

Study Three

How will you encourage your church to build *koinonia* partnerships within the congregation?

How might your church begin building *koinonia* partnerships with another congregation? Is this important for you?

Is there a practical way for you to build a *koinonia* partnership with your community?

Has this series of studies changed your understanding of partnership and given insight into what might be?

Exploring Koinonia

Partnership in Action

This study has been prepared by UCANZ – Uniting Congregations of Aotearoa New Zealand – for use by any church. The study encourages the exploration of the Greek word “koinonia” and discovery of new insights into partnership. It is not simply about churches working together – it is relevant for all of the relationships we form as a church. The aim of the study is to develop a deeper understanding of partnership and explore new possibilities in mission.

The study takes an open and analytical approach to the Word of God – it will hopefully ask more questions than it gives answers. We would encourage discussion and interaction for those who do the study. For that reason, we have not sought to begin with a definition of *koinonia*, but rather allow people to find their own meaning. Hopefully the problems of any translation will also be talked about and the discovery that we don’t always know the full meaning of what we say.

UCANZ is the administrative committee for Cooperative Ventures in New Zealand – they occur when local Presbyterian, Methodist, Anglican, Christian Churches, or Congregational Union churches come together in some form of partnership. Cooperative Ventures attest that such partnerships can work, but they also affirm that it can be difficult at times.

Study One

This study seeks to explore the meaning of *koinonia* through the context of a variety of biblical passages.

koinonia: (Greek κοιινωνία)

Elements of a fishing partnership:

What might a *koinonia* partnership look like?

Has your understanding of how a foreign word might be translated been affected by this study?

Study Two

This study digs deeper into the concept of *koinonia*, exploring four key elements.

Can you now take a new perspective on the partnerships that your church has?