

# Partnership for Missional Church

**A long-term relational process to place mission  
at the heart of the local church**



*together  
in mission*  
*together  
in mission*

Partnership for Missional Church™ was developed by the Church Innovations Institute under Rev'd Dr Patrick Keifert. In Britain it is being further shaped under the auspices of Together in Mission.

[www.togetherinmission.org](http://www.togetherinmission.org)

## Partnership for Missional Church

Partnership for Missional Church is a long-term attempt to deal with the challenges faced by churches in the constantly changing world of 21st Century culture.

It is not a programme, but a process which enables individual congregations to work with the help of others to discover how to place mission at the heart of church life.



**Through a guided process  
of spiritual discernment  
each church will be helped  
to discover just how God is sending it  
into its community**

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**in mission**

## Why Partnership for Missional Church?



It's a Partnership in that it involves several congregations working together in a 'cluster' supported by experienced trainers and consultants. This partnership is strategic and spiritual, including times of prayer, worship and fellowship which strengthen the common journey into mission.

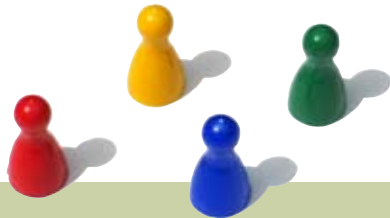
It is Missional in that the focus is on equipping each church to participate in God's mission of reconciling, restoring and redeeming the world to himself. Being missional is more than just doing more social service activities or increasing the membership of a church. A missional church looks for how God is at work in the world today in light of how it knows God has worked in the past, especially through Jesus Christ. A missional church chooses to join God in that mission in the world, to let God call and send it in that mission.

Through a guided process of spiritual discernment each church will be helped to discover just how God is sending it into its community:

- To proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom
- To teach, baptise and nurture new believers
- To respond to human need by loving service
- To seek to transform unjust structures of society
- To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth

*(Bonds of Affection -1984 Anglican Consultative Council 6 p49)*

The focus is on Church because we believe that the local church is God's primary instrument for reaching his world. The PMC process is non-denominational and builds on the traditions and strengths of each local congregation.



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## How Does Partnership for Missional Church work?

To change from seeing mission as something that the Church does, to seeing mission as the underlying *raison d'être* of the church, is no easy task, which is why Partnership for Missional Church proposes a three to five year process to enable the change to take root in the ongoing culture of a congregation.

The process has three initial phases:

**Discovery, Experimenting, Embodiment**

### PHASE 1: Discovery

This could best be described as a time of learning to listen. We listen to Scripture, our congregations and our communities — and for the leading of the Spirit of God in allowing ourselves to be shaped and formed for sending into the world. We also learn to listen to our partners, those who help us understand ourselves and the context in which we live and work.

A number of inventories, self-studies and evaluations will be used to take the pulse of each congregation, which will aid in the second phase of the project.

#### During this phase congregations receive...

- 3 days of continuing education for clergy, ministers, leaders
- 5 days of lay leadership training
- A listening process for discovering the culture and readiness of your congregation for missional church along with three reports illustrating the results of this process
- A retreat for your PCC, deacons, elders ...
- Training for coaches and mentors
- Partnership with other congregations engaged on the same journey
- On-line newsletter information
- Telephone consultancy/coaching





## PHASE 2: Experimenting

After learning about who we are, where we live and who we are sent to, the next logical step is to take action.

The information uncovered during the first step will hopefully lead us into developing plans of action for innovating missional transformation. This involves more risk taking, and while not every risk will be rewarded, there is as much to learn from the mistakes as from the successes.



### During this phase congregations receive ...

- 3 days of continuing education for clergy, ministers, leaders
- 5 days of lay leadership training
- A full assessment of the leadership skills and capabilities of leaders
- Discovery and 2 days training of missional action teams
- Step by step process for missional action teams
- A 2 day retreat for your PCC, deacons, elders ...
- Partnership with other congregations engaged on the same journey
- On-line newsletter information
- Telephone consultancy/coaching

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## PHASE 3: Embodiment

In phase 3 congregations will begin moving toward living in God's preferred and promised future. After discovering and learning from the successes and failures of the experimenting phase, churches and their leaders will develop their own plans for congregational transformation, and will better know how to focus attention and energy toward attaining those goals.



### During this phase congregations receive ...

- 3 days of continuing education for clergy, ministers, leaders
- 5 days of lay leadership training
- A process for creating five documents to guide congregations through to implementation of their plans
- Congregational vision statement
- Vision for embodiment
- Long range plans
- SMART plans of action
- A 'staff' covenant
- On-line newsletter information
- Telephone consultancy/coaching



## Spiritual Disciplines

One of the distinctive features of the PMC approach is that it recognises the need for a deepening spirituality to accompany enhanced strategic planning within local churches. Underlying this three-phase process is a strong emphasis on Spiritual Disciplines including:

- Dwelling in the Word
- Prayer
- Journaling
- Silence
- Emptying of self
- Longing for home, the reign of God



Primary among these is the discipline of 'Dwelling in the Word', a contemporary revisiting of the discipline of lectio divina. The whole process of Partnership for Missional Church is illuminated by the light of Luke 10:1-12 which is purposefully read again and again in the process.

## Who is involved in the Partnership?

Each Partnership is made up of clusters of several churches. Each cluster could be formed within a denomination or across denominational boundaries; it could be focused on a narrow or wide geographic area.

The main work is done by teams of people drawn together from within each local church, facilitated and supported by:

- Interaction with other churches in the cluster
- Consultants and trainers provided by Together in Mission
- Diocesan or regional denominational staff (where possible)

## What are the criteria for participating?

The basic criteria is a deeply held desire to see the local church used by God to make an impact in its surrounding community. Additionally, churches considering the PMC process should have:

- A willingness to take risks and to 'go deep'
- An awareness that something needs to be done to meet the changing needs of a society with a fluid relationship to the gospel
- Stable leadership in the church
- Willingness by the leadership of the church to make a three-year commitment to the process.
- Willingness to meet the cost of training (up to £750 per year)



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See [www.churchinnovations.org](http://www.churchinnovations.org) for more information.  
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