

Defining Church Partnership Expectations

- Institute speakers:

We desire to expose our students to teachers who are informed, shaped, and guided by the nature of Christ's church and their service in respect to the Church. Pastors/elders will be presented with the opportunity to teach different sections in Institute depending on their availability and willingness to teach. The teaching during Institute consists of a two year curriculum that covers Systematic Theology year 1 and Bible Survey year 2.

- Identifying mentors within the church:

We want our students' involvement with their church to be their primary means of Christian community. One way this is emphasized is by pairing students that participate in Lightbearers Institute with a mentor from their church to disciple and care for the student during their time in college. This picture of mentorship also places an expectation on the student that they too will be a mentor to others as they grow in maturity in Christ. An ideal mentor would be someone who is a mature believer and been walking with the Lord for a longer period of time. This person would be able to provide wisdom and guidance to the student in their words and lifestyle.

- Hosting events whether on church campus or in homes:

As Lightbearers Starkville does not have a facility we desire for churches to partner with us in the use of their facilities and homes.

- The use of facilities would be limited to events such as: (1) the beginning of the semester Kickoff events, (2) Use of gyms, outdoor settings, or activity centers.
- The use of homes would be to provide a more relaxed and welcome setting for students to be exposed to areas of faithful Christian living such as: (1) marriage, (2) parenthood, (3) mentorship, (4) Service in hosting,

- Allowing for recruitment pitches:

Because our ministry relies heavily on word of mouth, we desire for the church to be part of helping share the vision and mission of Lightbearers to students who you believe would be a great fit and would benefit greatly from being a part of it. If there are opportunities for us to come and cast vision of who we are, we would love to share that with potential students.

- Hosting Institute:

As mentioned above, Lightbearers lacks a facility in Starkville. We desire to partner with churches to host Institute, our main gathering of teaching, which meets once a week (Currently on Mondays at 6 P.M.). Lightbearers goal is to disciple followers of Jesus into faithful church members. Hosting Institute at a church emphasizes Lightbearers submission and acknowledgement of the Church and its primary role in the Kingdom. That commitment would entail 13-14 meetings a semester and a room with access to a TV/Screen for teaching.

- What mission partnership opportunities are there:

Lightbearers disciples students and fund missions. We want to come alongside the local church in the support of their mission partners. Examples of this could be:

- i.e. – a student, who is a member of the church, could avail themselves to current mission partnerships the local church has in mission opportunities
- i.e. – what are local mission opportunities that Lightbearers could partner with that local church in.