

# WHAT IS A PARTNER?

## Short Answer:

An adult who chooses to commit themselves to serving God by serving the other people of Warnbro Community Church.

This person seeks to formally and publically be identified and united with the mission shared by the other committed parts of this Body of Christ.

Partnership is the vehicle for this commitment.

## Want More?

**ROMANS 12:4-5**  
**4 JUST AS OUR BODIES HAVE MANY PARTS AND EACH PART HAS A SPECIAL FUNCTION, 5 SO IT IS WITH CHRIST'S BODY. WE ARE MANY PARTS OF ONE BODY, AND WE ALL BELONG TO EACH OTHER.**

## All In...

- All who confess that Jesus Christ is their Lord...
- And all who believe that Jesus is the risen savior...
- Are a part of God the Father's gift of salvation...
- And are also a part of the earthly family of believers called the Body of Christ.

The Body of Christ is made up of all who believe, from all over the earth, for all time. So in this way we are all a part of the Body of Christ.

**SEE ROMANS 10:9-10 AND 1 COR. 12:12-27 FOR MORE ON THAT IDEA.**

## Local

However, if we are to experience the benefits of being connected to the Body of Christ, we will need to be connected to a local body of believers, a committed collection of Christians called the "church".

When we are connected to a local church, we are able to share in the blessings of the other parts of the Body of Christ as we also share in the work of encouraging and equipping one another as part of Christ's body.

**SEE EPHESIANS 4:1-16 FOR A GREAT STUDY ON HOW GOD DOES THIS WORK IN US.**

## Commitment

When we are ready to commit ourselves to this great work of helping each other grow into maturity it is appropriate for us to make a formal gesture of our faithfulness to those that we are entrusting with our own spiritual development.

There are many ways that this commitment may be expressed.

The way that the people of Warnbro Community Church have chosen to express their commitment to one another is to choose to become a formal Partner in the church.

## Next

Next you will hear more about what is expected of those who take on the commitment of being a Partner within the church body.

# WHAT IS EXPECTED OF A PARTNER?

## Short answer:

A Partner commits to actively support the work of the Body of Christ by seeking the best for all others in the Body.

To this end a Partner actively serves in, participates in, and supports sacrificially the work of the church.

## Want more?

**JOHN 13:34-35**  
**34 SO NOW I AM GIVING YOU A NEW**  
**COMMANDMENT: LOVE EACH OTHER. JUST AS I**  
**HAVE LOVED YOU, YOU SHOULD LOVE EACH**  
**OTHER. 35 YOUR LOVE FOR ONE ANOTHER WILL**  
**PROVE TO THE WORLD THAT YOU ARE MY**  
**DISCIPLES.”**

## Mission

Jesus Christ gave to the church the command to love one another.

This love is meant to mirror the love Jesus has for each person in his church.

While we might struggle to show love and grace to one another to the same extent that Christ has shown us love it is a great thing to have this command as our mission.

## Unified

This commandment illustrates one of the most important expectations that the Lord has set for his followers.

This is the expectation that we will seek to be unified in our core purposes and values.

**SEE JOHN 17:20-26 TO HEAR HOW  
JESUS PRAYED FOR THE CHURCH  
TO COME TO COMPLETE UNITY  
WITH ONE ANOTHER.**

## Shared

To this end, it is important to clarify that unity in the church of Jesus Christ is not about blind obedience or mindless agreement with one another.

- Unity in the church is centered around our shared confession that Jesus Christ is Lord.
- Unity in the church acknowledges our shared values and beliefs on those issues that are essential to the Christian faith.
- Unity in the church gives freedom and forbearance to others when dealing with differences on issues that are not essential to the Christian faith.

## Engaged

Therefore, one of the most important expectations for a Partner of Warnbro Community Church is...

To seek Christ honouring unity in the church by being actively engaged in the totality of the church.

## Expectations

To be clear, a Partner is expected to demonstrate this active engagement in the following ways:

- **Actively serve and support the objects of the church.**  
(See the section on Beliefs and Values for more.)
- **Contribute sacrificially to achieving the goals set by the Board.**  
(See the section relating to Leadership for more.)
- **Commit to be physically present in the work and ministry of the church as often as is practicable.**  
(See the 1:1:1 principle for more.)
- **All Partners are to attend Partner Meetings as is practicable.**

## Sacrificial Support

One of the ways that the Partner actively serves and supports the work of the Body of Christ is through the sharing of resources with the other parts of the Body of Christ.

### **CORINTHIANS 9:7,12**

**7 EACH PERSON SHOULD GIVE WHAT THEY HAVE DECIDED IN THEIR HEART TO GIVE, NOT RELUCTANTLY OR UNDER COMPULSION, FOR GOD LOVES A CHEERFUL GIVER.**

**12 THIS SERVICE THAT YOU PERFORM IS NOT ONLY SUPPLYING THE NEEDS OF GOD'S PEOPLE BUT IS ALSO OVERFLOWING IN MANY EXPRESSIONS OF THANKS TO GOD.**

### **HEBREWS 13:16**

**16 AND DO NOT FORGET TO DO GOOD AND TO SHARE WITH OTHERS, FOR WITH SUCH SACRIFICES GOD IS PLEASED.**

## Support

- Together we are able to advance the mission of the church...
- Meet the needs of those within the community of faith...
- And be a force for good outside the limits of the physical church.

It is expected that a Partner will eagerly desire to support the mission of Warnbro Community Church as they prayerfully give what God has placed in their heart so that the Body of Christ may flourish in all ways.

## Example of 10%

Following the example of the tithe (See Deuteronomy 14:22-23, Numbers 18:21-32 for more) the leadership of Warnbro Community Church has decided to model what this type of sacrificial giving should look like.

To this end, the church at large sets aside 10% of all offerings and donations given to the general mission of the church.

This "tithe" is then used to support those outside the church community who are engaged in the mission of fulfilling the Great Commission (Mathew 28:18-20).

This mission work is generally referred to in the church under the World Changers banner.



## Example

You can find out more about this mission support by speaking to any of the church leadership.

This example of sacrificial giving is set for the church with joy and it is the hope and prayer of our leadership that all will prayerfully consider following in this same manner.

## How to Contribute

If you are ready to participate in the ministry of supporting your church through the giving of your financial offering then the following information will help you get started.

If you have any further questions, please contact the church office. 9593 2133 or email: [info@warnbro.org.au](mailto:info@warnbro.org.au).

## General Offering

- Money given into this account goes to supporting the overall mission of the church.
- 10% of each dollar given here is set aside and given to support missions outside the church.

**Account name: General**  
**BSB: 036 074**  
**Account #: 370690**

## Building Fund

This fund is used to provide direct support for the physical structure of the church building.

These monies cannot be used to support staff or general ministry but are essential to helping the church body have a place from which to work.

Money given into this account can offset your taxable income so long as you communicate the following to the financial officers at the church:

Your name, address, phone number, and amount given.

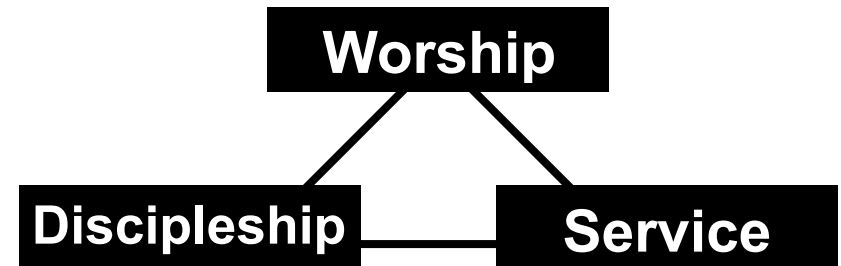
**Account name: School Building Fund**  
**BSB: 036 074**  
**Account #: 406569**

For more information please contact the church office at 95932133 or [info@warnbro.org.au](mailto:info@warnbro.org.au).

## 1:1:1 Principle

One of the expectations placed on all Partners of the church is that of active involvement in the life of the church.

To help clarify what this active involvement looks like in real life terms we offer to the Partners the 1:1:1 Principle.



The idea is that all who are able in the church should seek to:

- **Worship**  
Attend in person one of the corporate worship and teaching services offered by the church weekly.
- **Service**  
Serve regularly as a committed part of a ministry team.
- **Discipleship**  
Be a committed member of a Life Group or some other small group ministry in the life of the church.

### **Good Goal**

While some will have the time and energy to contribute more, others will struggle to accomplish all elements of the 1:1:1 Principle.

This is why this principle is given as a goal that all Partners in the church are expected to work toward.

For help in finding a place of service or a Life Group to attend...

See the info desk during the weekly worship and teaching services or speak to one of the ministry staff.

## **WHAT ARE THE QUALIFICATIONS TO BECOME A PARTNER?**

### **Short answer:**

A Partner must be an adult who has publically professed their faith in Jesus Christ and who is committed to supporting the values, beliefs, and mission of the church as expressed by the leadership of the church.

## **Want more?**

### **Adult**

We love all the parts of the Body of Christ regardless of age.

But in this case, it is best that we limit Partnership to those who are able to act on their own behalf.

When the younger parts of the church body turn 18 years old, they are welcomed to make this formal commitment in their own name and by their own hand.

### **Public Profession**

#### **ROMANS 10:9-10**

**9 IF YOU OPENLY DECLARE THAT JESUS IS LORD AND BELIEVE IN YOUR HEART THAT GOD RAISED HIM FROM THE DEAD, YOU WILL BE SAVED. 10 FOR IT IS BY BELIEVING IN YOUR HEART THAT YOU ARE MADE RIGHT WITH GOD, AND IT IS BY OPENLY DECLARING YOUR FAITH THAT YOU ARE SAVED.**

### **Confession**

Confession of our faith is one of the most important and most empowering acts that we can undertake as Christians.

At Warnbro Community Church we believe that every believer in Jesus Christ has been called by Christ to confess their faith openly and publically.

## Baptism

We also believe that every Christ follower should seek to follow the example of Christ and make this confession through full immersion water baptism.

**SEE COLOSSIANS 2:9-15 FOR AN  
AMAZING TEACHING ON THE  
GIFT OF SALVATION  
AND THE ROLE OF BAPTISM  
IN ILLUSTRATING THIS GIFT.**

### Welcomed

Any believer in Jesus who is ready and willing to take this step of faith is welcomed to do so under the leadership of the people of the church.

### Others

While we believe that this form of baptism and confession is in line with the example and teaching of Christ and therefore good for every believer...

- We are aware that other Christian traditions seek to fulfill the call to confess one's faith in other ways.

### Equivalent

If you are a confessing follower of Christ and believe your past expression of this public confession to be equivalent to the call of baptism then the other parts of the Body of Christ will join with you and support your confession.

If you desire further discussion on the meaning of baptism or on the meaning of whatever form of public confession you experienced in the past please do not hesitate to contact the ministry team.

**Committed to supporting the  
values & beliefs...**

## 7 Values of the Church

As a church we want to keep focused on these seven core principles or values. They are our "product" and our "core business" as the Body of Christ.

Consequently, we want to make sure that every person in our family of faith has access to these essential elements of our mission.

### Corporate Worship

Every person in the church should have the opportunity to join with others in worship of God the Father.

### Biblical Literacy

Every person in this family of faith should have the opportunity to grow in their understanding and application of God's word.

The goal is to have each part of the Body of Christ engaging with God's gift of the Word as a matter of personal importance.

### Pastoral Care

Every person should be under the care of other Christians.

We are called to uphold one another, to love each other, and to place others ahead of our self.

Everyone in the church should be receiving and giving pastoral care to others in this church.

## Personal Spiritual Growth

Ephesians 4:11-16 clearly calls the church to be about the business of equipping the members of the body of Christ to be growing into spiritual adulthood or maturity in Christ.

We want to be a people who are growing deeper and wider in our relationship with Jesus Christ.

## Growing Christian Relationships

Fellowship is a fancy way to describe how believers in Jesus grow closer to one another. We want to provide our church with opportunities to meet and befriend other members of this church.

## Invitational Evangelism

We all have a calling to share the reason for the hope within us (1 Peter 3:15), but we do not all know how to do this with everyone around us.

So we want to help increase God's glory by increasing the number of believers in Jesus Christ.

We want to provide times of clearly evangelistic outreach to which our church may invite their friends and family members.

## Service to Our Community

As a church we need to remain an outward facing Body of Christ that seeks to follow the leadership of Christ as we serve the people around us in our community with the love and message of God.

# Statement of Beliefs

It is impossible to record all that a follower of Christ believes in a short list such as this.

Even if we were to reprint the entire Bible at this point we would still need more space to explain how the truth of God's word applies to our lives and how we are to organize our thoughts about God as a result of its message.

**So please approach the following as a starting point only.**

## THE TRINITY

We believe there is one God in whom there are three equal Divine Persons, revealed as the Father, the Son, and the Holy spirit, and who of his own sovereign will created the heaven, the earth and all that is contained within the universe both seen and unseen.

*(Matt 28:19; Jn 1:18, 14:11, 15:26; 1Cor 8:6; 2Cor 13:14; Gen 1:1,2; Jn 1:2,3)*

## THE SON

We believe Jesus Christ is the eternally existing, only begotten (not created) Word of God, the Son of the Father, conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary.

As God, he became a human being and dwelt among us. As man he was God.

*(Jn 1:14; Jn 1:2; 5:26; Matt 1:18, 23-25; Phil 2:7,8; 2Cor 5:19; Jn 11:27)*

## **THE FALL**

We believe all people are in a fallen, sinful and lost condition (eternally separated from God).

In this state all people are helpless to save themselves.

Anyone who does not accept by faith the work of Jesus Christ will not be included in the promise of eternal life with Christ.

As such, all who reject the gift of Christ will be separated from the gift of eternal life.

*(Rom 3:23; Rom 3:9-12; 5:12; Gen 3:11-13;  
1 Cor 15:22; Rom 5:16-18;  
Matt 13:40-42; Rev 10: 12-15)*

## **CHRIST'S DEATH**

We believe Jesus Christ died for all sins, was buried and rose again. He appeared to people, then ascended to his father, where he intercedes for the human race.

*(Rom 5:6,1; 1Cor 15:3-8;  
Rom 8:34; Heb 7:25)*

## **SALVATION**

We believe that salvation from the penalty and consequence of sin is found only through the substitutionary death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

We believe that salvation is a free and everlasting gift of God to be received by faith, and cannot be earned through good deeds.

*(Rom. 1:5,5-9:1, 1 Pet. 1:3;  
Rom. 3:28; 5:1; Titus 3:5; Is. 64:6)*

## **THE HOLY SPIRIT**

We believe in the Holy Spirit who convicts of sin and reinforces righteousness in and through the minds of the repentant believer in God.

It is the Holy Spirit who leads us toward Christlikeness and empowers us with the Gifts of the Spirit for the service of the church.

*(Jn 16:7,8; 1 Thess 1:5; Titus 3:5,6;  
Ac 2:38; 5:32; Eph 4:7,8,11-13;  
1Cor 12: 27-31; Gal 5:22,23)*

## **CHRIST'S RETURN**

We believe that Jesus Christ will return and will bring about the full consummation of the kingdom of God.

We eagerly look forward to this day but work to share the love of Christ will all possible until the completion of this unknown time.

*(Ac. 1:10,11; Matt 16:27;  
1 Thess 4:14-17; 1 Cor 15:23,24)*

## **LIFE AFTER DEATH**

We believe that those who have recognised and rejected their personal sin and who put their faith in Jesus Christ, will receive the promise of resurrection and will be included in the eternal kingdom promised by Christ.

Those who reject the gift of grace through Jesus Christ will be resurrected to receive the reward of their rebellion, namely, eternal separation from God.

*(Phil 3:21; 1 Cor 15:42,43; 1 Thess 4: 16,17;  
Matt 13:40-42; Rev 20: 12-15)*



## **SATAN**

We believe that there is a spiritual opponent of God's faithful who goes by the name of the devil, or the accuser, or Satan.

This enemy has been defeated by the work of Christ and will face eternal judgement at the conclusion of all things.

We also believe that this enemy, though defeated, is still able to accuse and oppose the church today.

*(Jn 8:44; 1 Jn 3:8; 1 Peter 5:8-9,  
Rev 12:9; Rev. 20:10-15)*

## **INSPIRATION OF THE SCRIPTURES**

We believe that God has shared with his creation a portion of his never-ending wisdom and truth in the words of the Christian Bible.

We believe that God used many means to communicate his truth that is now contained in the words of both the Old and New Testaments.

We believe that the words of the Christian Bible, in their original writings, are authoritative and true in all they intend to share.

*(2 Tim 3:16; 1 Pet 1:20,21; Deut 29:29;  
1 Pet 1:10,11, 2 Pet 1:20-21)*

## **CREATION**

We believe that all things were created by God as communicated in the book of Genesis, and that humanity was created in the image of God.

*(Gen 1&2; Gen 1:26,27; Col 1:16,17,  
Jn 1:3, Is 42:5; 45:12)*

## **THE CHURCH**

The church comprises all those who have recognised and rejected their personal sin and claimed Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour.

All believers are a part of the global church and owe allegiance to Christ as the head of this body.

*(Heb 12:23; Eph 1:22, 5:23,24,27,29; Col 1:18)*

The local church is the visible expression of this global body.

The local church is a community of believers who exercise the gifts of the Holy Spirit for the purpose of building the family of God on earth.

*(Philemon 2; Ac 14:23; Rom 16:5,16;  
1 Cor 14:12; Eph 4:15,16; 1 Cor 12:27-31;  
Eph 4:7,8,11-13; 1Pet 4:10.11; 1Cor7:7; 12:7)*

## **ORDINANCES**

We believe there are two ordinances instituted by Jesus Christ that every believer in Christ and every church of Jesus Christ should make a priority in their expression of obedience to Christ:

1. Baptism by immersion, as a public witness of faith in Jesus Christ. (Matt 28:19; Ac 8:36-38; 19:4,5)
2. The Lord's Supper - as a remembrance of Jesus Christ's death. (Lk 22:19,20; 1 Cor 11:23-25)

## **Committed to supporting the... leadership of the church.**

The leadership structure of Warnbro Community Church is relatively simple, with clear lines of accountability.

### **Board**

The Board is made of at least 6 people chosen by the church body to represent the church.

New Board members are submitted to the Partners of the church for a process of prayer and consultation and are added to the team after a process of ratification.

These people are the party that is legally responsible for the actions of the incorporated body known as the Warnbro Community Church.

The Board works with the Senior Pastor to help further God's mission for the church and to ensure that the core values are being promoted in all areas of the Body of Christ.

The Senior Pastor reports directly to the Board and works with the Board to set the direction and plans for the overall church.

### **Ministry Team**

These are the people charged with the responsibility and privilege of serving and leading the Body of Christ.

These ministry leaders are directly accountable to the Senior Pastor, and are reviewed regularly to ensure that the church is being effective in the use of God's resources.

### **Communication & Feedback**

Our leadership structure is open to feedback and communication from anyone in the church.

As appropriate, all are invited to communicate with any and all of the Board members or the ministry leaders at any time.

- Please know that all of those leading in this church do so with the knowledge that we serve the Lord by serving His church.
- This means that we are serious about wanting to serve you and your family.

## **WHAT ELSE DO I NEED TO KNOW?**

### **Conflict**

While we seek to love one another as Christ loves us, we recognise that even in the best of families there will always be the potential for conflict.

Conflict is not always a bad thing, because it can sometimes bring about significant growth, but we believe there is a definite biblical process for those occasions when we are in disagreement with someone else.

### **Biblical Approach**

Matthew 18:15-17 lays out some very simple and effective principles for dealing with conflict within the church.

The directive is for us to deal with people directly whenever we feel we have been offended, or if we feel that we might have potentially offended someone.

We would encourage people to deal with situations promptly and with an attitude of humility and concern, motivated by the desire to experience resolution, restoration and reconciliation.

At all times we encourage a forgiving spirit, knowing that we are imperfect ourselves, and acknowledging our own need for grace.

## **Dispute Procedure**

It is important to know that if anyone in leadership in the church is approached regarding a conflict situation they will be directed to follow the dispute procedure outlined in the Rules of Incorporation.

These Rules are available in the church office during office hours.

## **Resigning as a Partner**

A Partner may resign their commitment and be taken off of the Partnership Register by simply communicating this desire to the church office in writing.

## **Churches of Christ in WA**

Warnbro Community Church voluntarily associates with other likeminded Christian churches and organizations through an organization known as the Churches of Christ in Western Australia.

More information about this association can be found at:  
[www.cocwa.com.au](http://www.cocwa.com.au).

# **HOW CAN I BECOME A PARTNER?**

If you have read through the above information and feel that you are able to commit yourself to the expectations and standards of being a Partner of Warnbro Community Church, then the following application is for you.

Please fill out the following application.

Tear the application material from the booklet.

Give the application to the church office or place it in one of the boxes in the church facilities.

# PARTNERSHIP APPLICATION

Mr/Mrs/Ms First Name \_\_\_\_\_ Surname \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address \_\_\_\_\_ Suburb \_\_\_\_\_

Postcode \_\_\_\_\_ Home Phone. \_\_\_\_\_

Work Phone. \_\_\_\_\_ Mobile Phone. \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth / / \_\_\_\_\_

Date (approximate) of baptism: \_\_\_\_\_

Baptising church: \_\_\_\_\_

If you hold a different form of confession than baptism please explain below:

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## I am confirming that:

1.  I have made a public confession of my faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour.
2.  I have been baptised by a Christian church after making my profession of faith...  
 Or will immediately pursue being baptised by Warnbro Community Church...  
 Or I have a different form of confession of faith that I have explained above.
3.  I am in agreement with the WCC Statements of Faith and 7 Core Values.

## I am committing to:

1.  Making the people of Warnbro Community Church my family of faith.
2.  Praying for and supporting the Senior Pastor well as the Board and their families.
3.  Praying for and supporting our other church leaders and their families.
4.  Becoming someone who encourages, supports, and seeks outcomes that bring God glory and our church pride.
5.  Giving sacrificially of my finances to the work of Warnbro Community Church.
6.  Making the success of our church a priority as demonstrated in my attendance, attitude, willingness to serve in any capacity needed.
7.  Seeking to take ownership of my own spiritual purity, maturity, and growth.
8.  Being actively open and honest with each other about our struggles, successes, irritations, and joys.
9.  Actively seeking unity and to discouraging complaining and gossip regardless of its source.
10.  Seeking to resolve conflict in the church using the principles given in Matthew 18:15-17 and will submit to the help of the church leaders should this conflict create disunity in the church.

*Having read the Partnership Agreement, I am ready to indicate my support for the Church and the acceptance of the responsibilities and privileges that come with being a Partner of Warnbro Community Church.*

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

NEXT PAGE PLEASE

# **PARTNERSHIP**



**INFORMATION  
& APPLICATION**

**NOW YOU ARE THE BODY OF CHRIST,  
AND EACH ONE OF YOU IS A PART OF IT.  
1 CORINTHIANS 12:27**