“Invite a Pioneer” Worship Resources

# Prayer

Tent-dwelling God,

We thank you for those among us who are gifted to be pioneers.

Who see opportunity and can encourage others.

Who seek out love in most unlikely places.

Who build community in the midst of loneliness.

Who move and shout and point towards the Kingdom

In big and small acts of prophecy.

Leader: God, you are going ahead of us.

All: **Let us take risks and follow you.**

We pray for [Name] and their ministry in [place].

Thank you for calling them and guiding them along an unknown path.

Thank you for sustaining them with ideas, inspiration and the motivation to keep going.

Thank you for times of joy and times of challenge, as both are needed for growth.

Thank you for what we can learn from each other

even when we think we know it all.

Leader: God, you are going ahead of us.

All: **Let us take risks and follow you.**

We ask your blessing on our community – inside and outside of the Church.

Bless those who are lonely or don’t seem to fit in.

Bless families of all constellations and those still in the making.

Bless the triers, the believers, the doubters and the seekers;

Bless the preachers, pastors, and pioneers.

Bless each one of us, and let us hear your call upon our lives.

Leader: God, you are going ahead of us.

All: **Let us take risks and follow you.**

We ask you to challenge us, God of the Upside-down Kingdom.

Challenge our traditionalism and help us to cherish what is still good.

Challenge our beliefs and help us to live out radical Gospel truths.

Challenge our prejudices and help us to love unconditionally.

Challenge our ideas of fairness and help us fight for justice.

Leader: God, you are going ahead of us.

All: **Let us take risks and follow you.**

Wherever we go, God, you are ahead of us. We ask you to guide us and help us follow The Way in Christ’s name. Amen

# Prayer labyrinth

*Mark out a labyrinth in the church or outside. You can find patterns and instructions for this on the Methodist Website:* [*www.methodist.org.uk/our-faith/worship/singing-the-faith-plus/prayer-in-worship/creative-prayer-ideas/sacred-spaces-and-labyrinths*](http://www.methodist.org.uk/our-faith/worship/singing-the-faith-plus/prayer-in-worship/creative-prayer-ideas/sacred-spaces-and-labyrinths) *There are many ways to do labyrinths – here are a few suggestions for prayer stations along the way:*

* A pile of pebbles can be dropped into a bowl of water inviting people to think of issues, thoughts and challenges that hold back their “inner pioneer”.
* Arrange a display of hiking gear, including walking shoes, compass, and an emergency ration or distress signal/whistle. Cut an old map into smaller pieces and invite people to write prayers of encouragement for the pioneer to support them in times when they might feel disorientated and lost. In the end, the pioneer will receive this collection of prayers.
* You’ll need a dish full of different buttons. As people take a button and put it in their pockets, invite them to identify one “pioneering action” that they’d like to take up. This could be a further conversation with the pioneer, a visit to a New Place for New People, or working on their own pioneering ideas, learn more about NPNP etc. Whenever they find the button in their coat, they will remember their action (and hopefully carry it out!)

# Blessing

As we go out of this place

to worship God with our lives,

may love surround us wherever we go,

may we love the world around us,

and may we see Christ in those we meet.

Amen

# Starter Questions for an interview-style conversation

* What do you enjoy most about your ministry?
* Why do you do what you do?
* What motivates you?
* What is the greatest challenge you face as a pioneer?
* Thinking back over the past month or so, where have you experienced God?
* What is “pioneering” about your project?
* What message do you bring from your community?
* How do you worship in a pioneer community?
* What are the main differences between a pioneer community and a traditional church?
* Can you identify something distinctively Methodist about your project?
* How can we help you?