**Caleb Communities – Defining Characteristics**

1. Caleb Communities are attempts to grow *new* faith communities which can emerge in a wide variety of contexts.
2. Caleb Communities are designed to connect with *new* people who are not currently part of a church family. Such people will often, but not exclusively, have little or no faith background.
3. Caleb communities are different from inherited models of church in that they are primarily focused on growing faith community where people are. Learning to understand local cultures and context will be vital for this to happen.
4. Successful Caleb applications will very often, but not exclusively, be projects which seek to connect with people on the social and economic margins of society.
5. Our expectation is that many, but not all, of the local Caleb projects will be lay led and supported and encouraged by ordained staff within their context.
6. All Caleb projects, in their early stages, will be encouraged and supported in building a healthy leadership team structure. Project applications which come from individuals with little or no team structure will need help in this area before their project can proceed.
7. All local Caleb leaders will be expected to join the Caleb Learning Community. This will include one meeting (some in person and some online) each month.
8. All local Caleb projects will be required to attend four quarterly project review meetings each year with a Caleb staff member.
9. All local Caleb leaders will be asked to attend one leaning community day (most likely on a Saturday) in each year of their funded period.
10. All local Caleb leaders will be asked to pray for the wider Caleb project. This could include occasional prayer gatherings.
11. All projects which are successful in the application process to join Caleb and therefore be eligible for financial support, will be expected to seek match funding in their local context (this may be in cash or in kind e.g part of staff member’s time or use of a building etc). However, no projects will be excluded due to financial deprivation alone.