

Learning networks are about learning alongside others and benefiting from their questions and insights.

Learning networks are an opportunity to meet up and reflect on how your fresh expression of church is beginning and evolving and discuss any issues that may be arising. It will help to have a designated facilitator, however you could take turns to facilitate the group with different members facilitating each time you meet. The facilitator will lead you through this process and keep an eye on the clock so everyone has a chance to share.

Learning networks provide space for:

- **Reflection**
Allow the questions to help you reflect on your ministry.
- **Action Planning**
Use the process to help you decide what plans or action you want to take.
- **Review**
Take the opportunity to review action taken next time you meet

When you meet together split the time up so you each have the opportunity to talk about the fresh expression of church you're involved in. The group can help you to stay focused on the issue by asking questions to help you reflect, to come up with a plan of action and review next time you meet.

This learning networks leaflet is on the four dimensions of church and is useful in helping practitioners to think through how a fresh expression is developing as church. Although every fresh expressions develops differently, over time all four dimensions of church should be present. The issues outlined here represent common threads seen across a variety of fresh expressions.

Fresh Expressions are supporting learning networks as they develop. For further resources and more information go to sharetheguide.org/networks.

More information on how fresh expressions of church are developing round the country can be found at sharetheguide.org including the latest research on fresh expressions.

You can also stay connected to other learning networks around the country through the *Share* online community sharetheguide.org/community.

mission shaped ministry course participants can use this leaflet on their own, or preferably in a learning network or group coaching session.

Find out more about *msm* at missionshapedministry.org

Learning Networks

Four dimensions of church



Resources to support ongoing learning as we develop fresh expressions of church together.

The four dimensions of church can be used to reflect on how your fresh expression is developing into church.

Take a few minutes at the beginning of your time together to read the topics grouped around four relationships of church.

- **Up** towards God
- **In** as community is strengthened
- **Out** in mission
- **Of** as it experiences being part of the worldwide body of Christ.

One or two topics may jump out to you as particularly relevant to your fresh expression of church right now. Take turns to explain which topic jumped out to you and why. Other members can ask questions to help tease out the issue, to help you reflect and to help you work out a plan of action.

You can read more about the four dimensions of church at sharetheguide.org/section1/4

Of

- Growing identity with the church as the body of Christ
- Connecting with the wider church
- Relationship between existing and fresh expressions of church
- Working in partnership with others

Up

- Hearing God's call
- Developing vision
- Encouraging creative forms of prayer and worship
- Worship life growing out of the context
- Celebrating the sacraments

How do we keep the balance between the four areas?

How is discipleship working out in these four areas?

In

- Gelling as a community
- Challenges that children and adults face in this community?
- Developing local leaders
- Strengths and weakness in the team
- Areas of conflict resolution

Out

- Challenges in relating to the culture and engaging with needs
- God at work in your mission context
- Opportunities to be part of transforming your community
- People of peace
- Helping people along their faith journey

