



The  
**United  
Reformed  
Church**

## Mission

The United Reformed Church  
86 Tavistock Place, London WC1H 9RT



Walking Church  
Breakfast Church  
Pub Church  
Forest Church  
Dinner Church  
Café Church  
Muddy Church  
Quiet Church  
Mindful Church

# The Gathering

for all new expressions of church

*“Fresh expressions are new forms of church that emerge within contemporary culture and engage primarily with those who don’t go to church” \**

**An invitation to apply for an extraordinary gift from United Reformed Church Mission and Westminster College Cambridge**

The URC is committed to supporting people who have set up new types of church and are now exploring the way forward in faith.

Together with URC Westminster College Cambridge, we are delighted to invite applications to join **The Gathering** of teams who are intentionally developing and nurturing new types of worshipping communities and fresh expressions of church alongside our more traditional churches.

All fresh expressions of church share similar values, though they vary as to their position on the journey. The values are:

- *Missional* - serving those outside church
- *Contextual* - listening to people and entering their culture
- *Formational* - making discipleship a priority
- *Ecclesial* - forming ‘church’

**The Gathering** will be a network of prayerful mutual encouragement which will convene for three 24-hour meetings in 2020 (plus in-between via social media) and meetings thereafter to be arranged. Teams of two or three who are leading new types / fresh expressions of church in their spare time are welcome, as are Pioneers and other Ministers. These teams will probably – though not necessarily - have little or no formal training in running new types of church and may come seeking support, or perhaps offering valuable experience. These are churches at different times and places, with different styles and agendas, being welcoming to the many kinds of people who don’t fit into existing types of churches. **The Gathering** offers tailor-made support for each team via a dedicated app, an opportunity to plan and learn from each other, and team-coaching support if required.

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**The Gathering** will be a space for sharing best practice and bouncing ideas; and will recognise that each team is starting in a different place, with different interests and different groups, yet acknowledging that we all have one primary goal – to bring new disciples to Jesus.

**Detail:**

**The Gathering** is open to teams of two or three people per new type of church. Initially, we will meet three times in 2020 – each time for 24 hrs at Westminster College, Cambridge. There is a nominal charge of £25 per person per 24 hours toward accommodation and meals – a bursary is available for teams who may struggle with this.

If you are interested, we ask that you commit to all three meetings in 2020 and download the free *FX Godsend App* which is full of helpful information, from your usual app store.

**Facilitated by:**

- Michael Moynagh author of many books about mission and fresh expressions of church, including *Church in Life: Innovation, Mission and Ecclesiology* SCM Press 2017,
- Peter Ball, Director of Church Resource Development Westminster College, Cambridge,
- Francis Brienen, URC Deputy General Secretary, Mission
- Linda Rayner, URC Co-ordinator for Fresh Expressions.

**Dates:** (We ask that teams commit to all three dates)

Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> – Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2020

Friday 17<sup>th</sup> – Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> July 2020

Monday 12<sup>th</sup> – Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> October 2020

**Applications:**

If you are leading a new kind of church, we would be delighted to see your team at the **The Gathering**. Numbers are limited, so we ask that in the first instance you indicate interest by emailing [linda.rayner@urc.org.uk](mailto:linda.rayner@urc.org.uk) with your name, the name and location of your new expression of church plus a few details of the work that you are doing.

**Please indicate interest by Friday 20<sup>th</sup> September 2019.**

Please respond to Linda Rayner [linda.rayner@urc.org.uk](mailto:linda.rayner@urc.org.uk)

*\*Definition from [www.freshexpressions.org.uk](http://www.freshexpressions.org.uk)*