

Step 1

Select a venue and set a date 6-8 weeks ahead, coordinating with church secretaries and anyone else you think appropriate, to gather people together.

The starting point for the guest list will be elders, but you can broaden that out as you feel appropriate.

And why are you gathering? The emphasis is getting to know each other better, so you might choose to have a formal meeting, but you could also gather for worship, to eat together, or a mix of all three. There needs to be space for conversation, but also a reminder of what Mission Partnerships are about, and presentations from each local church describing who they are, what they do, and their mission.

Synod wants to offer whatever support we can, so we will endeavour to make someone available to help with arrangements, be present and/or speak to the gathering and, working to a pre-agreed budget (up to £10 per head), pay for the catering.

If, following on from the general initial Mission Partnership gathering, it is felt that a smaller group meeting (e.g. clergy, minister(s) and church secretaries) would help to discuss further steps you may claim expenses for refreshments from Synod (pre-agreed and up to £10 per head).

Step 2

Following this smaller groups, concerned with specific areas of church life, should be invited to come together to reflect on:

- How does what we do happen now?
- How can we support each other?
- How can we make the task simpler, easier or shared?
- Do we want to meet again? (How often / what agenda / who to coordinate?)

Hopefully those questions will trigger conversations for whichever group come together, whether they be church secretaries, treasurers, worship leaders, ministers / local leaders, pastoral carers, mission/family workers, safeguarding leads, bookings or buildings maintenance people.

Step 3

At some point there will be the need for a group of people to reflect on the various conversations to review what's progressing, stalling or needs redirecting. This would probably be made up of the church secretaries, ministers and local leaders involved.

Things to consider:

- What groups are having discussions?
- Which groups aren't and should?
- What support do you need from the Synod? (e.g., to enable discussions / explore grant funding / resource common areas of activity etc.)
- Are you beginning to resemble a Mission Partnership?

Step 4

The next step on this path will be to make some form of mutual agreement to become a Mission Partnership and begin describing how it will work for you.