



Ministry Partner Development (MPD): An Overview

What is MPD?

MPD is the **development of ministry partners** — developing a team of people who partner with you in ministry by prayerfully undergirding and financially supporting you and your ministry.

In the book, *The Ministry of Development*, author John Frank refers to development as the creating of opportunities to involve God's people in God's work. This process links people who believe in God and His Kingdom on earth, with the work itself. This connection might take the form of prayer, time and gifts of money. Development is a process of involving people in the actual work of the ministry rather than only the end result (needed funds).

MPD is **ministering to your partners** — your initial and ongoing ministry to the partners who pray for and invest into your ministry.

Partnership Development:

- Invites and involves people into the Prayer Movement and the Great Commission.
- Frees the missionary from the need to seek out a salary.
- Increases the longevity of the missionary.
- Creates long-term relationships & results in an ongoing prayer team for your ministry.

Most people find themselves a little uneasy as they approach support raising. To depend upon others seems to go against our North American culture, especially for finances. But we should not rely on the world's view, or our own feelings, when it comes to God's Word on support for His full-time ministers. The Bible strongly states that accepting support gifts is part of God's economy. Raising support is a matter of obedience, not feelings. If God calls you to a supported ministry position, then He will provide everything you need to fulfill your ministry (including emotional strength and perseverance). "...my God shall supply all your needs" (Philippians 4:19); "Faithful is He who calls you, and He also will bring it to pass" (1 Thessalonians 5:24).

*"How can I get money for my ministry?" is the **wrong** question. "How can I educate, motivate, and challenge God's people to be transformed more and more into the image of God, reflecting the generous heart of God?" – that is the **right** question. The process of raising support is about helping believers become more generous – like Jesus.*

Successful MPD starts with the revelation that God is the one who meets all of our needs, even though He requires us to work hard. Working hard is our act of faith trusting that He will honor and bless the labor of our hands and bring His provision. Developing a financial support team is a faith adventure and an opportunity to see God work in your life and the lives of those who will financially stand with you. Faith is rising above discouragement, being sure of your calling, and believing God at all times





What does MPD look like, practically?

MPD is an ongoing process of identifying, engaging, asking, following up, thanking, and reporting on the ministry. New YFC Winnipeg staff can expect to focus their first 6 months on MPD, including:

- Identifying a list of potential ministry partners.
- Setting up appointments with individuals, groups, and churches to share about the ministry and invite their partnership.
- Receiving regular supervision and coaching.

Once staff have reached their full funding level, staff are expected to spend about 10% of their work time on an ongoing basis (or 4 hours/week for a full-time staff) on nurturing and strengthening their partnership team through their remaining time in ministry with YFC Winnipeg.

Common concerns people have:

“I don’t know how to ask people to support me.”

“I can’t raise enough support to live on.”

“I don’t have enough contacts to raise all of the support I need.”

We are here to help you with the essentials of building your team. We will provide you with tools and resources. In addition, a coach and your supervisor will be available to support and guide you through the process.

Finally, remember God’s promise to meet your needs and to bless those who give. The phrase “It is more blessed to give than to receive” is not a trite platitude, but the conviction of our Lord Jesus (Acts 20:35). God honours giving and promises to return His blessings a hundred-fold. In Malachi 3:10-12 God commands, “...test me now in this... if I will not open for you the windows of heaven, and pour out for you a blessing until it overflows.” Your supporters are not merely doing you a favour, but you are helping them to make investments which will return benefits to them now and throughout eternity.

If you have any questions or would like more information, please contact Human Resources at hr@yfcwinnipeg.ca.