

3. Building *koinonia* with the community.

This final section seeks more clarity on how to build *koinonia* partnership within the community.

2 Corinthians 9 ¹²This service that you perform is not only supplying the needs of God's people but is also overflowing in many expressions of thanks to God. ¹³Because of the service by which you have proved yourselves, people will praise God for the obedience that accompanies your confession of the gospel of Christ, and for your generosity in **koinonia** sharing with them and with everyone else. ¹⁴And in their prayers for you their hearts will go out to you, because of the surpassing grace God has given you. ¹⁵Thanks be to God for this indescribable gift!

- 3a.** Can you agree that a strong partnership can produce great results?

For the following questions, think specifically about a community group that you might share a *koinonia* partnership with.

- 3b.** What shared dreams and visions do you have?
- 3c.** What points of difference are immediately obvious?
- 3d.** Can it be set up for the long haul? Could procedures be put in place to cope with the tough times (both storms and doldrums)?
- 3e.** Together, what would you offer the community?
- 3f.** What might be offered to you? What would you be willing to receive?

Exploring Koinonia

Study Three

Partnership in Action

Koinonia

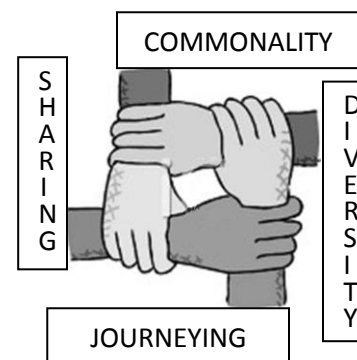
In the previous study we shared four important aspects of *koinonia*. Take a moment to reflect again on these ideas.

Commonality: partners with a common goal.

Diversity: partners who are different.

Journeying together: partners committed to travel with each other.

Sharing gifts: partners open to giving and receiving the gifts and help of others.



1. Building *koinonia* within the congregation.

We begin by asking questions about partnership within the congregation that you are part of. Consider the life and work of your local church and reflect on the following verses:

Acts 2 ⁴²They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to **koinonia**, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. ⁴³Everyone was filled with awe, and many wonders and miraculous signs were done by the apostles. ⁴⁴All the believers were together and had everything in common. ⁴⁵Selling their possessions and goods, they gave to anyone as they had need.

1a. What aspects of *koinonia* stand out for you in this passage?

For the following questions, think specifically of your local congregation and the spirit of *koinonia* that exists within it.

- 1b. What are the shared visions of the parish?
- 1c. Is there a diversity of faith and action?
- 1d. How is diversity acknowledged, appreciated, and applied?
- 1e. Identify two "full net" moments (positive)
- 1f. Identify two "stormy" moments.
- 1g. How do you let people "give" to the church?
- 1h. How does the church receive from its members?



2. Building *koinonia* with another congregation.

The next set of questions challenges you to look at the relationship your congregation has with another congregation. This may be across or within denominations – but it relates to our sense of *koinonia* partnership in the wider Church.



Galatians 2 ⁸For God, who was at work in the ministry of Peter as an apostle to the Jews, was also at work in my ministry as an apostle to the Gentiles. ⁹James, Peter and John, those reputed to be pillars, gave me and Barnabas the right hand of **koinonia** when they recognized the grace given to me. They agreed that we should go to the Gentiles, and they to the Jews.

2a. Is it valid to think of another congregation as having a different ministry in the same *koinonia*?

For the following questions, think specifically of another congregation that you might share a *koinonia* partnership with.

- 2b. What are the points of common interest that would unite you?
- 2c. In what ways are the diverse expressions of faith present?
- 2d. Can you live with it?
- 2e. Are you on a similar journey – the same stage, sharing ups and downs?
- 2f. What gifts would you bring to the partnership?
- 2g. What gifts would you need from the partnership?

