

New Places for New People

Starting new Christian
communities:
A practical guide

Chapter 11

Praying for your
New Place for
New People/
Church at the
Margins
project

Praying for your New Place for New People/ Church at the Margins project

It is essential for your New Place for New People (NPNP)/Church at the Margins (CaM) project to be rooted, sustained, and grown in prayer. As we listen to God together, we discern God's will and purpose for God's people. The theologian Simone Weil wrote, "Absolutely unmixed attention is prayer".¹ Being attentive to God together centres us in God and enables us to discover our vision, values and purpose.

The pioneering team should:

- build prayer into the cycle and rhythm of all meetings
- agree how and who will communicate prayer requests to others eg via email/WhatsApp
- include an opportunity for people to share their concerns for prayer as individuals and for the project as a whole
- regularly pray for who could be invited to join in
- introduce different forms of prayer eg Lectio Divina, music, art, writing, prayer walking, silence
- invite people in the pioneering team and across the larger Church and world to be intercessors for the NPNP/CaM.

The District could:

- encourage praying for NPNP in the district/circuits/churches as part of the natural cycle of meetings
- direct the Synod to include praying for the project alongside inviting other people to share from their circuits/churches where they see God at work in new ways
- ask the District Leadership team to regularly pray for the pioneering team and email them to let them know they are doing this
- ask each circuit meeting/local church to encourage people to pray for the district project and ask God to show them what 'new places and new people' they might be guided towards
- form a prayer network of people who would like to pray specifically for the project.

¹ Simone Weil, *An Anthology* (London, Penguin, 2005).

Topics for prayer

- The pioneer and pioneering team.
- Potential people who might engage.
- The management group/line manager.
- Practical issues: funding/buildings, etc.

As well as these areas, the pioneering team could share regular updates from the project for prayer (both the joys and the struggles). Include in your prayer times for the project, a regular invitation for people to reflect on how God might be speaking to you/them about NPNP.

Ways of praying

- Find a rhythm of praying for the project: daily, weekly?
- Be artistic and creative: use art, music, etc.
- Form a prayer network of people.
- Initiate a prayer vigil/walk.

Further resources

For more resources on prayer, visit the Methodist Way of Life webpages, particularly the commitment to prayer and being a "...blessing within and beyond God's Church for the transformation of the world":

www.methodist.org.uk/media/16918/mwol-commitment-card-220420.pdf