

MYRIAD



Am I called?

MYRIAD GUIDE

Myriad inspires and
serves everyday people
to form new church
communities.

This guide provides:

- principles for discerning your calling to planting
- principles to confirm your calling with others
- action steps for progressing your calling to planting



Am I called to plant a new church community?

Are you in the process of figuring out whether God may be calling you to plant a new church community?

You might find the following questions helpful to use in your process of discernment.

Vision

New church communities often grow from an awareness that certain groups of people are not connecting with the existing church expression in that area.

Have you become increasingly aware of a group of people who are not connecting with, or are unable to access existing forms of church?

Do you imagine what church could look like for a new group of people outside of the existing church?

Qualifications

God prepares people to lead new church communities in very different ways. Many planters use skills that they have learned in a secular workplace, others have gained leadership experience within their existing church. For some planters, the best qualification they have is a deep knowledge and understanding of a place, having lived there for many years. While some planters have high-level educational or theological qualifications, it is not a pre-requisite.

What is in your story that may have prepared you to be someone God could be calling to lead a new church community?

Gifts

The Holy Spirit gives different gifts and abilities to God's people to express His life on earth. Planters are often gifted at sharing their faith naturally with others or pioneering new things in new ways. Others have a gift of hospitality and are people who enjoy gathering others.

Whatever your particular gifts are, the planting team that you gather will need a diversity of gifts.

What are your God-given gifts? How might God want to use those in the leading of a new church community?

Hearing the voice of God

The call to start a new church community may well have come from a sense of God speaking to you: a stirring in your heart. This may be through a feeling of a deep connection with a place or community, or through recognising the still quiet whisper of God.

In what ways has God spoken to you or nudged you? Are there particular ways God has confirmed this to you or others

Team

Planting a new church community will need more than a lone planter but a team committed to the call of God. You may be the one who God has initially inspired but it is essential that you gather a team around you.

Are you someone who is able to gather a team?





How do others confirm the call to planting?

The discernment journey may begin alone but discerning a calling is ultimately something that takes place in community with others.

An essential part of discerning the call to lead a new church community, is to share that calling with your church leader. As you meet with this person, you might like to use the following principles.

Confirmation

Your church leader will know you and will have seen you serve in different ways in the church community. They have an essential role in confirming if they, and others in the church, see the gifts and God-given potential in you to be able to fulfil this calling.

Champion

Supportive oversight from others in church leadership is one of the most important confirmations of a calling to lead a new Christian community. Is there an ordained leader who can 'champion' the potential new church community?

Capacity

Embarking upon the journey to start a new church community, even when being done with others, is demanding. It will take time, energy and emotional input (Luke 14.28). Consider the potential impact on family and work life and reflect on how God is making it possible for you to undertake this role.

Care

Discerning your calling to plant a church is only the beginning: Having relationships and structures in place that will support you throughout the church planting journey will be essential. Talk about what that support could look like in your context.

The Myriad Learning Pathway will provide a wealth of resources and support to equip you for your planting journey.

Are you ready?

Do you have:

1. A conviction or calling to try something new?
2. A champion who will support and provide oversight for you?
3. A commitment to building a planting team?



What Next?

The process of discernment should develop in the context of prayer. Use the discernment questions here as a basis for your prayer.

Who could you invite to pray with you to hear the call of God for your area?

Arrange a discernment meeting with your church leader. Use the section 'How do others confirm the calling to planting?'

If your church leader agrees that you should explore planting further, please contact the Myriad Hub leader and they will guide you in the next steps to take.

Contact Myriad



020 3837 5275



myriad@ccx.org.uk



The Old Deanery, Deans Court
London EC4V 5AA

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