

# Partnering With God

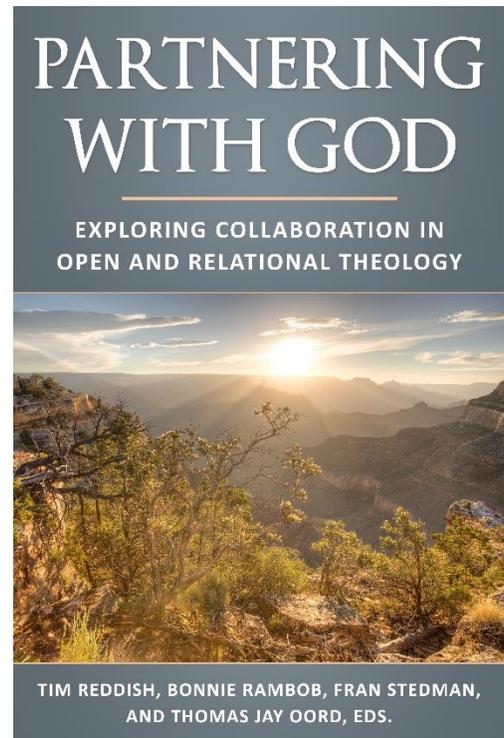
Exploring Collaboration in  
Open and Relational Theology

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## From the Introduction

The title of this book, *Partnering with God*, will strike some readers as audacious. Others will consider it pretentious. Some may think it's downright blasphemous!

After all, who can really claim to "partner with God"?!

This book answers that question. The responses vary and the enclosed proposals provoke new insights. This book breaks new ground.

As editors, we want to say what we *don't* mean by "partnering with God." We don't mean that creatures are *equal* to their Creator. We differ from God in many ways, so equality with deity is not something we think possible.

We also don't mean partnership implies that we can function without God's creative influence, empowering, or love. We're not entirely independent beings who exist without help from God and others. In fact, it's in God that we live and move and have our being. Without God, we can do nothing.

By "partnering," we mean that our choices, actions, and agency play a role alongside God's activity in the world. We can cooperate (or not) with our Creator. We're potential collaborators, conspirators, and co-creators. To join with God means we contribute to the unfolding of existence. Actually, we believe that is our divine calling and part of what it means to be made in the image of God.

"Partnering with God" has other meanings too. And a myriad of dimensions. The essays in this book explore this diversity. We're happy to present this amazing array of essays!

Some essays are theoretical, exploring theological, philosophical, biblical, or scientific dimensions of partnership. Others are personal, practical, even poetic. Some essayists explore partnership applied to daily life.

We think this diversity is a strength. The essays cover more topics than a book of uniform essays could. What unites their diversity is the common cause of pondering partnership with the divine. ENJOY!

**These 77 essays, written for the non-specialist, explore what it means to *partner with God*.**