

*Encouraging, supporting & Resourcing New Faith Communities in the Manchester & Stockport Methodist District*

**‘For we can certainly do it!’**

**Numbers 13:30**

**Initial Ideas Form:**

*New Places for New People* is a key component of the national Methodist Church’s *God for All* strategy. Over the next few years, each district across the connexion will be challenged to start several new faith communities. *Caleb* is the name chosen for the Manchester & Stockport District’s response to this national church strategy. As this initiative develops, a special emphasis will be given to supporting churches on the social and economic margins of society.

The purpose of this form is to document an initial idea for beginning a new faith community.

It will be followed up by a personal conversation between local leaders and Anthony Clowes (District Church Planting Officer). Anthony will then make recommendations to the Caleb Strategy Team as to which of the initial ideas received should progress to the next stage of the application process. If your project was to join Caleb, both an agreed level of financial support and a learning community of practitioners will be available to you.

The Caleb Strategy Team is now starting the process of mapping where potential new communities might emerge across our district. This is the first stage of project Caleb, so don’t worry if your idea / vision is in the very early stages - we just want to get you on the map! IF YOU COULD RETURN THIS FORM ASAP, it would be helpful.

Finally, we would be delighted to make a £500 exploratory grant available to you if financial resources would be helpful in ‘testing the water’ for your new community. To initiate this, simply email Anthony with a paragraph explaining your idea and what the money will be used for.

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**Contact Name:**

**E-mail:**

**Telephone Number:**

**Role:**

**Minister in charge:**

**Circuit:**

**Background:**

*How did the idea for this new community come about?*

**Current Situation**:

*What, if any kinds of mission activity are already happening here? How would this new project be different?*

**Team**:

*Who is currently involved in making these activities happen?*

**Next Steps**:

*How do you imagine things could develop in the next six months?*

**Vision**:

*How do you imagine things might develop over the next six years?*

**Practicalities**:

*How might the Caleb project assist in getting this project started, or support what has already emerged?*

**Financial implications**:

*What, if any financial costs might be required to launch this initiative? If a grant was available how might it be used?*

**Church on the margins:**

*"The Church at the Margins strategic area of God For All is focused on equipping the Methodist Church to steward the majority of planting and pioneering resources with a faithful and preferential bias for people and communities experiencing marginalisation."  In what ways does this relate to your project/community?*

**Please return this completed form to Anthony on** **revanthonyclowes@me.com****.**

**Thanks & God bless ☺**