

New Places for New People

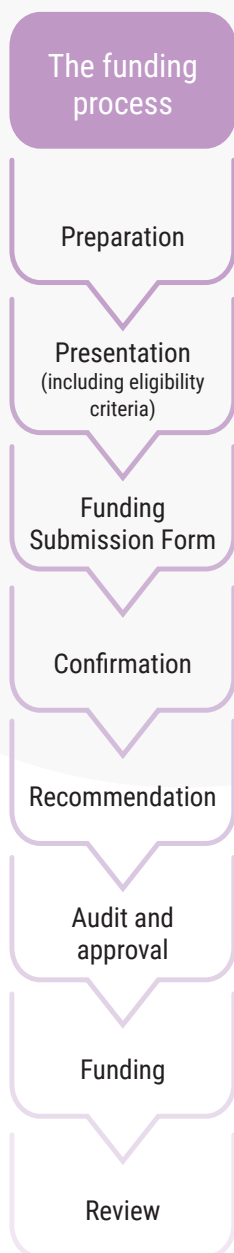
Starting new Christian
communities:
A practical guide

Chapter 3

Accessing
New Places for
New People
Funding for
District-led
Projects

Accessing New Places for New People Funding for District-led Projects

Every district has been allocated £140,000 for one or more district-led New Places for New People (NPNP) projects. This should be match-funded or match-resourced (for more information on match-resourcing, contact the Project Officer (Funding Allocation and Distribution) at bondj@methodistchurch.org.uk). Across the Connexion, at least 60 per cent of NPNP funding should be used for Church at the Margins projects. For circuit-led funding processes, see page 73.



Preparation

The district, together with the Evangelism and Growth team, will begin (in the September of its self-selected 'tranche' year) a year-long journey of support, prayer, and discernment in order to design and prepare for one or more district-led New Places for New People projects. This will involve building the District NPNP Team (see page 11), discerning where to locate the project(s) (see page 14), and undertaking some experimentation and testing of ideas.

There is £10,000 available for every district for experimentation and testing work, which will be released when it is needed (as agreed by the District Chair and Evangelism and Growth team members).

Presentation

In order to claim funding for your district-led project, the District NPNP Team should give a presentation and complete the Funding Submission Form found at www.methodist.org.uk/fundingnpp. The purpose of this is two-fold: to tell the story of the project to all of those who have an interest, and to evidence how the eligibility criteria agreed by the Strategy and Resources Committee (see Appendix 1 at the end of this chapter) have been met.

The District NPNP Team will select three or four key influencers/leaders within the district, who are not part of the District NPNP Team but who have the skill and vision to lead or inspire future circuit projects. These people should then form a 'panel' with Evangelism and Growth team members and the Project Officer (Funding Allocation and Distribution). This panel will hear the presentation, ask questions, and offer feedback to ensure the project is the best it can be.

The presentation should address the questions in Appendix 2 of this Chapter.

Funding Submission Form

The Funding Submission Form found at www.methodist.org.uk/fundingnnpn should be completed, and then signed by the District Chair, before being submitted to the Project Officer (Funding Allocation and Distribution) on or before:

- **1 August** (in time for the October meeting of the Mission Committee – see 'Audit and approval' below)
- **1 March** (in time for the May meeting of the Mission Committee – see 'Audit and approval' below).

Confirmation

The Funding Submission Form and presentation will be reviewed by the Project Officer (Funding Allocation and Distribution) to confirm that the NPNP meets the eligibility criteria. If the Project Officer feels the project has not met the eligibility criteria, they can ask for more preparation work to be undertaken. For minor work, they may choose not to reconvene the panel or receive a second set of submission paperwork, but to receive assurance that the work has been undertaken via another means (eg via email). For major work, the panel should be reconvened and a second set of submission paperwork undertaken.

Recommendation

When the Project Officer (Funding Allocation and Distribution) is satisfied that the NPNP meets the eligibility criteria, they will recommend the project to the Mission Committee for funding.

Audit and approval

The Mission Committee, at either their October or May meeting, will audit and approve the recommendations. This audit will be an overview, not a detailed examination – the Mission Committee will be encouraged to ask searching questions to promote accountability, but not to review extensive paperwork. The Mission Committee may ask for further work to be done in any of the previous stages, and can withhold funding until that work has been completed. The Mission Committee may also decide not to fund a given project, in which case clear and thorough feedback will be provided to all parties on why that decision was taken. There is no process to appeal the decisions of the Mission Committee. For Connexional Year 2021/2022, the Strategy and Resources Committee will audit and approve, as the Mission Committee is still in its shadow year.

Funding

When the Mission Committee approves a project, the Project Officer (Funding Allocation and Distribution) will liaise with colleagues in the Finance and Resources Team to release funds within four weeks.

Review

All funded projects will be expected to engage with the review process outlined in chapter 12.



There is £10,000 available for every district for experimentation and testing work, which will be released when it is needed.



Appendix 1

Eligibility Criteria for Funded District-led Projects

Funds will be awarded to districts that meet the following criteria. The district will have:

- a mission plan/policy that is unambiguous about the need to start new Christian communities
- prior experience of planting churches, innovation in existing churches or starting fresh expressions, or of work with marginalised communities
- a good manager/overseer/coaching culture
- agreement and support from District Policy Committee (DPC) and District Missioner
- a clear strategy for sharing learning with superintendents, and for organising them and collaborating with them to ensure other NPNP projects are pioneered in the district.

Funds will be awarded to projects that meet the following criteria. The project will:

- focus on one of the five areas of opportunity, unless there is very good reason not to. These are:
 - new towns or new housing developments
 - student/young adult/university
 - families with children
 - replanting in an existing place or second site of a growing church
 - Church at the Margins.
- be a new community, not a relaunch of an established church or existing project
- be focused on intentional evangelism and discipleship, leading to significant numbers of new people exploring faith and becoming disciples
- have carried out substantial contextual discernment about community needs and local church/circuit resources surrounding the project, and there must be evidence of this
- have plans in place for how the project will inspire other circuits/churches to start New Places for New People, and there must be evidence of this. The project must provide a replicable model for others to use
- have a clear gospel vision, including evidence of listening to God, prayer, and a foundational vision
- have an Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) policy; equality and inclusion of all people must be demonstrated as a project core value
- follow safeguarding best practice, as defined by the Conference. A conversation with the District Safeguarding Officer is required to advise on a safeguarding risk assessment and policy
- have DPC and senior district leaders' ownership, accountability, and endorsement

Chapter 3
**Accessing New
Places for New
People Funding for
District-led Projects**
(Cont'd)

- have clear and robust leadership appropriate to the context. Roles and responsibilities of different parties must be clearly outlined. This will include:
 - a post for a pioneer/planter/project leader (hereafter called 'pioneer'). The pioneer must join the Methodist Pioneering Pathway (MPP)
 - a named, local Learning Network Officer who specialises in New Places for New People
 - a regional gathering of pioneers (facilitated by Connexional Team staff).
 - a coach, assigned to the pioneer via the MPP
 - a named line manager/management committee for the pioneer.
- have a fully-costed budget
- have a risk assessment for the project, including plans for mitigating substantial risks
- have continuity plans in place where needed, to ensure the stability of a project (eg planning for a change in the local superintendent, or for working with existing congregations)
- have clear and realistic outcomes or fruit that emphasise missional culture change. Some will be local and/or district contextual outcomes; some will be connexion-wide, cross-context outcomes. The project plan must evidence a clear link between planned activities and outcomes. The activities planned must be realistic, based on available resources and capacity
- have a biannual review process to enable the project to remain agile and responsive
- have accessed the training and support from the Methodist Pioneer Pathway
- for Church at the Margins projects – people with 'lived experience' from the community must have been involved in the design and development of the project and its aims.

Questions:

If you have any queries or concerns, please contact the Project Officer (Funding Allocation and Distribution) at bondj@methodistchurch.org.uk

Appendix 2

NPNP Presentation Questions

You should aim to answer the following questions in your funding submission presentation.

Vision and values

1. **Set the scene:** Why do you want to begin a New Place for New People (NPNP) and what are the key stories which inspired you? Who are you aiming at and what is the purpose? How does this resonate with your community?
2. **Prayer:** How has this vision emerged from prayer and listening to God? How are you praying for your project? How will the district support this project in prayer?
3. **Vision:** Describe the vision for the project, what will it look like in a few years' time?
4. **Values:** What are the core values that will shape your project? How will they support and enable the vision for the project?

Preparation phase

1. **Preparation:** What have you done to prepare for the NPNP? Who are the stakeholders? How will they be involved and interested in your progress? How has the voice of people with lived experience been included, this will be particularly significant for Church at the Margins projects.
2. **Launch:** How do you plan to get started and when? How are you publicising this?

Delivery

1. **Making it happen:** In a nutshell, how are you going to achieve your vision? How will you know if your vision is being realised? How will you measure 'fruitfulness'? How will you communicate the emerging stories?
2. **Pioneering Team:** Who is currently part of the pioneering team and why? Who else do you hope to recruit? How will the team change, grow and expand over time? How are you developing a leadership community?
3. **Impact:** How will you connect with new people? How will people move from being an interested seeker to a follower of Jesus? How will people become trained leaders?
4. **Wider culture change:** How will this project influence others in your district to begin an NPNP, including those in very different contexts? How will the project be accountable to the wider church? How will the wider church be accountable to supporting the project?
5. **First 100 days:** What are the absolute priorities that set the tone and feel of the project? What challenges do you anticipate in this period and how will you overcome them?
6. **First two years:** What are you prioritising over the first two years? What are you launching and when? What challenges do you anticipate in this period and how will you overcome them?

7. **First five years:** What are your mid-term expectations? What are your big picture hopes? How do your reflections on the fruitfulness markers (see page 43) relate to the vision for the project? When will you seed/plan for another NPNP? What challenges do you anticipate in this period and how will you overcome them?
8. **Budget:** A simple table of income (including sources) and expenditure (only headings needed, eg staffing, start-up items) for the first three years. What other resources (not just money) will support your project (eg people, places, networks, assets, property)?
9. **Safeguarding:** Outline the safeguarding risk assessment and policy you have developed in consultation with the District Safeguarding Officer (DSO). How will you review and evaluate your safeguarding policies and practices?
10. **Help required:** What do you need help with now or in the future? Are there questions for the panel or issues you would appreciate input on?

Questions:

If you have any queries or concerns, please contact the Project Officer (Funding Allocation and Distribution) at bondj@methodistchurch.org.uk