

# PARTNERS IN LEADERSHIP

## Best Practices and Other Things to Consider



**IS THIS A PROGRAM?** No, not at all. Instead, these partnerships are comfortable but intentional relationships that are designed to encourage spiritual and personal growth.

**HOW LONG IS THE COMMITMENT OF THE RELATIONSHIP?** We suggest either a 6-month or 12-month commitment of time. We also suggest meeting 1-2 times a month.

### **AS YOU SELECT YOUR PARTNER IN LEADERSHIP, CONSIDER THESE THOUGHTS:**

- Pray for the leading of the Holy Spirit. (Galatians 5:25)
- Consult Brett Hurst or Dave Steane (staff liaisons) for input on potential pairing. Let us know if you already have someone in mind and/or have already begun the process.
- Partners do not necessarily have to be MDPC members. The priority is that the relationship be logical and effective for mutual growth.
- Remember that confidentiality is key in these conversations.

**SCHEDULING:** Consider allowing the co-partner to have the scheduling responsibility for planning the times together. Of course, both partners should agree on when are the best times to visit together.

**INVEST IN A PERSON SPIRITUALLY:** You might choose a book to read together and discuss. It might be helpful to process emotions related to the content. Where in Scripture was someone involved in a similar situation? How does that apply to your situation? How is your prayer life right now? Be transparent in your conversations. From time to time, consider discussing the fruits of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22-23). Always remember that the Holy Spirit is the One who initiates and leads our growth. We follow. When you encourage a fellow partner to simply abide in Christ (John 15:1-8), both persons will likely begin to manifest the gifts of the Holy Spirit more noticeably.

**INTENTIONAL MINISTRY ROLES:** You might consider mentoring a servant leader in a key area, such as Men's Ministries or Outreach. If you have specific experience in that ministry area, develop the other person to become an effective leader that can also be trusted with certain leadership responsibilities. Transition stages in this kind of a relationship might look like this:

- |                        |                        |
|------------------------|------------------------|
| (1) I work, you watch; | (2) you work with me;  |
| (3) I work with you;   | (4) you work, I watch. |

**STAY CONNECTED:** Texts and emails can help deepen the partnership relationship and keep things on track. Meanwhile, let your staff liaison be aware of victories, struggles, and the direction of the relationship....maybe once a quarter. This can be helpful for added support.

**WHAT IF THE CHEMISTRY IS NOT THERE?** No process fits all people. In some cases, certain personalities don't "gel". In other situations, personal scheduling is just incompatible. Therefore, we suggest a 30 day "no harm, no foul" trial period. If a personal connection doesn't work, it doesn't work. If for any reason your pairing is not a fit, let us know and we can suggest an alternative situation.

### **WHAT IF WE COMPLETE OUR ORIGINAL TIME COMMITMENT AND WANT TO CONTINUE?**

Fantastic! But, at that point, you might each want to consider additional mentoring pairings, if personal time allows. Our culture is starving for quality relationships and for solid leadership encouragement.

**FURTHER RESOURCES:** [partnersinleadership.mdpc.org](http://partnersinleadership.mdpc.org)

**FURTHER QUESTIONS?** Contact Brett Hurst at [bhurst@mdpc.org](mailto:bhurst@mdpc.org) or 713-490-0930.