

## **CrossWay ↔ Sweet Communion**

### **Church-to-Church Partnership**

#### **Goals, Intentions, & Values for Our Partnership**

By bringing two churches together – one from the northside of Milwaukee, one from the southside; one mostly black, the other largely white or non-black – we desire to embody the racial and ecclesial (church) unity that we have with one another in the gospel. We desire to do so, even as we find ourselves in one of America's most racially segregated city (Milwaukee, WI), and even as we serve in a time and place where racial tensions are increasingly high.

We live in a society and time in history in which many of our churches are still very racially segregated, at times even despite our intentional efforts to the contrary and what we ideally long to see. As these conditions persist, we nonetheless desire to take those steps within our grasp to express the church's unity amidst its diversity. One such means is a partnership between our two churches.

This partnership, however, is not intended to be a mere symbolic token of unity, but rather a very real, tangible means of practicing it. Often times those things that get highlighted in society and grab our attention are the big, glamorous, public displays. We're not dismissing or criticizing those things. Real meaningful growth, advancement, and transformation can at times result by means of such things. But although change can at times come from big moments like these, change always starts small. Often times, change is less glamorous, more tedious, and occurs over the long haul, requiring commitment in the day-in and day-out when things are no longer popular or trending on social media. And so, without dismissing the "big things" (we can engage in those too), we want to commit ourselves to the smaller, everyday sort of change – the sort of stuff that will continue on even after hashtags, online discussions, and the media frenzy subside.

We also believe that meaningful, lasting change often starts in the form of getting to know others, forming friendships, involving ourselves in the nitty-gritty of entering into each other's lives, being exposed to new perspectives and matters of concern, and allowing ourselves to be stretched. At times, this approach is admittedly harder, more time-consuming, and requires more commitment and more sacrifice. But we believe it's worth it.

And we believe the church is the best-equipped community on the planet for this very thing – with Christ as her Lord, the Spirit as her common gift, and the transformative, reconciling gospel as her foundation. In fact, the church is exactly where God has first and foremost designed this sort of transformation to occur. The church, we might say, is the epicenter of where God's world-revolutionizing kingdom is breaking into this world. It's where individuals are being united together – even to one another – and re-formed into citizens of the coming new creation.

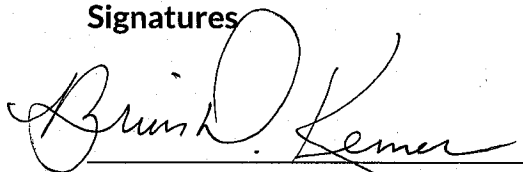
## Principles & Philosophy that are to Characterize Our Partnership

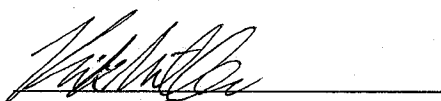
- The partnership will be mutual and reciprocal. We both have something to give to the other, and something to learn from the other.
- We expect to be stretched, and we will embrace this. We commit to stepping out of our comfort zones.
- We understand that this partnership may require us to make sacrifices at times (of our time, energy, comfort, preferences, ideas, and opinions); and we will demonstrate a willingness to do so.
- We will be humble and loving as we engage with one another, learning from one another, embracing one another, and yielding to one another.
- We will enter our relationships with a spirit of repentance and eagerness to grow.
- In all things, our conversations, activities, and engagement with one another will be firmly rooted in scripture and centered on the gospel. The gospel is what ultimately unites us, calls us to repentance, provides us immutable forgiveness, and is the grounds of our reconciliation not only with God but with one another. As gospel people, we unashamedly believe the gospel is the only ultimate remedy for this world's needs, including its racial brokenness.

## Details & Potential Activities Planned for Our Partnership

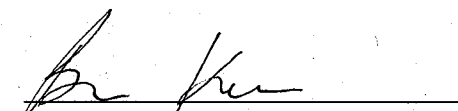
- Have our pastors "trade pulpits" once or twice a year.
- Hold a joint service once a year, alternating host location.
- Include each other's churches in each other's events where appropriate; extend an invitation for the other church's members to participate if they like.
- Offer opportunity (e.g., provide directories) to connect members of our churches together to have one another over for meals, have conversations on important topics like race (discussion questions could be provided), and form long-lasting friendships with one another.
- In the event – as is our intention – that a local group of pastors forms (e.g., Milwaukee pastors fellowship), have our pastors attend this together to facilitate a regular relationship among our church leaders.
- Co-host Bible study or workshops events (e.g., LRI FoW, ATW, TXT Group, etc.)

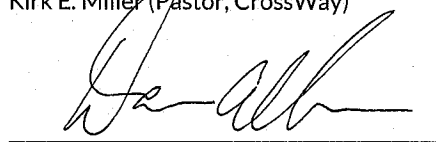
### Signatures

  
Brian Kenner, Sr. (Pastor, SCBC)

  
Kirk E. Miller (Pastor, CrossWay)

7/8/2020  
Date

  
Brian Kenner, Jr. (Deacon, SCBC)

  
Dan Allen (Pastor, CrossWay)