

Chapter 1 New Places for New People (NPNP)

NPNPs are new Christian communities in new places for those not yet part of an existing church. NPNPs are the most effective means of connecting new people, new people groups, and new residents to Christian exploration and community. NPNPs bring learning from experimental 'research and development', and identify and strengthen emerging leaders. NPNPs can be started anywhere. The Methodist Church suggests these priorities:

- 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
- or another context where an NPNP vision has arisen.

NPNP theological foundations

Beginning and ending with God: We are joining in with God's invitation to reconnect people to the God revealed to us in Jesus Christ.

Incarnation is key: NPNPs involve being with and alongside others – discovering God together by sharing the reality of human life with its pain, struggles, and joys.

Developing new Christian communities: We believe God is at work in God's world and is not dependent on the actions of the Church or individual Christians.

Nurturing new Christians: An NPNP is for new people in new places, is rooted in our response to God's love, and aims for all people to know and experience the love of God.

Open to transformation: At the heart of NPNP is an invitation into a transforming relationship with God and a willingness to be shaped, challenged, and transformed.

NPNP core values

Be pioneering: NPNTs affirm and enable people from diverse backgrounds and ages who are called by God to see new opportunities and respond to God's Spirit.

Develop a 'mixed ecology': We value a diverse range of missional approaches which will produce a variety of new Christian communities among unaffiliated people.

Be committed to risk-taking mission: NPNT is the work of the whole Church, we are committed to experimenting and taking risks in mission.

Ensure contextual relevance: New communities will arise out of careful listening and will always remain connected to the wider community and aware of its needs.

Nurture discipleship in gathered community: Though an individual chooses to become a disciple, faith is nurtured in community with others.

Chapter 2 Church at the Margins (CaM)

Alongside building on NPNP beliefs and core values, the CaM vision is of new Christian communities among economically marginalised people.

Definition of Church at the Margins

Church: A gathered community of people being transformed by the gospel.

At: People at the margins, on the margins, of the margins – not to or for the margins. We are not taking God to the margins; God is present with and in all people.

Margins: People can be marginalised in many, often interconnected, ways. We will focus on people who are experiencing poverty.

Theological foundations

God's preferential option for people in poverty: God's character reveals a God of justice and an emphasis on our need to care for the vulnerable, the stranger and those who are living in poverty.

The good news of Jesus Christ: We hold that to abandon people in economic hardship is to abandon the central theme of the liberating, life-giving message of the gospel for us all.

Evangelism and social justice: Evangelism and social justice are inseparable aspects of our Christian discipleship.

Interdependence: We recognise our shared brokenness and our capacity and need to receive from one another.

Inclusion: Whenever we 'other' people because of their economic circumstances, we cannot see the image of God in them and ourselves.

Core values

Seek justice: We will seek opportunities to enable the voices of the economically vulnerable to be heard by those with power to instigate change.

Prioritise the lived experience of people at the economic margins: We believe people with lived experience are the experts and are essential partners in co-designing, co-creating, co-delivering and co-leading any community.

Share power: We will share power and recognise the dynamics and potential misuse of power.

Celebrate inclusion and participation: We will resist service-provider models of community engagement based on the rich doing something for the poor.

Enable leadership communities: We will nurture, enable, and develop local leadership within people already present and invested in their local context.