



**Pioneering Ministries
in the
Methodist Church**



new ways • new places • holy risk

... is an exciting initiative of the Methodist Church, which is intended to reach young adults who may have little or no knowledge of the Christian story and who are currently outside the life of the Church.

Many within the 18-35 age group are searching for spiritual reality, but church often seems a strange and even alien environment to them. Responding to the call of John Wesley to go “not to those who need you, but to those who need you most,” **ventureFX** complements the many fresh expressions springing up around the Connexion.

The scheme is full of risk and is very much ‘on the edge’ of the Church’s evangelism and ministry. It has the potential to launch gifted people into work with those outside the current scope of Church life and establish new and vibrant communities of faith and action.

Who can become a pioneer?

We welcome people from any background, lay or ordained, but it is important that they:

- **are able to relate to contemporary culture**
- **have a well-established and mature Christian faith**
- **are visionary and innovative with the ability to imagine different and radical ways of being ‘church’**





- have a passion that others should become disciples of Christ
- **are open, reflective and willing to work with difference and diversity**
- value the mixed economy of fresh and traditional expressions of church
- **have the experience and ability to be able to establish a ventureFX project.**

Pioneers will be trained 'on the job', according to their experience and the needs of the project. They will be supported by the district or circuit, given mission accompaniment and will be linked to mentors and a peer network.

- - and so taking an 'incarnational' approach to mission. They may be quite fragile and experimental at first, but will seek in time to become recognisable as Christian communities and signs of God's kingdom.

What will the scheme achieve?

- Ultimately that is up to God!
- But we hope:
 - **to plant and nurture 20 viable groups of young adults who would not otherwise have engaged with the Church, aiming for a total of 1000-2000 members after 10 years**
 - for a cohort of pioneers to be trained and supported in cutting-edge work with young adults
 - **to develop a group of experienced coach/mentors.**



What will the projects be like?

Projects can be based anywhere in the UK and will work ecumenically wherever possible. They will often begin as a small community and may take time to become fully established as a recognisable 'church' in their own right. The projects will engage with young adults in relevant cultural ways - working alongside them in their setting





How can I get involved?

If you sense that God is calling you to pioneering ministry, it is important to pray and reflect on the idea. If you are a lay person, it might be helpful to talk to your minister. If you are a minister (presbyter or deacon), talk to your superintendent or district chair. Potential pioneers will undergo a process of discernment and selection. If appointed, they will be matched with a **ventureFX** project.

- You may feel that there is an opportunity
- for a project to be established in your
- circuit or district. Pray and reflect with
- others and then start to put together a
- concept which would be fitting for your
- particular context. Approach those in
- circuit or district leadership and share
- your thinking with them and other
- possible partners.

If you feel that you are ready to move forward, or for more details, contact the connexional coordinator of **ventureFX**:

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Updated information will appear on the Methodist Church website at www.methodist.org.uk/venturefx.

For ideas about projects, visit the Fresh Expressions website: www.freshexpressions.org.uk.

The **Methodist Church** 