



DISCOVERING TRUE NORTH

A GUIDE TO PARTNERSHIP



Thanks for taking time to discover True North. Before you decide to partner with us, we want you to know who we are and what it means to be part of the True North family.

Partnership with True North is an important step in your spiritual journey. God places us in relationship with other Christians to be an active part of the “body of Christ”. By making a commitment to partnership with True North, you are indicating your agreement with God’s call to fulfill your role in that family.

The information in this booklet will fill you in on our background and foundational beliefs and goals. If you have any additional questions, feel free to contact me and I’ll be glad to discuss them with you.

God Bless,

Scott Wildenberg
Lead Pastor
(612)518-4124

WHO ARE WE

True North is one of several churches planted by the Fellowship of Evangelical Churches (FEC) throughout the United States. In 2005, leaders from a previous church plant in Farmington, MN came to Cannon Falls to meet with families interested in starting a new church, and in September of 2006 we began holding out weekly worship services.

At True North, we strive to be a family of people dedicated to living out our lives for Jesus Christ. The Bible is God's inspired revelation of Himself to us, and we are committed to letting His Word be our authority and guide. Our desire is to see people living satisfied, Holy Spirit-led lives filled with the hope, joy, love, confidence and purpose that come from knowing the forgiveness and new life available to us through Jesus Christ.

OUR ASSOCIATIONS

True North exists and is sustained with the help and guidance of our supporting organizations.



The Fellowship of Evangelical Churches.

Our denominational authority, the FEC is a community of church families committed establishing reproducing churches worldwide.

Address: 1420 Kerrway Court Fort Wayne, Indiana 46805

Phone:(260) 423-3649

Web: www.fecministries.org

National church planting director: Scott Wagoner, (260)423-3649 x308



The Real Tree Church is our “brother” church launching in Fall 2012. We have a commitment to planting new churches and have commissioned leaders from True North to establish this new church.

Address: PO Box 494, Castle Rock, MN 55010

Web: therealtreechurch.org

Lead Pastor: Shon McIntyre

OUR MISSION

We are a church on a mission. Jesus has given His people a job to do, and we want to engage in that work in everything we do as a church. Our mission as a church is to fulfill what is known as Jesus' "Great Commission" stated in Matthew 28:18-20:

And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age." (Mat 28:18-20 ESV)

In accepting this mission, we acknowledge that Jesus is the ultimate authority in heaven and on earth, and that He has given us the Holy Spirit to work within us and through us to empower us for the work of making disciples of Jesus Christ. We also recognize that God desires ALL people to know Him and live in intimate relationship with Him.

As we consider the unique character and desires God has established within True North, we have committed to fulfilling our personal mission of "sharing God's love and inviting people into a life-changing relationship with Jesus."

OUR MOTIVES

There are four primary motives for all we do. These are the “compass points” that guide our actions:

- New Life: we desire to see people experience a new life in Christ through forgiveness of sin and the building of a relationship with God.
- Walking together on the journey: We were made for relationship with one another, and we enjoy God’s journey best when we all engage in encouraging, teaching and sharing with one another as we go.
- Extending grace: God has shown us all immeasurable grace and love, and we desire to share that same kind of grace to all people we meet so that they are free to discover Jesus and give Him the glory.
- Serving in Love: As we serve God we want to serve with joyful hearts and love for God and one another.



THE PATH TO TRUE NORTH

The apostle Paul had this prayer for the Christians in Philippi, and in it we find a path for growth in Christ that includes strategic steps to take and measures of progress:

*This is my prayer for you: that your love will grow more and more;
that you will have knowledge and understanding with your love;
that you will see the difference between good and bad
and will choose the good;
that you will be pure and without wrong for the coming of Christ;
that you will be filled with the good things produced in your life by Christ
to bring glory and praise to God.*

Phil 1:9-11 (NCV)

Strategy

Loving: *“That your love will grow more and more.”* Jesus overcame sin through an act of love. God’s plan for dealing with the sin of mankind was not to let us remain condemned us for our sins, but to pursue us in love and give us the opportunity to respond in love. In order to understand and accept Jesus’ forgiveness of sins a person must first know the love of God.

Our first priority with any person building a connection with True North is to ensure they know what real love is; to know they are valued, accepted and welcome regardless of who they are, what they believe, or how they have lived their life.

In a world that is much more familiar with condemnation than love, we will go out of our way to exhibit God’s love toward people to help awaken them to who He is. We will also continue learning to set aside our own assumptions about people and view them as people God desires to know.

Growing: *“That you will have knowledge and understanding with your love.”* With a foundation of understanding God’s love, a person is able to commit their life to God and grow as a disciple of Christ. As a person gains knowledge and understanding from God’s Word in relationship with other followers of Christ, God transforms and purifies their life.

Measures

Success for True North is measured by seeing the results described in the second half of Paul's prayer.

Changing: *"That you will see the difference between good and bad and will choose the good."* With new knowledge from God, people will see the difference between good and bad. With trust in Him based upon knowing Him, they will begin to choose the good.

Our first measure of success is seeing people make new choices in the way they live based upon love for God and knowledge of Him & His Word.

Pursuing: *"That you will be pure and without wrong for the coming of Christ."* A person who has a healthy and growing relationship with Jesus will adopt new priorities for life. They will pursue holiness; being set apart to bring glory to God in all they do. They will express new desires for life motivated by their love for Jesus.

Leading: *"That you will be filled with the good things produced in your life by Christ to bring glory and praise to God."* As a person continues to grow in Christ and live for Him, they will bear fruit that brings further praise and glory to God. They will seek opportunities to exhibit and share the good things Jesus has produced in them so that others will have the opportunity to know Him, too.

WHY PARTNERSHIP?

Partnership is more than simply belonging to a church. It is an agreement between you and the current partners of True North to mutually support one another as we seek to know God more and fulfill the mission of the church.

God has made us for meaningful relationships with one another. We are meant to be part of a “body” of fellow Christians. The apostle Paul wrote in 2 Corinthians 12:12:

“For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body - Jews or Greeks, slaves or free - we were made to drink of one Spirit. For the body does not consist of one member but many.

God, in His infinite wisdom, arranges the parts of the body. When you partner with True North you acknowledge and accept that you have an important place in the True North body. When we partner with one another, we also recognize our need for one another:

“Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their work: If one falls down, his friend can help him up. But pity the man who falls and has no one to help him up! Also, if two lie down together, they will keep warm. But how can one keep warm alone? Though one may be overpowered, two can defend themselves. A cord of three strands is not quickly broken.” (Ecc 4:9-12 NIV)

Together we can be stronger in Christ, we can better help and protect one another, and we can encourage one another to do better and go further for God.

What are the requirements of partnership?

1. A partner must have made a personal commitment to Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior. If you have not yet made this commitment, we encourage you to consider it now. Being forgiven of our sins through Jesus' sacrifice on the cross and entering into a new life with Him, filled with the Holy Spirit is foundational to everything we are as a church, and is a vital relationship for all partners.
2. Partners must be in agreement with the statement of faith found at the end of this document. There are many varying beliefs within Christian communities today. While there is room for disagreement on some issues, it is important that we do have unity on certain essentials of the faith.
3. Partners must be willing to agree to the partnership commitments found on the next page. Partnership is a relationship built upon trust that involves commitments we make to you as well as commitments you make to the people of True North.

Partnership Commitments:

We, the leadership of True North Church, agree to:

1. Provide you with tools, opportunities & support to help you grow in your relationship with God.
2. Value you as a member of our family; being available to the best of our availability in times of celebration & need, and seeking to develop mutual love and trust with you as brothers & sisters in Jesus Christ.
3. Provide opportunities for you to discover and develop your personal ministry calling.
4. Be careful and faithful stewards of the financial gifts provided to True North Church.
5. Include you in discussions about major church decisions and in “partner” level church communications.

As a partner of True North Church, You agree to:

1. Regularly participate in weekly worship gatherings.
2. Seek out & take part in opportunities outside of Sunday worship to grow deeper in your relationship with God & with the people He has placed in your life.
3. Find ways to make use of the unique gifts & talents God has given you to enhance the ministry of True North Church & affect the lives of others for Jesus.
4. Give generously & joyfully out of the finances God provides you in order to practically exhibit your faith in His provision & support His work through True North Church.
5. Prayerfully share your experiences with others to help lead them into a closer relationship with God through Jesus Christ

CONTACT INFO

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www.truenorthcf.org

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Fort Wayne, IN 46805, 260-423-3649, www.fecministries.org

WHAT WE BELIEVE

The following statements express our foundational beliefs about God and mankind's relationship with Him. These statements are essential beliefs that we will seek to uphold in all situations. They are not merely statements of religious belief, but rather of what we believe to be true about the world we live in.

We also acknowledge that there are "non-essential" beliefs about which disagreements can exist without changing the fundamental foundations of our church. In these "non-essential" matters we seek to exhibit humility, charity, and acceptance of one another.

Let us therefore make every effort to do what leads to peace and to mutual edification. Do not destroy the work of God for the sake of food. All food is clean, but it is wrong for a person to eat anything that causes someone else to stumble. (Rom 14:19-20 NIV)

And a servant of the Lord must not quarrel but must be kind to everyone, a good teacher, and patient. The Lord's servant must gently teach those who disagree. Then maybe God will let them change their minds so they can accept the truth. (2 Tim 2:24-25 NCV)

The Foundation for Our Beliefs:

Jesus replied: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments." (Matt 22:37-40)

The Essentials We Believe:

The Bible We believe that the Bible is God's Word to mankind and is the supreme source of truth for Christian faith and living. The sixty-six books of the Old and New Testament were written by human authors under the supernatural guidance of the Holy Spirit. While reflecting the backgrounds, styles and vocabularies of the human authors, speaks with the authority of God.

“Above all, you must understand that no prophecy of Scripture came about by the prophet’s own interpretation of things. For prophecy never had its origin in the human will, but prophets, though human, spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.” (2 Peter 1:20-21 NIV)

We hold that the Scriptures are infallible, inspired and without any mixture of error in the original writings. They are the unique, full and final authority on all matters which they address. The Holy Spirit has guided the writing of these books and their preservation today as Holy Scripture. We are not at liberty to add or remove from them. (*Psa 119:105, 2 Tim 3:15-17; 2 Tim 1:13-14, 2 Pet 1:20-21, Rev. 22:18-19*)

“All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work”.(*2 Timothy 3:16-17 NIV*)

God We believe in the one and only true God who is Creator and Sustainer of the universe. God is self-existent, infinite, personal, unchangeable and eternal in His being. In His character God exhibits perfect holiness, justice, goodness, wisdom, truth and love. He is omnipotent, omniscient, and omnipresent. This one God exists and reveals Himself in three persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

We acknowledge that all we know of God is from what He has revealed to us and what we understand of that revelation. At present, we know only in part, but continue daily to seek greater knowledge and love of Him. (*Gen 1:1; Psa 90:2; John 14:6-7; Rom 11:36*)

Jesus Christ Jesus Christ is the Eternal Son of God who was born in the likeness of man. He chose to humble Himself to be born of a virgin through a miraculous conception of the Holy Spirit, without ceasing to be God. Demonstrating unity with the Father, He lived a sinless human life, and out of love for all mankind He voluntarily offered Himself as the perfect sacrifice for our sins by dying on a cross as our substitute. He arose from the dead after three days to demonstrate His power over sin and death. He ascended to Heaven where He reigns with all authority over heaven and earth and intercedes on our behalf before the Father. Jesus will return again to earth some day, personally and visibly, to consummate history and the eternal plan of God. (*Matthew 1:22,23; Matthew 28:18; John 1:14; Acts 1: 9-11; Phil. 2:5-11; Col 1:18; Hebrews 4:14-16; 1Peter 1:18-19*)

The Holy Spirit The Holy Spirit is co-equal with the Father and the Son of God. He is present in the world to make men aware of their need for a relationship with God through Jesus Christ. He enlightens the minds of sinners, awakens in them a recognition of their need of a Savior, and brings spiritual life to them. At the point of salvation, He permanently indwells every believer to become the source of assurance, strength and wisdom, and He uniquely endows each believer with gifts for the building up of the body of Christ – the Church. The Holy Spirit guides believers in understanding and applying the Scriptures. As Christians, we seek to live under His control daily, to exhibit Christ-like character, and to bear fruit to the glory of the Father. (*John 14:16,17; John 16:7-13,17; Acts 1:8; 1 Corinthians 12:13; 2 Corinthians 3:17; Ephesians 1:13, 5:17-21; Galatians 5:25; Hebrews 9:14*)

Human Beings Mankind was created by God as an intentional act of His will and in His image and likeness. We have been assigned by God the responsibility of care and authority over the earth. Humans find their greatest joy and fulfillment in accomplishing the purpose for which they were created: to glorify God and enjoy Him forever. (*Genesis 1:26-27, 2:7; Ephesians 1:5-6*)

Sin & Salvation Sin is willful disobedience to God's will resulting in our lack of faith in God's purposes and/or placing our own desires above God's. In the beginning, man and woman were given the opportunity show their love and trust in God through their obedience to Him, but instead chose to disobey. Through this original act of disobedience man alienated himself from God, and all of creation has suffered the consequences. Each of us possesses a sinful nature and is guilty of disobedience to God. The penalty for this sin is death, which Jesus freely took upon Himself so that we could be forgiven and restored to fellowship and eternal life with God. (*Genesis 2:15-17, 3:1-19; Isaiah 53:6; Romans 3:10-12, 5:8, 6:22-23; 1 John 1:8-10*)

Salvation is God's free gift to mankind. It is offered to all, but is individually received through repentance of sin and faith in Jesus Christ. Salvation is wholly a work of God's free grace, not the result, in whole or in part, of human works or goodness. Eternal life and the forgiveness of sins begins the moment one transfers their trust from themselves to Christ for forgiveness of their sins. Salvation is maintained by the grace and power of God, not by the self-effort of Christians, and when God has begun a saving work in the heart of any person, He promises to continue performing it until the day of its

completion. We are involved in this process by choosing to follow Christ, trust Him, and obey Him as our lives are transformed. If you have been genuinely saved, you cannot unintentionally “lose it.” (*John 1:12, 14:6; Roman 6:23, 8:38-39; Galatians 3:26; Ephesians 2:8,9; Titus 3:5*)

Human Destiny Mankind was created by God to exist forever. Death seals the eternal destiny of each person. For all mankind, there will be a bodily resurrection and a judgment that will determine the fate of each individual. Those who have rejected Jesus Christ are destined to eternal separation from God. Those who have personally trusted Jesus Christ will be received into eternal communion with God and will be rewarded for works done in this life. (*John 3:16; Romans 6:23; Matthew 25:44,46; Hebrews 9:27; Revelation 20:15*)

The Church The Church is the living Body of Christ on earth and at the point of salvation a person becomes a member of Christ’s Body – the Church. There is one true Church universal, comprised of all those who acknowledge Jesus Christ as Savior.

The Scriptures encourage believers to gather together to devote themselves to worship, prayer, teaching of the Word, and observance of baptism and communion as ordinances established by Jesus Christ for the purpose of fellowship, service to the body through the development and use of talents and gifts, and outreach to the world.

The ordinances of baptism and communion are regular practices of the church instituted by Christ to represent spiritual truths and serve as outward expressions of faith and obedience to the Lord. These ordinances are not a means of salvation, but provide necessary opportunities for the believer to re-evaluate their faith life, to publicly declare their devotion to Christ, and to build milestones into their lives that will strengthen and encourage them as they continue to grow in Christ.

Baptism is a public profession of faith in Christ in which the believer identifies with the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ through immersion in water. Baptism is separate from salvation, forgiveness of sin and the indwelling of the Holy Spirit; and should be administered after an individual has accepted Jesus’ sacrifice for the forgiveness of sin and received God’s gift of salvation. This is an expected step in the life of a believer out of obedience to Jesus’ command to “make disciples of nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,” (Matt 28:19), and in

following the examples of baptism set forth in Scripture by those who put their faith in Christ.

Communion, or the Lord's Supper, was instituted by Jesus for the purpose of remembering His life and the sacrifice He made for us. Communion is administered by the partaking of bread and the fruit of the vine. These elements symbolize Jesus' body and blood which were freely given for the forgiveness of our sins so that we may be restored to an unbroken relationship with God.

Through communion, each person has the opportunity to remember that although they fall short of God's glory, God has reached out to them in love by sending Jesus into the world. God sacrificed His son, Jesus, as full and complete atonement for our sins, and it is only by believing in Him and accepting this sacrifice that we can reconnect with God.

The physical elements of communion remind us that Jesus is fully God who humbled Himself to become man and live among us, who was raised from the dead, and is alive today. Finally, as a church we are reminded that through Jesus we are bound together as brothers and sisters through the Holy Spirit.

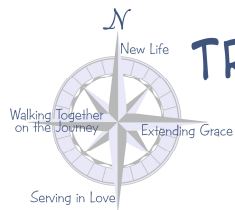
“And he took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, ‘This is my body given for you; do this in remembrance of me’. In the same way, after the supper he took the cup, saying, ‘This cup is the new covenant in my blood, which is poured out for you.’” (Luke 22:19-20)

“For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. (Romans 6:23)

Whenever God's people meet regularly, there is the local expression the Church. Under the watchful care of elders and the supportive leadership of deacons, its members are to work together in love and unity, intent on the one ultimate purpose of glorifying Christ. (Matt. 22:36-40, 28:19-20, Acts 1:8; 2:41-47, Romans 12:3-16, 1 Cor. 12:4-12, Ephesians 2:19-22; 4:11-13, Col. 1:18)

Faith & Practice Scripture is the final authority in all matters of faith and practice. We recognize that we cannot bind the conscience of individual members in areas where Scripture is silent. Rather, each believer is to be led in those areas by the Lord, to Whom he or she is ultimately responsible.

We believe this Statement of Faith to be an accurate summary of what Scripture teaches and is in agreement with the Articles of Faith of our parent organization, the Fellowship of Evangelical Churches.



TRUE NORTH CHURCH

***Come As You Are,
Leave Different!***