

# New Places for New People

Starting new Christian  
communities:  
A practical guide

## Chapter 10

Methodist  
Pioneering  
Pathways

# Methodist Pioneering Pathways

The growing number of pioneers in the Church is supported by the Methodist Pioneering Pathways (MPP). We encourage every pioneer involved in a Methodist New Place for New People (NPNP) to become a member of the MPP in order to access its resources and join the network of support. Pioneers in funded district NPNP projects will be expected to join.

## The MPP offers support in the following ways:

**Connecting:** At the heart of MPP is the community of pioneers – diverse in outlook, background, and context; a mix of lay and ordained; all deeply committed to forming new places that connect new people to the transforming love of God.

The connection to pioneers across the Connexion comes through monthly 'Third Thursday' online gatherings along with regional communities of practice facilitated by the Learning Network. Both of these places are an opportunity to share stories and wisdom. An annual retreat is also offered as a time to be together and deepen an understanding of the pioneer call.

**Calling:** The MPP is there to support those initially discerning a call to become a pioneer and to help them in those first steps. It supports experienced pioneers to deepen their call and develop their leadership potential within their district and the connexional pioneering picture.

**Equipping:** Pioneering, like every call, needs to be nurtured through reflective practice and learning. Every pioneer on the MPP attends the Pioneer Ministry Short Course. In subsequent years there is opportunity to apply for funding of other learning and training relevant to their planting context. This could be further study, such as a short course, or practical training to upskill and be better equipped.

For those in funded or district-led NPNPs, the Church Planting Intensive is a required course designed to give additional support and training to enable the projects to have the best opportunity to be fruitful and influence wider cultural change.

There is also opportunity for ongoing learning within the MPP via a monthly webinar. Different to the informal style of Third Thursdays, this session, hosted by the Evangelism and Growth team, gathers the MPP community for an in-depth webinar with a key pioneer/planter, thinker, writer, or practitioner – providing an opportunity to engage with those shaping the national and global pioneer movement.

**Planting:** The MPP offers support to put good practices in place which will give the best opportunity for fruitfulness. Areas include models of good accountability, systems for evaluating fruitfulness, planning for long-term sustainability, and fostering good relationships with the wider Methodist Church.

**Coaching:** Most fruitful new ecclesial communities have a culture of coaching their leaders. The MPP pairs every pioneer in an active project with a coach who will help them develop personally as well as progress the project they are leading.



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## How to apply

### Apply to join Methodist Pioneering Pathways

There are people to help and support you as you explore where God is calling you. The application process has the following stages.

#### 1. Speak to someone local you trust about it.

Share your sense of call with a minister or church leader.

#### 2. Let the Learning Network know.

If it feels right to keep discerning after the local conversation, contact your Learning Network Methodist Pioneering Pathways Point Person.

#### 3. A discernment conversation with the Learning Network.

Your Point Person will make time to talk more with you about your call.

#### 4. Formal Application

If it seems right to do so after your two conversations, fill in an application form and ask for the references you need. These are then sent to the Evangelism and Growth Team to be assessed.

#### 5. Welcome to Methodist Pioneering Pathways

You will receive confirmation that you have been accepted. Your Learning Network Point Person will tell you how to become a part of what is happening in your region and you will hear updates from the Evangelism and Growth Team about opportunities for training and gathering with other pioneers.

A vocational one-to-one conversation will be offered to all applicants who are not accepted onto the pathway to support their future discernment.

### Further resources

Need help discerning whether you are called to pioneering? Looking for guidance on applying to MPP? Go to [www.methodist.org.uk/mpp](http://www.methodist.org.uk/mpp)