

Pioneering Parishes



Pioneering Parishes Values

We are hospitable and playful . We adapt to what's emerging .
We are attentive to the use of power . We model what we want to see .
We question what is .

Session summaries

Jesus the Pioneer. Jesus constantly generated newness in his life on earth. We take him as our model and look at the common characteristics found in pioneering individuals in church and society. We consider the relationship between the time-honoured and the new, and ask how they can mutually enrich each other.

Culture Change. Introducing the idea of culture: what it is, why it's important, how it shapes us, why we don't know it's there. Exploring and recognising how it has shaped our understanding of what it means to be church and how the culture of the church can be separate from the culture around it in an unhelpful way.

Grief and lament. Introducing the idea that congregations can't move on from the present state of being because the losses of the past haven't been acknowledged and lamented in community. Sharing ideas about how to create an act of lament.

Values. As we seek to hold distinctive forms of church together we explore how shared agreed values can help a congregation collectively answer the question 'Who do we want to be for God and our community?' and form a healthy foundation from which to make decisions about community life.

Pioneer advocacy. We share what we believe are the required postures of a leader who is able to hold space and shape understanding to allow both long-standing and emerging forms of church to flourish alongside each other and contribute to the whole.

Creating capacity. A key area of decision-making is about how to unlock enough resources in what appears to be a world of scarcity. We suggest postures, practices and tools which help create an attitude of abundance in place of a scarcity mindset and release capacity in people and generate resources from unexpected sources.

Nurturing the dreamers. How to identify the people in your congregations and community who are dreamers who do. What are the gifts they bring? How to hold conversations where good ideas are welcomed. What sort of oversight allows people like this to flourish and bring their whole selves as a gift to the church and community?

Developing an adaptive church. Drawing on research from the US and personal experiences in parish and diocesan support services we will consider how partnerships with other organisations in the church and community create conditions for greater adaptability and sustainability.

Catalytic leadership. Drawing on stories from our experience and other contexts we explore the leadership postures that allow others to grow into their giftedness and potential. This allows greater capacity to be released across the church and community.

Mystery module! We are always looking to extend the range of material we offer to meet the needs of those we serve. So tell us what you are looking for and we will try to offer something thoughtful with Pioneering Parishes values and intent.

Contact Greg Bakker for an informal conversation about how Pioneer Parishes can engage with your Deanery:
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