

Partnership At Lakeside

We are excited to invite all people who say, "This is my church" to take a next step and consider being a Partner at Lakeside!



Membership is often more about the benefits you receive or the perks it provides. This is why we are intentional about what we believe is a better way of partnering together. **Partnership** is a significant step of faith, making a commitment to one another and with God for a common mission. It's far more about how we contribute, as partners, to the work God is doing in and through the local church. We invite people to partner with us and offer the opportunity to reaffirm their commitment **annually**. Doing so, creates an authentic experience to say—yes to this growing community of Jesus followers. Partners at Lakeside play a vital role in the direction of the church and called upon to approve an annual budget as well as significant hires, major decisions, and new ministry initiatives.

Why Partnership?

Partnership is a significant step of faith and one we invite you to prayerfully consider. At Lakeside, we believe it is about a commitment we make to one another to join God in God's mission to see more disciples among more populations in a more caring and just world. Partners play a significant and vital role in the leadership and support of the ministries that help us live into our mission and vision. In addition to regular support and participation in the life of Lakeside, Partners also influence and give input for decisions made by the Leadership Team of Lakeside, including annual budget and future pastoral hires.

Digital Partners

In a digital world, we recognize people who attend Lakeside through digital spaces. Digital Partners are those who also desire to partner with the mission and ministries of Lakeside. Digital Partnership is for those who desire to move from **spectator—to-participant**. Through online platforms and virtual gatherings, God continues to provide opportunities to create an authentic expression of His church—in a digital age. Digital partners influence and help provide future leadership for ways people experience Lakeside online. We value those who attend Lakeside online and digital partnership is a way to take a next step of commitment to the local church, in a digital age.

A Unique Expression of Church

What makes the Evangelical Covenant Church (ECC), the denomination Lakeside is affiliated with, unique and stands out from other churches is the fact that while we strongly affirm the clear teaching of the Bible, it allows followers of Jesus the personal freedom to have varying interpretations on theological issues that are not clearly presented in Scripture. You might hear the phrase around Lakeside, "major on the majors and minor on the minors." Another way to say this is; In essentials—unity, in nonessentials—liberty and in all things charity.

The ECC is guided by six affirmations: 1)The centrality of the word of God, 2) the necessity of the new birth, 3) a commitment to the whole mission of the Church, 4) the Church as a fellowship of believers, 5) a conscious dependence on the Holy Spirit, 6) the reality of freedom in Christ. More information about these 6-Affirmations and other position papers can be found at www.covchurch.org

OVER

Leaving a Local Church

People leave church communities for a variety of reasons and we get that. We are glad that you have found Lakeside to be a place where you have experienced God and found places to share life with others.

At Lakeside, we value relationships and seek to build a healthy Christian community. If you have left a local church, it's possible that your past relationships and or church experience can impact the way you experience community here. We ask, if you have recently left a local church to partner with Lakeside, that you would reach back to a pastor or church leader at your previous church to share with them about that decision.

What we know at Lakeside is when we carry with us unresolved conflict, pain or offense from previous communities, it often follows us and can impact how we are able to build meaningful relationships in a new church community.

If you have any questions, please contact Pastor Steve Anderson.

How We Do Relationships at Lakeside

We invite all those who partner together at Lakeside to honor one another in relationships marked by love and grace. The Behavioral Covenant at Lakeside helps us seek healthy relationships that edify one another and guide us through moments when we do not always agree or see things the same. Maybe you have experienced relationships in a church community that created pain or you bear a scar from what happened. At Lakeside, we aren't perfect and we won't pretend to be. We believe love, forgiveness and reconciliation are possible because of Jesus and pursuing authentic and healthy relationships is a high value here.

In the process of becoming a Lakeside Partner, each person is asked to engage and complete the Behavioral Covenant.