountability- we want you to expect it and feel supported by it. It’s not that we want to get in your business, it’s because we care enough about you to follow your spiritual growth and get down and dirty in the trenches with you as we all strive to be more like Christ.
- Deactivating your partnership- We also realize that there may be a time in the future where you think being a partner at The Chapel is too much. Maybe you find a different church that suits you better or you’re going through a time in your life where you’re unable to fulfill the expectations of the covenant. Please contact us and let us know. We will be happy to deactivate your membership for a season and allow you the time and space you need to work out what’s going on. This partnership is an on-going relationship- not a one-time legal contract.
- Annual Renewal- Each year in January you’ll have the opportunity to renew your covenant and commitment to be a Partner at The Chapel. We’ll ask you to complete a self-assessment, which will allow you to take a look at your spiritual progress this last year and make goals for the upcoming year.
- Covenant- Let’s go back to the covenant page at the front of your notebook and find the section that says, “Accountability Covenant.” Please take the time to check the box that says, “I will hold The Chapel accountable for fulfilling its assignment, “to provide environments where people encounter God and fall in love with Jesus.” I will bring my concerns to the appropriate person in leadership and refrain from

gossip and airing those concerns outside the church walls.” Next check the box next to the statement that says, “I agree to allow The Chapel to hold me accountable for living out the key expectations of partners. I realize this is done out of a spirit of love, not judgment, and will ultimately help me fulfill God’s vision for our church, “people becoming like Christ.” I realize that I can deactivate my membership if there is ever a time I feel unable to fulfill these key expectations.”

Associate Pastor- (11:55) Congratulations! You’re almost official partners of The Chapel! We’ll need for you to complete an information sheet with details for our church records and we’ll need to know whether or not you’ve been baptized. In two weeks we’ll baptize any of you who have not been baptized and all of you will stand in front of the church at the service time of your choice and take your partner vows. On your form you’ll indicate which service time you’d like to attend.

Don’t turn in your covenant sheet right now! We want you to take it home and continue to think and reflect on your responses. Prayerfully consider your goals and challenge yourself! Please turn in your information sheet today before you leave, but bring your covenant back with you when you join the church in two weeks.

Pray and dismiss.