

CPR

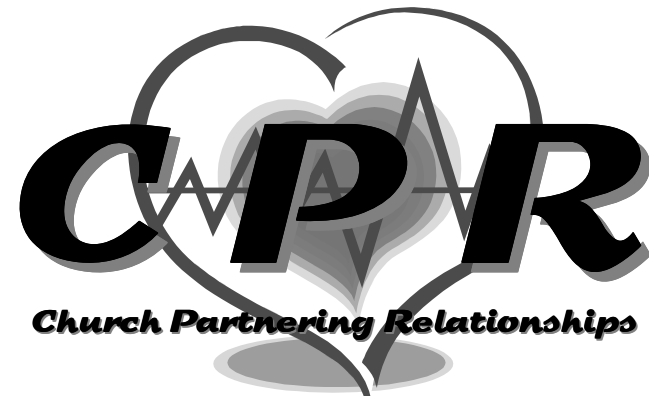
Church Partnering Relationships basic qualities

- 🔊 Caring: a proactive vision towards mutual edification
- 🔊 Praying: regular sharing of requests and initiatives that promote mutual prayer
- 🔊 Resourcing: embracing the mission of practical encouragement by outsourcing materials and personnel

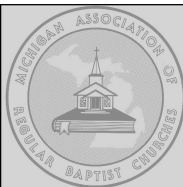
Church Partnering Relationships opportunities

Consider a sister church relationship with a ministry in another part of the state that would emphasize a co-operative partnership.

- 🔊 Sharing of ideas, prayer requests, and resources.
- 🔊 Send a missions team to help with a building, repair, or specialized project.
- 🔊 Send youth, singles, and other church groups to conduct DVBS, canvassing ministries, etc.
- 🔊 Share Sunday School and Bible study materials.
- 🔊 Share media resource materials.
- 🔊 Offer pulpit sharing opportunities for vacations.
- 🔊 Receive special offerings for the needs of the sister ministry.
- 🔊 Conduct a joint pastoral internship program to help train the next pastor for a church plant or sister church.
- 🔊 Add a sister church to the missions budget of the church.
- 🔊 Receive a 5th Sunday offering on behalf of a sister ministry.
- 🔊 Support mutual missionaries and missions projects.
- 🔊 Conduct joint mission trips.



“They glorify God for the obedience of your confession to the gospel of Christ, and for your liberal sharing with them and all men.” 2 Corinthians 9:13



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Jesus shares a mandate with His church in **Acts 1:8** – **“you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”** Initially, churches by necessity focus upon their **“Jerusalem.”** Several are effective in sending others to the **“end of the earth.”** Recent initiatives have brought greater effectiveness in sharing compassionate ministry in **“Samaria.”** To completely obey Christ’s **Acts 1:8** mandate it is imperative for the churches to effectively reach their regional geographic realm (**“Judea”**).

“Judea” for the churches in fellowship with the MARBC is the **State of Michigan**. We believe that it is critical for our churches to effectively reach and cultivate their **“Judea.”** This is accomplished in two important ways. First, the churches that are currently a part of the MARBC must be effectively strengthened and encouraged. Second, a strategic plan for church planting throughout Michigan must be designed and implemented.

Before new church plants can be widely propagated, current church plants, mission works, and established churches must be strengthened and united. This will be the focus of the MARBC fellowship over the next several years. The project title which encompasses this strategic plan is -

Church Partnering Relationships



The New Testament church model clearly encourages and endorses the partnering of churches for missional and regional objectives.

One particular case study that illustrates the importance of church partnerships is found in **2 Corinthians 8-9**. In this passage, the Apostle Paul addresses the critical financial need of the churches in Judea. He shares the heartwarming story of the churches of Macedonia, who in many ways were even poorer than the churches for whom the offering was being collected. Their work was noted as being gracious (**8:1**), liberal (**8:2**), over abounding (**8:3**), given with urgency (**8:4**), involved a gift and fellowship (**8:5**), and was personal (**8:6**). Paul later notes (**2 Corinthians 9:1-4**) that the Macedonians, among others, were personally involved in the collection and distribution of the gift being received. Paul uses the Macedonians’ example, among others, to challenge the larger and more affluent Corinthian church regarding the extent of their participation. In this story we find churches of all sizes and locations joining together in a partnering relationship.

It is in the same spirit exemplified by the Macedonian churches and the encouragement of the Corinthian church by the Apostle Paul to be emboldened by their example that we call upon this generation of MARBC churches and pastors. We encourage the pastors and members of each partnering church to reflect the glory and grace of Jesus through practical expressions of unity, partnership, and enrichment.

Church Partnering Relationships