



Presbytery of Port Phillip East

Mission PILOT PROJECT 2019-2020

**An invitation to discernment, learning
and action in local mission**



Mission PILOT PROCESS

The Mission Cultivation Process is a twelve-month process for congregations to learn about new ways of being in mission through action learning – taking on a new initiative and learning from the experience.



► An Invitation

- to take a fresh look at your community connections and build new relationships
- to discern how God is active in your congregation and in the world
- to reimagine what it means to be the church shaped for mission in your context
- to learn from undertaking an experiment in mission
- to develop new leadership insights and skills
- to learn about a team approach to congregational mission
- to learn about expressing faith as good news in word and deed with people in your local community



See the video about the Mission Pilot at tinyurl.com/missionpilotprocess

The Port Phillip East Presbytery *Cultivating a New Future* Process includes a strategic priority to develop a small number of Congregational Mission Pilots in 2019 and 2020. This involves a process of missional cultural change designed to assist congregations to respond to the challenges and opportunities of the post-Christendom context in Australia.

The Presbytery is seeking to identify three congregations for this first round of mission pilots, with subsequent rounds from mid-2020. Congregations are invited to submit expressions of interest to participate in the project by 31 August, 2019.

The Project Steering Group consists of Rev Dev Anandarajan (Synod Intercultural Leadership Development Coordinator), Ms Belinda Clear (Mission Development Committee), Rev Greg Fry (Chair, Mission Development Committee), Dr Craig Mitchell (PPE Presbytery Minister – Church Development) and Mr Phil McCredden (Ecclesia Leadership).

Mission PILOT PROCESS

The Mission Pilot Process is designed to form some experimental responses to the post-Christendom missional context. This includes

- equipping congregational leaders and members to engage in a new mission initiative in their local context
- resourcing and supporting ministers in their roles in leading congregations in mission
- resourcing ministers and leaders in further developing their congregations as communities of lifelong discipleship
- assisting Port Phillip East Presbytery to learn how to work with congregations in subsequent Mission Pilots

The project contains the following elements:

1. Mission Cultivation Team

Congregations form a Mission Cultivation Team which includes their minister. These teams meet at least monthly during the year. The team takes the lead in their congregation in discerning, designing and implementing the mission experiment.

2. Mission Intensives

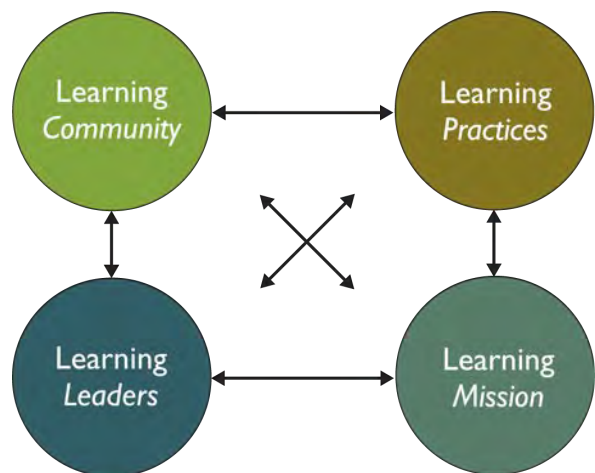
During the twelve month period, all teams participate together in four learning intensives. These sessions are essential to the overall process. The intensives will be led by Phil McCredden and Craig Mitchell.

3. Team Coaching

The Mission Cultivation Teams will receive regular coaching from Craig Mitchell assisted by members of the Steering Group as the teams work on discerning, learning, experimenting, developing and evaluating their local mission project.

4. Ministers' Peer Learning

The ministers will meet as a peer learning group approximately every 6 weeks with Craig Mitchell for reflection and resourcing.



5. Steering Group

The Project Steering Group will meet regularly with Phil McCredden to review the process and learn from the teams' progress. The Steering Group will also provide information to the presbytery about how the project evolves.

Mission CULTIVATION



Mission Cultivation Gauge

These indicators will help determine whether this Project might be timely for your church.

Openness to:

- exploring your congregation's identity and role in mission
- deepening your discipleship practices as a congregation
- building relationships with your local community in new or deeper ways
- team-building and team learning in mission
- experimentation in risking a new initiative
- discernment, listening to God's Spirit



Timetable

1. **Launch** – The Project Launch is Wednesday 17 July.
2. **Consideration** – July/August. Ministers and Church Councils are welcome to contact the Steering Group via Craig Mitchell for further information. Your Church Council would need to discuss the possibility during this time.
3. **Expressions of Interest** – due 31 August. See attached pro forma.
4. **Notification** – The Steering Group will contact applicant congregations during September.
5. **Intensives** – Dates for the learning Intensives are as follows: 11-13 October 2019 (live-in), 22 February 2020, 2 May 2020, 8 August 2020.
6. **Mission Cultivation Team meeting** and **Ministers' peer learning group meetings** commence from October 2019.
7. **Conclusion** – Project conclusion and evaluation will take place in September 2020.

Project ACTIVATION



Expressions of Interest

Please complete the attached **Expression of Interest form** and return to the Presbytery by **31 August 2019**. An electronic copy is available on request.

Mail: Mission Pilot Project, Port Phillip East Presbytery, PO Box 696, Noble Park VIC 3174.

Email: Craig Mitchell pm-cd@ucappep.org **Tel:** 0417 323 088 for further information.

Mission Cultivation Team

The membership of the Mission Cultivation Team is determined by the Minister and Church Council. In some instances this Team may be the Church Council itself.

You need to consider

- Who would benefit from the learning process?
- Who has time and energy for such involvement?
- What gifts and experience could people bring to the mission experiment process?

We envisage that each team will consist of 6 to 8 people.

Cost

The direct costs of the Project include accommodation for the first Learning Intensive weekend, catering for the Intensives, and learning

resources provided to Mission Cultivation Team members. Congregations are asked to contribute \$2000 each, with the Presbytery contributing approximately \$2500 per congregation. Congregations may apply to the Presbytery for financial assistance.

Any local costs involved in the Mission experiment itself are the responsibility of the Church Council. You may also apply to the Presbytery for financial assistance with local project costs. The Steering Group can also assist you to find ways to seek local funding.

Church Council Approval

The approval of your Church Council is required for participation in the Project.

Evaluation

The Project is designed from the outset to enable participant congregations, ministers and the presbytery itself to learn from the experiment. Project evaluation will take account of the interests and involvement of the Presbytery, the Project Steering Group, the Mission Cultivation Teams, Church Councils, Ministers and other relevant people.



Mission PILOT FAQ



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

- ▶ We already know about post-Christendom and mission and all that. Why get involved?

The process is not mainly about head knowledge, but about learning by doing. You will learn through how you work together, how you engage with your local community, and how you grow spiritually through the process.

- ▶ What if we don't get accepted into the Pilot in 2019?

We will have conversations with all congregations who apply. Some may be happy to wait for the 2020 Pilot round, others may be supported or resourced by the Presbytery in other ways.

- ▶ We already have a project underway. Are we eligible?

Yes. However, if this is the case, this Pilot process may not be what you need. Let's talk.

- ▶ We don't have a minister. Are we eligible?

Maybe. It depends on your ministry situation. We believe that the minister's participation is vital. Let's talk.

- ▶ How important is it that all Team members attend all Intensives and meetings?

Very important. Of course, we recognise that there will be occasional absences, but this is designed for maximum participation. It is action-based learning-by-doing.

- ▶ We're not sure if we have enough people with enough time to form a team. Are we eligible?

If you can't form a suitable team, then this is probably not the right time or process for you.

- ▶ Do we have to stop the Mission experiment after 12 months?

No. It is meant to be a real engagement in mission, not a token activity. However, you might decide based on your learnings to change direction, and that is fine.

- ▶ When is the next opportunity to be part of a Mission Pilot Process like this?

At this stage we expect a similar process to take place from mid-2020. More details to come later in 2019.



Expression OF INTEREST

Please return by 31 August

Mail: Mission Pilot Project, Port Phillip East Presbytery, PO Box 696, Noble Park 3174

Email: Craig Mitchell pm-cd@ucappep.org

CONTACT DETAILS

Name of Congregation/Faith Community:

Contact Person:

Contact Address:

Telephone:

Email:

Please tell us about the following.

1. How your congregation might change or grow in mission through this process

2. Your Church Council's openness to such a process and to exploring new ways of being in mission

Expression OF INTEREST



3. Whether or not there are local community connections that you would hope to build on or develop eg. particular groups of people

4. What people, gifts and skills you might include in a Mission Cultivation Team

5. What possible obstacles might arise through your participation in the Pilot

Expression OF INTEREST



6. Any significant changes that have taken place in your congregation recently, or anticipated. eg. as your minister leaving, not having a minister in placement, undergoing a building project

7. What other hopes you might have for this process

8. What questions you have about the Pilot project

9. Anything else you want to tell about. eg. finance, property, local community, cultural considerations

Date submitted: