

PARTNERS IN LEADERSHIP

Program Overview



Our world needs more models of healthy adult roles and relationships. Specifically, Christian leaders today are becoming more and more of a minority. Not all that long ago, relational apprenticeship or mentoring was the chief learning process in our society. We want to recapture that strength. We believe that powerful personal connections can create a relational glue that can bond our current generation to the previous generation and to the next. This will foster more stability and harmony and less isolation in an increasingly complex world.

WHAT IS A “PARTNERS IN LEADERSHIP” RELATIONSHIP? This is a comfortable but intentional servant leadership partnership between a mentor and a co-partner. The goal is to pair a seasoned “lead partner” Christ follower with a “co-partner” Christ follower to encourage mutual relational investment of spiritual, practical and emotional growth. Same gender relational pairings are optimum in most situations.

WHAT IS A “LEAD PARTNER”? A lead partner is a person with a wealth of life experience and a heart for investing in another to help that person grow as a leader in Christ.

Characteristics of a LEAD PARTNER:

- A teachable spirit (John 13:12-17) Are you able to model that spirit of being a lifelong learner to a co-partner? Are you willing to learn things yourself from your co-partner?
- Servant leader (Philippians 2) Are you able to humbly serve your co-partner? Is there any part of mentoring that you might be too proud to do or share?
- Honest discernment (Ephesians 4:15) Are you able to speak the truth in love? Are you willing to help identify areas for growth as well as celebrate progress?
- Motivated by God (Colossians 3:23) Is your motivation to lead pure? Do you have desires of self-promotion or other ulterior motives?
- Time commitment (Matthew 5:37) Are you willing to be consistent with this commitment? Can you say “yes” to this even though it may mean saying “no” to other things in the future?
- Listening and encouraging (Galatians 6:2) Are you willing to be an active listener and encourager? Are you willing to pay close attention to what God is doing in someone’s life and then encourage them?

WHAT IS A “CO-PARTNER”? A co-partner is someone with a heart for Christ who would value the time invested in them and then would eventually invest that same kind of time in others.

Characteristics of a CO-PARTNER:

- A teachable spirit (John 13:12-17) Do you want to change and grow in your life? Are you able to hear “coaching” and put it into practice? Are you willing to share your own ideas?
- Motivated by God (Colossians 3:23) – Does your motivation to be mentored come from God (not from self-promotion, people pleasing, or just because you like a particular leader)?
- Time commitment (Matthew 5:37) – Are you willing to be consistent with this commitment? Can you say “yes” to this even though it may mean saying “no” to other things in the future?

WHAT’S NEXT? HOW DO I GET STARTED? Pray. Perhaps God has already placed someone on your heart that might be a potential match for this relationship.

Contact Brett Hurst at bhurst@mdpc.org or 713-490-0930. As MDPC staff liaison, he and his team will help identify the next phase as a mentoring relationship through conversations with both mentor and co-partner.

WHAT ARE THE PRACTICAL STEPS? Different types of partnerships in leadership will look different, depending upon the unique circumstances. However, we have put together a tip sheet resource of general guidelines and best practices to help encourage you in moving forward.

FURTHER QUESTIONS? Contact Brett Hurst at bhurst@mdpc.org or 713-490-0930.