



south
HARBORCHURCH

PARTNERSHIP PACKET

I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of **your partnership in the gospel** from the first day until now, being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus... And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ—to the glory and praise of God.

-Philippians 1:3-6; 9-11

Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it.

-1 Corinthians 12:27

At South Harbor, we believe in the importance of our partnership in the gospel. God calls **all people** to be a part of **one body** – His church. His people are then **equipped** and **invited** into **his mission** – to be their God, and for them to be his people. [Genesis 17:6-7, Revelation 21:3b] We are all invited to **partner together** with other believers in **seeking the Kingdom of God**.

As followers of the way of Jesus, we are invited to partner with other followers within the local church. Paul helped launch numerous indigenous expressions of the kingdom in local communities through people **gathered in worship** and **scattered in mission**. We are inviting you to **partner with us** at South Harbor as we seek to be the **church on mission** in our own local context.

Steps to Partnership

- Attend a Partnership Orientation (optional)
- Complete 4 studies.
- Complete Assignments from each study.
 - Faith Story
 - Small Group and/or Ministry Team Involvement
 - AssessMe.org Assessments
 - CompassPoints Assessment
- Agree to the 4 Partnership Statements.
- Complete the Partnership Information Form.

During the studies, you will be asked to journal your thoughts. These are for your use and will not be turned in. Journaling will help you to articulate your thoughts about each scripture and idea. By affirming the statements in each section, completing the assignments, and filling out the Partnership Information Form, you will have completed all the components of the Partnership Commitment. Simply return your Faith Statement and Partnership Information Form. Note, if you are completing these as a couple or family, each person should complete the assignments and turn in a separate Faith Statement. For more information, to ask questions, or to get clarification on any items, feel free to email us at partnership@southharbor.org.

We are thankful that you are a part of this congregation and look forward to our partnership in the gospel!

Your partner in the gospel,

Tom Elenbaas
Campus Pastor
South Harbor Church

I always thank my God as I remember you in my prayers, because I hear about your love for all his holy people and your faith in the Lord Jesus. I pray that **your partnership** with us in the faith may be effective in deepening your understanding of every good thing we share for the sake of Christ. Your love has given me great joy and encouragement, because you, brother, have refreshed the hearts of the Lord's people.

-Philemon 1:4-7

My Faith Story | Confessing Christ

“Very truly I tell you, no one can see the Kingdom of God unless they are born again...
...For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only son, that whoever believes in him will not perish, but have
eternal life.”
-Jesus, John 3:3;16

In John chapter 3, Jesus meets with a religious man named Nicodemus. Jesus is quite clear with Nicodemus that a person must believe in the son of God to have eternal life and be born again in order to see the Kingdom. This concept, of being “born again” or transformed or “converted” is key to being a follower of Jesus. Jesus asks the disciples to leave everything else and follow him. His great commissioning to disciples is to make more disciples, or in other words, to see more people have their lives transformed by the gospel of grace in Jesus Christ.

Reflect below or in a journal on what it means to you to be “born again” or to be transformed by the grace of Jesus.

Read the three parables in Luke 15. Each parable teaches from a different perspective about the love of a God who comes to seek and save the lost. The implication here is that before we were found, we were lost. Reflect below or in a journal on how lost you would be without God, or how lost you have been without him.

The Bible is clear about the importance of “going public” with your faith. [see Matthew 3:13-17, Matthew 5:13-16, and Acts 2:41 as examples] Christians are called to “go public” about our faith and allegiance to Jesus. This is called “professing” or “confessing” our faith. Paul speaks of this in Romans 10:9 – “If you declare with your mouth, ‘Jesus is Lord,’ and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.” This confession in the New Testament was followed or accompanied by baptism, a public demonstration of this new life.

Some of us have a dramatic conversion story from a life of darkness to light. For others, it is more gradual and less dramatic – but powerful, nonetheless. Some of us grew up with confessing parents;

others of us did not. Whatever the case is in your life, the profession of your faith in Jesus as both Savior and Lord – being born again – is important.

Reflect on your own story of rebirth and transformation in Jesus Christ.

Partnership Statement

I believe in my heart the God raised Jesus from the dead as my Savior and I **CONFESS** that Jesus is the Lord of my life.

Next Steps

If you have not made a public profession of faith or if you have not been baptized, we invite you to do so to publicly declare your commitment to Jesus. You can indicate on the Partnership Information Form whether you have made a public profession of faith and whether or not you have been baptized.

Assignment

We would like you to share your faith journey with us, using your own words. Please include past events that were significant in your faith journey and how you came to know God, and in particular, Jesus Christ. Please try to share what you believe about Jesus Christ and his impact on you personally. Don't rush this process, and don't pressure yourself. You can write your faith story, make a video, or meet with a pastor or elder one-to-one. Simply share from the heart and from your story - it is *your* story, after-all, and each story is unique. Include your story when you return your packet or request a meeting to share your story one-to-one.

My Faith Story - Additional Tips for Sharing Your Story

Spend some time in prayer thanking God for his love for you before you write, and ask for his leading as you tell your story. Think about major turning points, crises, and celebrations throughout your life and how God was present during those times. These are often indicators of God's work in your life. Take notes as you think through your story and make a list of things you'd like to include. Include people who have made an impact, important Scriptures, "aha" moments, moments of struggle, and times of joy. Put your list in chronological or some other order of significance. Develop an outline and then integrate each item into your story. Describe your journey with Jesus Christ and how it has changed through time. Write about how and when you came to understand God's grace through Jesus Christ and when you put your faith in him as Lord and Savior. That's your faith story!

Try this, too. After you've written the story, pray for and then look for the opportunity within the next couple of days to share that story with someone who has never heard it. You'll be surprised at the doors God opens for you to share your faith!

Life-Giving Relationships | Part of the Family

They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. All the believers were together and had everything in common. They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.

-Acts 2:42-47

For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the faith God has distributed to each of you. For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others.

-Romans 12:3-5

In the early church, one of the marks of being a Christian, or a Follower of the Way of Jesus, was the strong bond of community the early believers shared. These followers of Jesus shared life together, shared worship together, shared mission together, shared food together, shared prayer together, and they even shared their physical possessions together. These communities of encouragement, growth, challenge, and support were life-giving in all aspects. Relationships with other believers was a key characteristic of biblical communities of faith.

Reflect below or in a journal on what you think it means for a community of believers to be life-giving. What does a life-giving church look like and what are its key characteristics?

Reflect below or in a journal on the importance of relationships in your life. What relationships have been particularly life-giving?

If you could see the church become more life-giving in one area, what area would that be?

The body of Christ is kind of like a family reunion – each person brings a unique personality and quality to the gathering. The Bible talks about the importance of each person in the body in the make-up of the whole. What does your presence bring that will help the church become even more life-giving?

Partnership Statement

I agree to **CONNECT** by *partnering in community* through intentional relationships with others inside and outside the church.

Next Steps

At South Harbor we believe that influence happens through relationship. We are influenced by the others we are in relationship with, and we influence those with whom we have relationship. Your next steps in this area are to get connected to the community at South Harbor, and then to think about the people in your life that God may be asking you to make an investment to make an impact for his kingdom.

Assignment

Small groups are a high value at South Harbor and are the primary way to connect you to others. We value relationships, and we want you to have relationships with other Christians that are helping you to experience life-giving community and all that means. One of the best ways to do that is by joining a small group or ministry team. If you are not involved in a small group, that's your next step. Send an email to groups@southharbor.org or visit www.southharbor.org/groups to become a part of one now.

Life-Giving Ministry | Talents, Time, and Treasures

Read the Parable of the Bags of Gold in Matthew 25:14-30. Reflect below or in a journal your thoughts on this passage. If you were to place yourself in the story, which servant would you most resemble?

“...seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.”
-Matthew 6:23

Read about the body of Christ in 1 Corinthians chapter 12. This chapter talks a lot about different parts of the body. The body of Christ is kind of like a potluck – everyone brings something to the table, and these various gifts bless the whole group. The Bible talks about spiritual gifts, special talents, and unique callings. One of our values at South Harbor is participating in life-giving ministry. Not only do we have life-giving relationships, but we participate together to minister in a life-giving way to each other and to the world around us. What do you “bring to the table” that will help the church become even more life-giving?

The church is called to be on mission, and you are called to be a part of that vision. Your gifts, talents, passions, and calling are a part of the work that Jesus is doing in the world. Did you know that in Acts 17:26-27 Paul says that God determined the exact places we would live? We think that’s because he has particular ways he wants us to make an impact in our time and in this place. If you were asked to describe your Divine Design – your unique gifts and calling – how would you describe it?

“God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work... You will be enriched in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God.”
-2 Corinthians 9:8&11

Partnering in ministry goes beyond spiritual gifts and talents to all the ways in which we have been blessed. We sometimes refer to our *talents*, our *time*, and our *treasures*. God has gifted you not only with spiritual talents, but he has given you time and he has blessed you with earthly treasures. It is God’s intention that “...all peoples on earth will be blessed through you.” [Genesis 12:3b] This means that the giving of your time and treasures (see *FAQ on Giving* on the South Harbor Website) is also

important to the church. Reflect below or in a journal on what ways you give your talents, time, and treasures to the Lord through South Harbor.

Partnership Statement

I agree to **COMMIT** by *partnering in ministry* through my time, talents, and treasures inside and outside the church.

Next Steps

Giving time, talents, and treasures inside and outside the church usually means getting involved with a ministry team, or sometimes starting something new. There are many ways to use your gifts and support the work of the church as we seek to build up the body and influence the world. A next step for you would be to find ways to significantly invest your time, talents, and treasures.

Assignment

First, we want to help you get involved with ministry in and through South Harbor. The first step is to go to www.southharbor.org/assessments and participate in the first set of assessments there called “AssessMe.org.” This will help you to better discover what we call your “Divine Design” through 4 different tools:

1. ePersonality – Like a Meyers-Briggs or DISC personality profile, this gives an indication to the type of personality you have and how you interact with others.
2. Grace Gifts – This is a spiritual gifts inventory that helps to determine the areas that God has gifted you.
3. Leadership Style – This shows the type of leadership qualities you exhibit most naturally.
4. Skills – This helps us to know what kind of special skills you might have.

The unique combination of these areas helps you and us to find areas where you may be most effective as you give of your time and talents inside and outside the church. These are not tests, but ways for you and for us to learn more about how God has made you. After completing and returning the Partnership Packet, someone from the Connect Team will contact you to help you learn more about the ministry of the church and ways that you can invest your time and talents. Second, we want you to seriously consider your part in supporting financially the work of South Harbor Church. The Bible encourages a tithe of 10% to the local church to be used in its ministries, and additional offerings over and above that. You can learn more about how your tithe is being used as well as ways to give at South Harbor Church in the *FAQ on Giving* on the South Harbor website. If you are not at the place of giving a tithe, spend time with the Lord to determine where he wants you to begin. Begin to give as the Lord prompts you, and then watch how he is able to multiply and expand your giving.

Life-Giving Transformation | Spiritual Formation

“For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters.”

-Romans 8:29

“Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.”

-Romans 12:2

The Bible talks a lot about transformation and about being changed. In the first bible study in this Partnership Packet, we read about being “born again” and changed by the gospel. However, this doesn’t stop when we become Christians, and spiritual transformation is not a one-time event. Read what Paul says in Ephesians 3:14-21 about his prayer for believers.

In Galatians 4:19, Paul uses the phrase, “until Christ is formed in you.” This is a powerful phrase, and an amazing goal to pursue – to have Jesus Christ formed in us. Christian writer Dallas Willard says it this way, “Christian spiritual formation is the redemptive process of forming the inner human world so that it takes on the character of the inner being of Christ himself.” In other places, Paul lists what such a person formed to be like Jesus looks like.

The list in Galatians 5:22 is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control and in Colossians 3 he lists compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, patience, forbearance, forgiveness, love, unity, peace, thankfulness, admonishment, wisdom, and worship. Reflect below or in a journal upon how God has transformed you to be more like Christ since you’ve come to know him. In what ways would you like to be more like Jesus?

Partnering in transformation means that you are not only open to be changed by the gospel, but that you are seeking to be transformed by the renewing of your mind, and that you wish to be conformed to the image of Christ – that you want to change. But more than that, it also means you are willing to help others change to be more like Jesus. Reflect below or in a journal on people in your life that have helped you be more like Jesus.

Partnership Statement

- I agree to **CHANGE** by *partnering in transformation* through a life-giving impact of the gospel in my own life and in the lives of others.

Next Steps

Intentionality is something that is often a problem for many of us. The distance between belief and transformation is intentionality. Your next step is to do something intentional to participate in how God is changing you and changing others through you. This might be committing to specific spiritual practices,

getting a mentor, or being a mentor. For additional help in being more intentional, email change@southharbor.org to connect with a mentor or spiritual guide help you with some next steps.

Assignment

Find out where you are currently in your spiritual journey through the CompassPoints Assessment. You can find it at www.southharbor.org/assessments. It's a simple spiritual formation assessment that can help you discover areas of strength and growth in your spiritual. This can be helpful as you seek to be intentional about next steps in growing spiritually. There are many tools available to help in your spiritual journey, but probably the best is to meet with a mentor or spiritual guide. For more information, send an email to us at change@southharbor.org.

Partnership Information Form

4 Partnership Statements

Partnering with South Harbor involves first a belief in Jesus Christ as Savior and allegiance to him as Lord of your life. It also involves an agreement to deepen your personal life in relationship to the church body and your influence with those who are far from God. The following, then, are the 4 Partnership Statements from the 4 Bible Studies you have just been through, and we ask you to affirm in order to become a Partner at South Harbor Church:

- I believe in my heart the God raised Jesus from the dead as my Savior and I **CONFESS** that Jesus is the Lord of my life.
- I agree to **CONNECT** by *partnering in community* through intentional relationships with others inside and outside the church.
- I agree to **COMMIT** by *partnering in ministry* through my time, talents, and treasures inside and outside the church.
- I agree to **CHANGE** by *partnering in transformation* through a life-giving impact of the gospel in my own life and in the lives of others.

Last Name: _____ First Name & Middle Initial: _____

Signature _____ Date ____-____-____

Have you made a public declaration of your faith (often called "profession of faith," "confession of faith," "confirmation") in a Christian church? ____ Yes ____ No ____

Have you been baptized? ____ Yes ____ No ____ Adult ____ Infant

Would you like to be baptized or learn more about being baptized? Yes No

Are you currently involved in a small group? Yes No

Are you currently serving within the church? Yes No

Gender: ____ Male ____ Female

Are you currently a member at another church? If so, what church:

Home Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Home Phone: _____ Mobile Phone: _____

Birthdate: ____ - ____ - ____

E-mail Address: _____

Marital Status: ____ single ____ engaged ____ married ____ divorced ____ widowed

If Married, Anniversary Date, including year:

Other Family Members Attending South Harbor Church:

Name: Gender: ____ Male ____ Female Has child been Baptized? Yes No Birthdate: Current Grade in school: Current School:	Name: Gender: ____ Male ____ Female Has child been Baptized? Yes No Birthdate: Current Grade in school: Current School:
Name: Gender: ____ Male ____ Female Has child been Baptized? Yes No Birthdate: Current Grade in school: Current School:	Name: Gender: ____ Male ____ Female Has child been Baptized? Yes No Birthdate: Current Grade in school: Current School:

Any additional information you would like to share:

Return faith story and Info page to South Harbor by dropping them off at Connecting Point, or mail to:
South Harbor Church, 1951 – 64th Street SW, Byron Center, MI 49315