

February 2024



The Church of England

Diocese of Ely

Vocations

*Ordained
Pioneer
Ministry*

*Information for
those specifically
exploring an
ordained pioneer
pathway.*

Pioneer ministry

Pioneer ministry can be expressed across church traditions and the Church of England’s definition of a pioneer is: “Pioneers are people called by God, who are the first to see and creatively respond to the Holy Spirit’s initiatives with those outside the church; gathering others around them as they seek to establish new contextual Christian community.” (*Ministry Council, 2017*)

The Church of England has developed 15 principles that expand this definition of a ‘contextual approach’ which speak of the distinctiveness of pioneer ministry. They are grouped into spiritual foundations, inward qualities and outward practices.





Pioneer ministry

Spiritual Foundations	Inward Qualities	Outward Practices
Calling to Pioneer Ministry	Discerning the Spirit of God	Noticing and responding to God and the world around you
Responsive Obedience to the work of God	Self-giving in your approach	Adapting practices to the missional context
Bi-cultural identity, inhabiting church and world together in the same place	Playful and holding outcomes lightly	Experimenting and taking risks
Prayerful, spiritual practices	Hospitable and enabling others	Co-creating with others (within and beyond the church)
Jesus Centred in all you do	Resilient practices that sustain you	Persisting when things are difficult

Pioneers inhabit the missional context and then with those around them ask ‘what could a Jesus centred community look like for us here?’ Through interactions with those around them new contextual Christian communities are birthed. This takes time and candidates will be at different stages of this journey, but all should demonstrate the potential, intention and ability to form a new contextual Christian community.

If you feel called to this kind of ministry, then we would love to walk with you through the discernment process.

The process of discernment for OPM is the same as it is for everyone else discerning a call to ordained ministry. The one difference is that the qualities you need to demonstrate all have a pioneering inflection to them. The qualities grid for OPM is shown on the next page.

Within the (A)DDO team we have expertise in pioneer ministry, and these will be drawn upon through your discernment journey.





Vocations

Ordained Pioneer Ministry

OPM	New Contextual Christian Community			
	Christ	Church & World are inextricably linked therefore these domains should be held together across a permeable line		Self
		Church	World	
Love for God <i>The candidate...</i>	Is reliant on God - Father, Son and Holy Spirit - and lives out an infectious, life-transforming faith Pioneer Foundation: Jesus Centred	Is rooted in Scripture, the worship of the Church and the living traditions of faith	Whole-heartedly, generously and attractively engages with God's world giving it close attention. Pioneer Practice: Noticing	Is prayerful and studies the Bible Pioneer Foundation: Prayerful
Call to Ministry <i>The candidate...</i>	Responds to the call of Christ to be a disciple Pioneer Foundation: Responsive Obedience	Understands the distinctive nature of ordained priestly Pioneer ministry	Is committed to being a public and representative person	Articulates an inner sense of call grounded in priestly service that is distinctly pioneer shaped. Pioneer Foundation: Calling
Love for People <i>The candidate...</i>	Welcomes Christ in others, listens, values and respects; cares for those in poverty and the marginalised	Builds relationships which are collaborative and enabling Keeps pastoral and professional boundaries Pioneer Quality: Hospitable	Shows God's compassion for the world through a ministerial identity deeply rooted in the world. Pioneer Foundation: Bi-Cultural Identify	Has empathy and is aware of how others receive them Keeps personal boundaries
Wisdom <i>The candidate...</i>	Is inquisitive, curious and open to new learning Can learn and reflect Pioneer Quality: Discerning	Shows leadership that can grow thriving and healthy new Contextual Christian Communities, handles conflict and can lead in mission. Understands safeguarding / safety in church communities Pioneer Practice: Co-Creating	Is robust and courageous and prepared to take risks Recognises the need to assess risk Pioneer Practice: Persisting	Is a mature and integrated person of stability and integrity Is personally self-aware
Fruitfulness <i>The candidate...</i>	Embraces the different and enables others to be witnesses and servants Pioneer Quality: Self-Giving	Shows the capacity to exercise sacramental, liturgical and an effective and enabling teaching ministry	Shares faith in Christ and can accompany others in their faith	Has resilience and stamina Pioneer Quality: Resilient
Potential <i>The candidate has potential to...</i>	Grow in faith and be open to navigating the future in the company of Christ and guided by the Holy Spirit	Manage change and see the big picture by engaging in playful imagination, open to the unknown. Pioneer Quality: Playful	See where God is working in the world and respond with missionary imagination Pioneer Practice: Experimenting	Be adaptable and agile Pioneer Practice: Adapting