

PIONEER

PROCESS FOR CHURCHES AND NETWORKS EXPLORING PIONEER

If you are considering becoming a Pioneer Church, we hope this information assists you and us in discerning what is the Lord's will. We want to make ourselves available to you as we journey together through this process of discerning the 'mind of Christ'.

The process includes exploring an understanding around and commitment to our vision and values. Practically, it would mean having some regular conversations via WhatsApp or Zoom with the Pioneer International Leader and/or a member of the Pioneer National Core team. The process encourages both relational connectedness and an opportunity to work through the expectations of being a member of the Pioneer international family.

ABOUT US

Pioneer – who are we? We're a relational network committed to connecting, inspiring and equipping churches in many nations across the globe.

Our Vision - We want to play our part in the re-evangelisation of the nations, plant new churches, equip existing churches, and release leaders and influencers in every sphere of society.

Our Strategy - Our strategy is to develop strong resource churches and networks of churches that are able to support other churches as they, in turn, serve their communities, towns and cities.

We recognise the breadth, richness and diversity that exists within the Body of Christ and welcome connection with, and input from, other ministries and networks. We acknowledge that Pioneer is a 'small cog in a much bigger wheel' but we want to play our part strongly, securely and humbly.

OUR VALUES

1. Relational

- God is community and, we believe, it is only in community that we can accurately reflect Him and see real and lasting fruit.
- We honour and celebrate diversity within the context of our relationships.
- We recognise that anointed leadership is a grace gift given to serve, with humility, in the context of community.
- We value the contribution of both women and men at every level of leadership.

2. Missional

- We see ourselves as co-workers with God in His mission – the reconciliation of all things under heaven and earth under Christ.
- The Good News about Jesus needs to be presented in a way that is relevant to our context through our words, actions and with a demonstration of God's miraculous power.
- We believe that justice and social action are central to the message of Jesus.

3. Charismatic

- Our life and faith is energised and informed by a living experience of the Holy Spirit, both individually and corporately.
- We believe in a God who breaks into time and space by His Holy Spirit, bringing revelation, healing bodies, sharing spiritual gifts and performing miraculous signs.
- Our spiritual life is rooted in the Scriptures and informed by church history.

4. Kingdom Orientated

- Because 'the earth is the Lord's and everything in it', we believe that the whole of life and creation is sacred. We, therefore, look to express a culture and lifestyle of worship that has no sacred-secular divide as we celebrate all of life.
- Pioneer has a strong commitment to equipping everyone to engage across all spheres of life – business, politics, media, community, education, creativity and the arts.
- We are committed to the unity of the Body of Christ and will seek to partner with others wherever possible

DISTINCTIVES

1. **The role of women in leadership.** We welcome and promote the role of women at every level of leadership.

2. **Unity of the Body of Christ.** We actively and intentionally pursue unity and work in partnership – locally and nationally.
3. **Adventure.** As ‘pioneers’ we want to continue to innovate, to take risks, to try new things, to be Spirit-led people and to have fun as we serve God’s purposes.

OUR CHURCHES

Although diverse, Pioneer churches can be recognised as having the following ‘apostolic’ characteristics:

1. They prioritise the **presence of God**
2. They are **mission focused**
3. They are **relational**
4. Their **leadership is expressed in team**
5. They believe that **every member has a part to play**
6. They are **catalysts for unity**

PIONEER REGIONS

Globally, we are developing a number of regions, with each region connecting a variety of resource churches and churches:

1. UK
2. Australia/New Zealand
3. Asia [India/Sri Lanka/Nepal]
4. Africa [Kenya, Zambia, Uganda & West Africa]
5. USA
6. Cuba [& Central America]

We believe that the local church is the primary agent of the Kingdom of God and our vision is to see strong, diverse and healthy churches planted, and existing churches resourced and growing.

Our National Regions help to provide support for the leaders of these local churches, as well as offering them opportunities for training and development. The Regions also help to build strong relationships and partnerships among different churches, enabling them to work together more effectively to serve their local communities.

Our vision is to see each Region established with a variety of resource churches and churches, and each Region served by a National Core Team.

Pioneer Trust

Central Hall, St Mary Street, Southampton, SO14 1NF, UK.

A charity registered in England & Wales 1118766 and in Scotland SC038721

THE KEY PURPOSES OF PIONEER REGIONS

1. Connecting leaders

Regions are gathering places for leaders with regular Leaders Days and training events. The Pioneer Team in a nation or region will ensure that each church is well connected and has the right amount of support for its growth and development.

2. Serving churches

We want to see the development of Ephesians 4 ministries in each Pioneer nation or region, working together out of relationship, providing support and challenge to leaders and churches within the region.

3. Training and equipping leaders

Our vision is to train and equip leaders who are able to bring effective leadership in both the church and society. We do this in a variety of ways through Pioneer Regions – courses, teaching programmes, conferences, seminars and internships.

4. Developing mission strategy

Each Pioneer Region will develop a mission strategy to serve their particular communities, regions and nations through a rich diversity of missional activity, evangelistic initiatives, church planting and local community projects. We are not looking to propagate particular models or theories of church and mission, but to nurture its fruit in changed lives and transformed communities through whatever model or means is demanded by each context.

WHAT CAN A PIONEER CHURCH EXPECT?

If you resonate with Pioneer's vision and values and want to become part of the Pioneer International family, this is what you could expect [dependant on the level of trust we share in our relationship]:

Care and support

Regular phone/video/Zoom calls to support you with advice, coaching and any other way we can serve, encourage and strengthen you in your life and ministry.

Schedule a regular visit [frequency to be agreed] bringing support, encouragement and helping with the strategic development of the ministry.

Training and equipping

As regions grow we will develop regional gatherings, initially annually, but then more regularly as things develop.

We will make all Pioneer training resources and tools available to you. For example, the Pioneer Core training videos, Theology Forums, School of Ministries, etc.

We will create and coordinate a Leadership Pathway that will serve and equip the next generation of leaders in learning cohorts for theological and practical ministry training.

Crisis and conflict

We will be available as prayerful mediators where conflicts or crisis arises in your life, church or wider network.

Strategy and commissioning

We will be available for an annual strategic review of your ministry.

Members of Pioneer International/Regional/national teams will be available to participate in the apostolic commissioning of leaders within each regional context.

Global connections

By being part of Pioneer's growing international family there will be new friends and connections that you will make that will strengthen and enhance your life, ministry and church.

WHAT DO WE EXPECT OF A PIONEER CHURCH?

Vision & values

A commitment to the vision and values of Pioneer including speaking well of the network and working through with us any potential concerns on theology or practice.

Commitment to relationship

Regular attendance at both national and regional events [where appropriate].

A commitment to develop a relational connection with a member or members of the Pioneer National or Regional Core team.

Invitation to Pioneer National Core team members to visit and openness to receive input, pastoral care, consultation and coaching. As trust and relationship develops, invite members of Pioneer National Core team to serve as prayerful mediators when crisis and/or conflicts arise and be involved with the commissioning of new leaders.

Leadership development

Encourage your next generation of leaders to participate in the Leadership Pathway as it develops.

Training tools

We would encourage each church that has developed effective training or discipleship tools to contribute those resources to serve the wider Pioneer family.

Compliance

We want to create safe places for people coming to faith and want to run our churches with integrity. We would, therefore, ask for evidence of compliance with Pioneer’s Safeguarding policies and that churches have a commitment to sound governance and financial procedures.

Theological orthodoxy

Pioneer holds a theological orthodox position. We subscribe to the Nicene Creed and, in the UK, to the Evangelical Alliance’s statement of faith. Both are attached to this document. We would ask that all churches wishing to join Pioneer hold a similar position.

Financial partnership

We are a family of churches and we would ask that all churches share in the needs of the the network and aim to contribute towards the work of Pioneer. In the UK, our suggested starting point would be a contribution of 2.5% of your annual donated giving to assist in the development of Pioneer. This is reviewed annually and would expect this to rise to 5% as the partnership grows.

In other nations and regions the financial contribution will be determined by the national teams and will reflect the circumstances of each church and nation. We recognise that this may be a challenge in some contexts but we feel that the principle is a good one as we commit to journey together.

NEXT STEPS

Please prayerfully review this document with your leadership team and other significant stakeholders in your community. If you have consensus and a confirmation of “Yes and Amen, this seems right to us and the Holy Spirit”, then please proceed to sign and return a copy of this agreement.

I/we would like to become a Pioneer Church becoming part of the Pioneer International family and agree to the expectations set out as above.

Name:

Church:

Date:

The Nicene Creed

We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father.
Through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven:
by the power of the Holy Spirit
he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,
and was made man.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.
He has spoken through the Prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come.

Evangelical Alliance Statement of Faith

We believe in.....The one true God who lives eternally in three persons - the Father,
the Son and the Holy Spirit.

The love, grace and sovereignty of God in creating, sustaining, ruling, redeeming and judging the world.

The divine inspiration and supreme authority of the Old and New Testament Scriptures, which are the written Word of God-fully trustworthy for faith and conduct.

The dignity of all people, made male and female in God's image to love, be holy and care for creation, yet corrupted by sin, which incurs divine wrath and judgement.

The incarnation of God's eternal Son, the Lord Jesus Christ - born of the virgin Mary; truly divine and truly human, yet without sin.

The atoning sacrifice of Christ on the cross: dying in our place, paying the price of sin and defeating evil, so reconciling us with God.

The bodily resurrection of Christ, the first fruits of our resurrection; his ascension to the Father, and his reign and mediation as the only Saviour of the world.

The justification of sinners solely by the grace of God through faith in Christ.

The ministry of God the Holy Spirit, who leads us to repentance, unites us with Christ through new birth, empowers our discipleship and enables our witness.

The Church, the body of Christ both local and universal, the priesthood of all believers - given life by the Spirit and endowed with the Spirit's gifts to worship God and proclaim the gospel, promoting justice and love.

The personal and visible return of Jesus Christ to fulfil the purposes of God, who will raise all people to judgement, bring eternal life to the redeemed and eternal condemnation to the lost, and establish a new heaven and new earth.