

## Changing the Landscape - table talk

a summary of the round-table discussion

*At various points during Changing the Landscape (6th May 2011, Oxford), some of the major challenges facing those involved in fresh expressions of church were discussed. This is a summary of some of the issues raised.*

### 1. Managing the mixed economy locally

How can we enable inherited models and fresh expressions of church to thrive together?

- Is there a tension between maintaining traditional and missional activity?
- Do we spend lots of energy dealing with the expectations of inherited church?
- If the future of the church is “festival and small” (Rowan Williams) what happens to the current “in between”?

### 2. Oversight

How might oversight for fresh expressions of church be re-shaped?

- Is there is an increasing need for supportive, key people in senior appointments?
- What does a fresh expression of oversight look like?
- Could leaders be, in Anglican terms, licensed solely for the fresh expression of church they serve?

### 3. Lay leadership

How can we enable lay-led sacramental communities?

- Lay leadership is necessary if the whole nation is to be reached, but how do we aim for integrity?

- How do we do sacramental authorization and what about lay leadership and communion? We need to have some actions/decisions here.
- Should pioneers be stipendiary or do we need more self-supporting models?

### 4. Funding

Can we think longer than three years?

- Is it possible to be a fundraiser and a leader at the same time?
- Is it true that three years is not long enough? It is good that people are now beginning to talk in terms of five, six or seven years.
- Is there is a need for milestones not targets?
- How do we answer the tough questions asked by the inherited church about funding fresh expressions of church without evidence of long term impact? How do we gather that evidence?

### 5. Sustainability

How can we build in patterns of sustainability from the start?

- How do we build sustainability?
- How do we release and support lay leaders so that they have a healthy work/life balance?



- How do we equip successors to initial pioneers?
- How do we get essential business advice?

### 6. What are we actually doing?

Are we seriously engaged in mission?

- Are fresh expressions of church simply creating more attractive worshiping patterns?
- How can we encourage better fresh expressions of church in the work place? We need to think about scattering rather than gathering.
- How do we retrain people to think all Christians are missionaries called to mission?
- Are we making disciples or church-goers?
- Is all this just for young people and young leaders?
- How do missional activities become church?