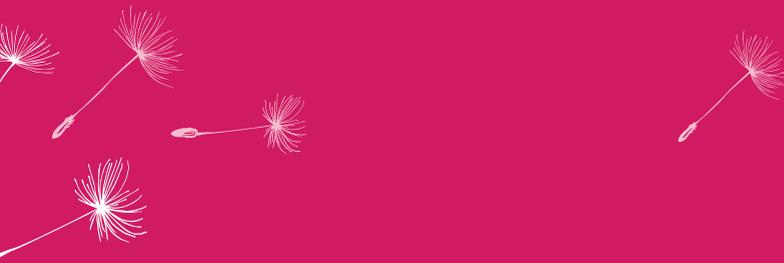


Behold, I am doing a new
thing; now it springs forth,
do you not perceive it?
I will make a way in the
wilderness and rivers in
the desert. (Isaiah 43:19)



EMERGING CHURCH
EMERGING MINISTRIES



In a new joint venture
the Ministries Council and
Mission and Discipleship
Council are **collaborating in
an innovative way** to enable
the Church of Scotland to face
the challenges of ministry
and mission in today's world.



BACKGROUND

'Emerging Church' and 'Emerging Ministries' are about reaching out to others in ways they can relate to. It is about the church adapting in order to speak to the cultures round about. Our society is diverse and fragmented, and if we are to fulfil the church's mission in sharing the Gospel, we need to be a people who are prepared to incarnate the Gospel in the many and various expressions of contemporary culture.

Such adaptation and innovative risk-taking finds roots in our Reformed tradition – “reformed and always reforming” (*reformata semper reformanda*). Most people are familiar with the traditional Parish model of church life, but there is no single model of church and Christian communities have always taken a variety of forms.



“As we enter the 21st century, the emerging pattern for mission strategy must be much more diverse to permeate the fragmented nature of our society: ministry teams operating in a variety of community bases to be incarnate in a network of communities. Instead of occasional variations to the assumed 19th century norm, it is time to recognise the new components of the new strategy and resource it accordingly.”

Church Without Walls Report, 2001, p14

PRIORITY OF PRAYERFUL 'DOUBLE LISTENING'

This leaflet is a call for prayerful “double listening” rather than hasty action: listening to what God is saying to the church through biblical and theological reflection, and listening to the cultures of the day. What are the issues we face? What are the real needs of our communities? How are we to respond to them? What kind of expressions of church speak to today's Scotland?

Fresh Expressions is a joint initiative of the Church of England and the Methodist Church set up to encourage new forms of church in every diocese and district. Visit the website (www.freshexpressions.org.uk) to get some idea of the variety of initiatives springing up – some urban, some rural – and supported by churches of every tradition. We, in Scotland, are learning from our sisters and brothers in England how we can help create a diversity of church life through what Archbishop Rowan Williams has called a ‘mixed economy’ church which includes ...

- Alternative worship communities
- Base ecclesial communities
- Café Church
- Cell Church
- Churches arising out of community initiatives
- Multiple and midweek congregations
- Network-focused churches
- School-based and school-linked congregations and churches
- Seeker church
- Traditional church plants
- Traditional forms of church inspiring new interest
- Youth congregations

(See *Mission-shaped Church*, London: Church House Publishing, 2004, p 44.)



A MIXED ECONOMY

To fulfil our mission to Scotland, there is a need for both “inherited” modes of church and “emerging” modes of church. Each must relate to the other – informing each other, praying for each other, supporting each other.

DAVID CURRIE

Rev David Currie has been appointed as a Development Worker to discover, encourage and promote incipient church groups. David is available to be consulted, to help groups network and to give what advice he can in this learning experience for us all.

David E.P. Currie

Development Worker, Emerging Church and New and Emerging Ministries

email: dcurrie@cofscotland.org.uk

tel: 0131 225 5722 ext. 383



EMERGING MINISTRIES FUND

The General Assembly of 2008 approved the setting up of the Emerging Ministries Fund to make financial resources available to support and encourage these 'emerging church' groups. It is experimental, to learn about the sorts of things that might work in different geographical, demographical and cultural areas. It is short to medium term 'seed' funding, to enable activities to get off the drawing board and into the real world to see if they can work.

Three words sum up the purpose of the Fund:

- **Missional** – it is to help reach out beyond the local congregation.
- **Ecclesial** – it is to help establish new church groups.
- **Experimental** – it is to help us learn what models of church life touch the needs of our cultures.

WHO CAN APPLY?

- Presbyteries may apply in relation to a perceived local or presbytery-wide need.
- Congregations may apply, either individually or in partnerships in recognition of a local need.

WHAT SUPPORT IS AVAILABLE?

- The Councils, through the Emerging Ministries Task Group, will award grants according to the level of need in each case.
- Council staff will be available to offer general support and advice according to need.

HINTS, STIRRINGS AND AWAKENINGS

Already many exciting things are happening in the Church of Scotland and in other churches and networks.

Presbyteries have used their Planning Process to reallocate resources into more pioneering work – employing full or part-time ministers, auxiliaries, deacons, youth workers, schools workers, etc. In this way the church is already moving towards a broader variety of patterns of church.

MAPPING “WHAT’S OUT THERE”

One of the initial aims is to get a much better picture of what’s already going on, so please get in touch if you are aware of any potential “emerging church” experiments in your area – rural or urban, among young people or serving the elderly, etc.

We’re already aware of a number of exciting initiatives springing up in Scotland, so please help us expand our network of contacts by getting in touch.

INVEST

Although not part of the official Church of Scotland’s ministerial selection and training process, Invest is a leadership training and mentoring programme (based at Whiteinch Parish Church in Glasgow) for those who sense that God might be leading them into creating new expressions of church.



The Call to our Church

The time is ripe for a wave of fresh expressions to flower in Scotland. In order to encourage this, the wider church will need, in certain respects, to change its culture. Four principles that might help to change the culture are: create the space; nurture the young shoots; resource the entrepreneurs; establish a home within the institution.

[Extract from “Building the Future”, Ministries Council Report to the General Assembly 2008 Section 2.2.3.0]

CONTACTS

Mission and Discipleship Council

Alex Millar

Associate Secretary, Mission and Evangelism Task Group

email: amillar@cofscotland.org.uk

tel: 0131 225 5722 ext. 307

Ministries Council

John Jackson

Associate Secretary, Planning and Deployment

email: jjackson@cofscotland.org.uk

tel: 0131 225 5722 ext. 312

David E.P. Currie

Development Worker, Emerging Church and New and Emerging Ministries

email: dcurrie@cofscotland.org.uk

tel: 0131 225 5722 ext. 383

