

METHODIST PIONEERING PATHWAYS (MPP) APPLICATION FORM

We are really pleased that you want to make an application to join the Methodist Pioneering Pathways. Before you begin please make sure you have done the following:

- You have spent some time reflecting on your call to pioneering and planting using the journal found at www.methodist.org.uk/mpp
- You are familiar with the list of the pioneer characteristics (see section 7).
- You have spoken with someone in leadership in your circuit, such as your minister, superintendent or circuit steward.
- You have had a conversation with the Learning Network Methodist Pioneering Pathways Point Person in your region and they know you are going to apply.
- You have asked your superintendent, circuit steward or district chair to write a few words in support of your application (see section 4).
- You have asked a trusted person to be your referee (see section 5).

Guidance for your application:

- We understand that making an application can be daunting for some people and it may be the first time you have done anything like this. If you need help please ask someone who has been a part of the process so far. You will not be the first or the last to do so.
- It may be that you find writing or form filling difficult. If this is the case, please contact your Learning Network Point Person and we can arrange someone to help you to do this.
- When you make the application please hold the pioneer characteristics, found at the end of this document, in your mind.
- Please send your completed form to your Learning Network Point Person who will then complete the relevant administration.

Section 1: Your contact details

Name

Address

Postcode

Email address

Phone number

Circuit

District

Learning Network Region

How did you hear about the Methodist Pioneering Pathways?

Section 2: About you

How long have you been a Christian? What is your story of finding faith?



In a few words describe why you feel called to pioneer New Places for New People?



Which four of the Pioneer Characteristics (see section 7) do you most recognise in yourself?

Please tell us when and how you use these gifts.



Which of the Pioneer Characteristics do you feel you could develop as you grow as a pioneer?

Please explain why you feel these areas are not as developed as others.



When do you feel closest to God? What is your rhythm of prayer or regular spiritual practices?

From what you know about MPP, explain in a few words why you feel it is right for you to join?

Do you have any questions or worries about joining MPP?

Section 3: About your project

We are really keen to know about the pioneering and planting you are involved in at the moment. This means we can celebrate your story and connect you with others who are involved in similar projects.

Project name

Online presence (website, social media, podcast)

When did it start?

Who are the new people in contact with your project (eg ages, people groups, interests)?

Please tell the story of your project.

Why did it begin? How did it start? How has it grown? Where do you gather? What are the emerging patterns of evangelism, worship and discipleship? Who are the leadership team? What is the relationship with the wider Methodist Church?

Is there any other pioneering you have been a part of in the past you would like to share?

Section 4: Circuit or District support

Pioneering can be a lonely ministry. We seek to support and nurture our pioneers within the wider Methodist family. To this end we wish to ensure that local support and encouragement is available and that the involvement in the pathways is understood within the local circuit or district. This section should normally be completed by the Superintendent Minister or by the District Chair if the work is district-based.

Your reflections on this pioneer and their application

I support this pioneering application and will give encouragement and support to the pioneer and the project in the local circuit/district

OR

I am not able to support this MPP Application for the stated reason(s). (I have discussed this with the potential pioneer.)

Signature

Date

Superintendent Minister/District Chair

Circuit/District

Section 5: A reference from a trusted person

Name of Applicant

Thank you for agreeing to provide a reference for someone who is exploring being part of Methodist Pioneering Pathways. What you say will be of significant help in this process of exploration. Your report will be seen by all those involved in the conversation including the applicant.

Guidance for your reference:

- Please type your application where possible.
- Please ensure that your reference draws upon your own experience of observation and reflecting with the candidate.
- It might also incorporate insights gained from your collaboration with others.
- Please read over the pioneer characteristics (see section 7) before you complete your reference.

How long have you known the applicant and what is your relationship to them?

Which of the pioneer characteristics do you see clearly in the applicant and how have you seen them expressed?

Which pioneer characteristics do you feel are less clear but could be developed with the appropriate support?

Is there anything else you feel we need to know about the applicant?

Name

Signature

Date

Section 7: Pioneer characteristics

The following characteristics are what the Methodist Church feels each pioneer should have already or be able to develop with the appropriate support.

A self-starter

In a variety of settings, be it church, community, artistic or business, a pioneer is motivated to initiate a new project from very little or nothing to begin with.

A visionary

A gift to imagine what new Christian community might be for new people and the ability to inspire others to work towards its creation.

A team-builder

An effective pioneer builds teams of people around a vision to enable it to become reality. By enabling others to discern their gifts, a pioneer gives a project a sustainable future beyond their unique gifts.

Connected to others

A passion of pioneers is to have creative connections to their community, to God and to individuals. Being connected will always be a significant place of inspiration and energy. Forming friendships with those beyond the established church comes very easily.

A call to the edge

Though committed to the established Church, pioneers often find themselves called to and happiest at the edge. The borderland between church and community is a creative space for new ideas to emerge.

A natural evangelist

At ease speaking about their faith sensitively in every situation, a pioneer is always open to sharing the gospel in relevant ways.

Committed to diversity

Being called to the edge, a pioneer notices those who are missing or excluded from Christian communities. A pioneer will plant new Christian communities that seek diversity and inclusion of all.

Risk taking and mistake making

Though not seeking to fail, a pioneer has a willingness to risk failure in the pursuit of finding out where God is leading. They see dealing with failure as an essential part of development and progress.

Responsive to changing contexts

A pioneer is able to pivot quickly to changes around them and make them fruitful opportunities for faith to be shared or moments of growth for the new community.

Desire for faith community

Essential to pioneers is the desire to form new Christian communities where people can become followers of Jesus for the first time.