

JOINING  
**PIONEER**

**TAKING THE  
GOSPEL INTO  
NEW PLACES  
AND SPACES**



[WWW.PIONEER.ORG.UK](http://WWW.PIONEER.ORG.UK)



## **Hello and welcome to our booklet describing the process of Joining Pioneer.**

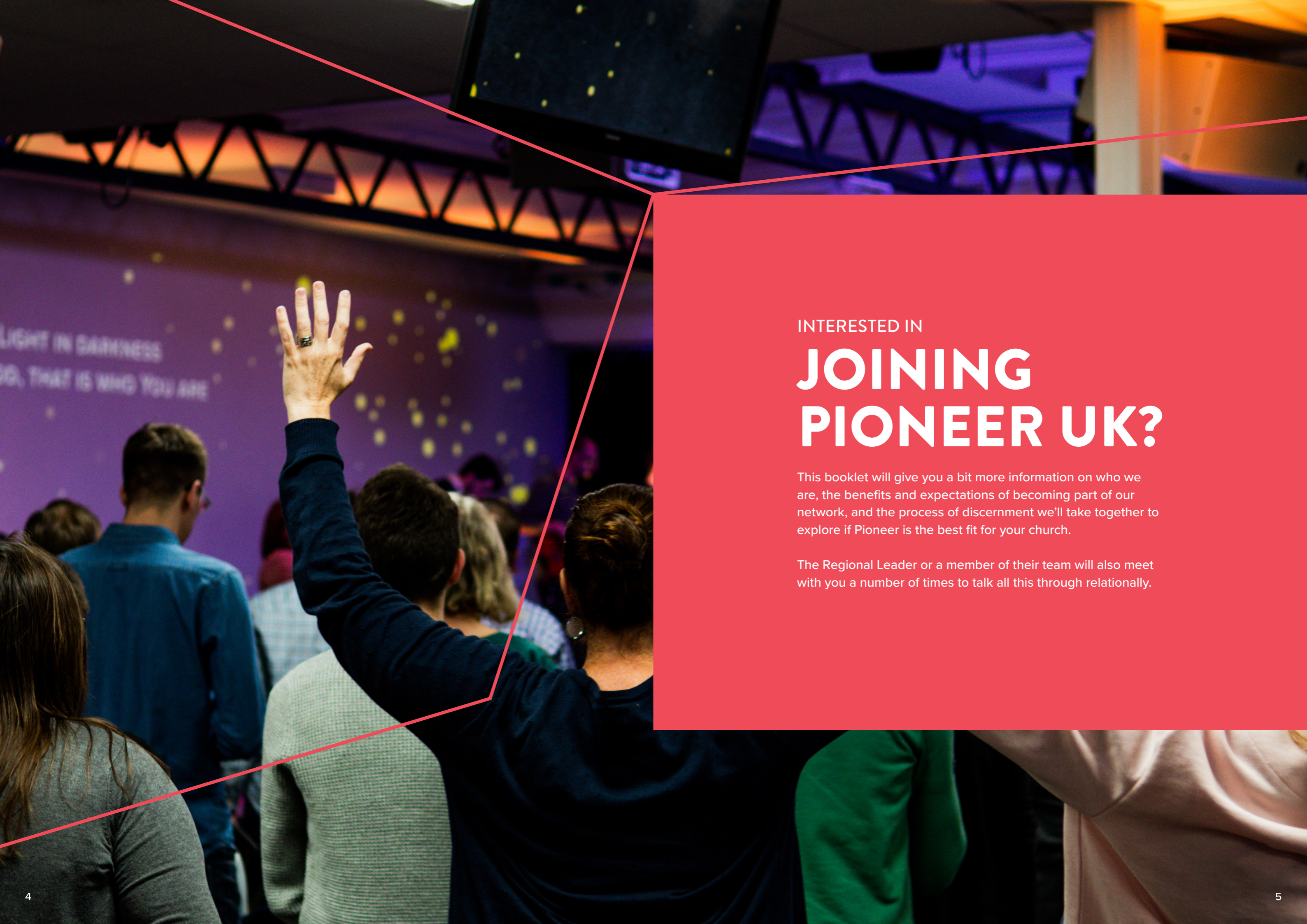
As you look through these pages, we hope you will gain a feel of who we are and what it might mean for your church to be part of our network. We aim to give you an introduction to what we are about here and then further exploration can happen through conversations and attending forthcoming events. Most churches and church plants benefit greatly from being part of a wider network and find they are served, strengthened and begin to flourish when rooted into the right network for them. So, enjoy reading this booklet about our vision, values and distinctives and do get in touch with us if you would like to explore the next steps of discerning if Pioneer is the right fit for you. Simply email [admin@pioneer.org.uk](mailto:admin@pioneer.org.uk) and the process will begin!

I look forward to hearing from you

Ness  
Pioneer UK Leader

5. **Interested in joining Pioneer UK?**
7. **The Pioneer vision**
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LIGHT IN DARKNESS  
GOD, THAT IS WHO YOU ARE

INTERESTED IN

# JOINING PIONEER UK?

This booklet will give you a bit more information on who we are, the benefits and expectations of becoming part of our network, and the process of discernment we'll take together to explore if Pioneer is the best fit for your church.

The Regional Leader or a member of their team will also meet with you a number of times to talk all this through relationally.

## THE PIONEER VISION

**Pioneer exists to take the gospel into new places and spaces. We are a relational network that **connects, inspires, and equips churches** to make spirit-filled disciples and see kingdom transformation in creative and innovative ways across geography and generations.**



OUR VALUES

1. **RELATIONAL**

2. **MISSIONAL**

3. **CHARISMATIC**

4. **KINGDOM-  
ORIENTATED**



EVERYTHING STARTS WITH RELATIONSHIPS



WE ARE

# RELATIONAL

- God is community and, we believe, it is only in community that we can accurately reflect Him and see real and lasting fruit.
- We honour and celebrate multi generational and multi ethnic diversity within the context of our relationships.
- We recognise that anointed leadership is a grace gift given to serve, with humility, in the context of community. Leadership authority is based on relational authority.
- We value the contribution of both women and men at every level of leadership.

01

Now you are the body of Christ and each one of you is a part of it

1 CORINTHIANS 12:27



MISSION IS OUR LIFEBLOOD. WE LOSE IT AND WE DIE.



WE ARE

# MISSIONAL

- The mission of God has a church and we see ourselves as co-workers with God in His mission – the reconciliation of all things in heaven and on earth under Christ.
- The Good News about Jesus needs to be presented in a way that is relevant to our context through our words, actions and with a demonstration of God’s miraculous power.
- We believe that justice and social action are central to the message of Jesus.

02

As the Father has sent me, so I am sending you

JOHN 20:21

WE ARE FUELLED AND  
ENERGISED BY THE SPIRIT

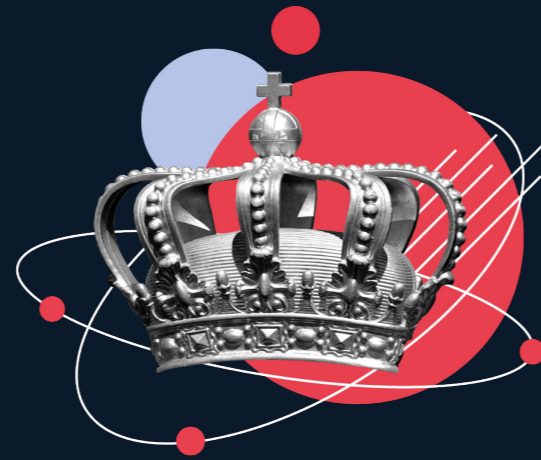
03

WE ARE  
**CHARISMATIC**

- Our life and faith is energised and informed by a living experience of the Holy Spirit, both individually and corporately.
- We believe in a God who breaks into time and space by His Holy Spirit, bringing revelation, healing bodies, sharing spiritual gifts and performing miraculous signs.
- Our spiritual life is rooted in the Scriptures and informed by church history.
- We believe in the full functioning of the five fold ministries of apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers.

All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.

ACTS 2:4



WE ARE

**KINGDOM  
ORIENTATED**

- We believe that the whole of life and creation is sacred. We, therefore, look to express a culture and lifestyle of worship that has no sacred-secular divide as we celebrate all of life.
- We have a strong commitment to equipping everyone to engage across all spheres of life – business, politics, media, community, education, creativity and the arts.
- We are committed to the unity of the Body of Christ and will seek to partner with others wherever possible.

The earth is the Lord's and everything in it,  
the world and all who live in it.

PSALM 24:1

04

THE WHOLE GOSPEL FOR  
THE WHOLE OF LIFE



## SOME DISTINCTIVES

### THE ROLE OF WOMEN IN LEADERSHIP

We welcome and promote the role of women at every level of leadership.

### UNITY OF THE BODY OF CHRIST

We actively and intentionally pursue unity and work in partnership, both locally and nationally.

### ADVENTURE

As 'pioneers' we want to innovate, take risks, try new things, and be Spirit-led people; having fun as we serve God's purposes.

## CHARACTERISTICS OF PIONEER CHURCHES:

Although diverse, Pioneer churches share the following 'apostolic' distinctives:

- **THEY PRIORITISE THE PRESENCE OF GOD**
- **THEY ARE MISSION FOCUSED**
- **THEY ARE RELATIONAL**
- **THEIR LEADERSHIP IS EXPRESSED IN TEAM**
- **THEY BELIEVE THAT EVERY MEMBER HAS A PART TO PLAY**
- **THEY ARE CATALYSTS FOR UNITY**
- **THEY MODEL A CULTURE OF HOSPITALITY AND GENEROSITY**



## OUR REGIONAL STRATEGY

**Our strategy is to develop strong resource churches within each of our Pioneer regions. These resource churches seek to serve the other Pioneer churches in their region as they, in turn, serve their communities, towns and cities.**

The Regional Leader(s) will be based in a resource church and will often lead the church or be part of its leadership team. The Regional Leaders play a key role in connecting the Pioneer churches within their region and offering strategic leadership support where needed. They also host regular leadership days and other regional events. In some cases, especially in our larger regions, the Regional Leader works with a Regional Leadership Team.

## CURRENT PIONEER REGIONS

Pioneer UK is currently structured into five regions:

- **Pioneer North** led by Richard & Judith Anniss
- **Pioneer Midlands** led by Ness Wilson
- **Pioneer East** led by Graham Blake
- **Pioneer London** led by Linda Ward
- **Pioneer South** led by Paul & Paula Weston

Most churches belong to the geographical region in which they are located. There are a few exceptions where churches choose to connect into another region out of a relational connection.

We run several key national events:

- FEBRUARY / MARCH  
ANNUAL LEADERS CONFERENCE
- APRIL  
WOMEN LEADERS CONFERENCE
- MAY AND NOVEMBER  
PIONEER CORE TRAINING MODULES
- SEPTEMBER (Biannually)  
SENIOR LEADERS RETREAT

**When a church is exploring a relationship with Pioneer, you'll be offered complimentary tickets to attend a forthcoming national event.**

Once a church joins, it is important that the key leaders attend the Annual Leaders Conferences and the four Pioneer CORE training modules which take place over two days every six months and explore our four network values in-depth, both theologically and in practical outworking.



## COMMUNICATION

We produce a regular Pioneer newsletter and video from the National Leadership Team - the video can help your church members feel a stronger connection to Pioneer.

Please visit our website or Pioneer Network facebook page to view our most recent Pioneer Update. In order to receive all future updates by email please sign up at [pioneer.org.uk/contact-us/](https://pioneer.org.uk/contact-us/)



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JOINING PIONEER -

# THE JOURNEY

There are a series of steps in the process of discernment to see if Pioneer is the right fit for you. These will be done relationally and at an appropriate pace.

## THE PROCESS WILL LOOK SOMETHING LIKE THIS:

(Although not necessarily in this order)



You'll receive an introductory letter outlining the process and inviting you to add your contact details to our database.

You'll meet with the Regional Leader to tell them more about the story of your church, talk through this booklet and discuss what it means to join Pioneer. The Regional Leader will arrange a number of meetings with you and your team to talk through the core values and distinctives of Pioneer to ensure that we are a good fit for your church.



You'll be invited to attend both a regional and a national network event to give you a fuller experience of Pioneer. You will receive complimentary tickets to your first event.

The Regional Leader or an appointed member of the Regional Team will come and speak at a church gathering to allow the congregation to meet a Pioneer representative.

There will be a second meeting with your leadership team. At this point we would ask for an honest assessment of any risks or challenges that your church is currently facing. Examples would include financial issues, imminent leadership transition, significant divisions in the church, etc. This simply allows us to ensure you get the specific support you need.



At this point we would expect it to be obvious to you and us if Pioneer is the right fit for you. If so, a Regional Leader will visit your church and personally welcome you into Pioneer. You'll also get a welcome letter receiving you into the Network and a certificate signed by both of us.

Your key leaders will be asked to attend the Annual Leaders Conference, where you will be officially welcomed into Pioneer by the whole network.

Your church will be added to the website.



We'll ask you to work through our Governance Checklist and our Safeguarding Support Checklist. These will help you to review your current practices and, where necessary, to strengthen your church's organisational health. You'll be asked to share the completed checklists with your Regional Leader, as well as with our Designated Safeguarding Lead.



## WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF BEING A PIONEER CHURCH?

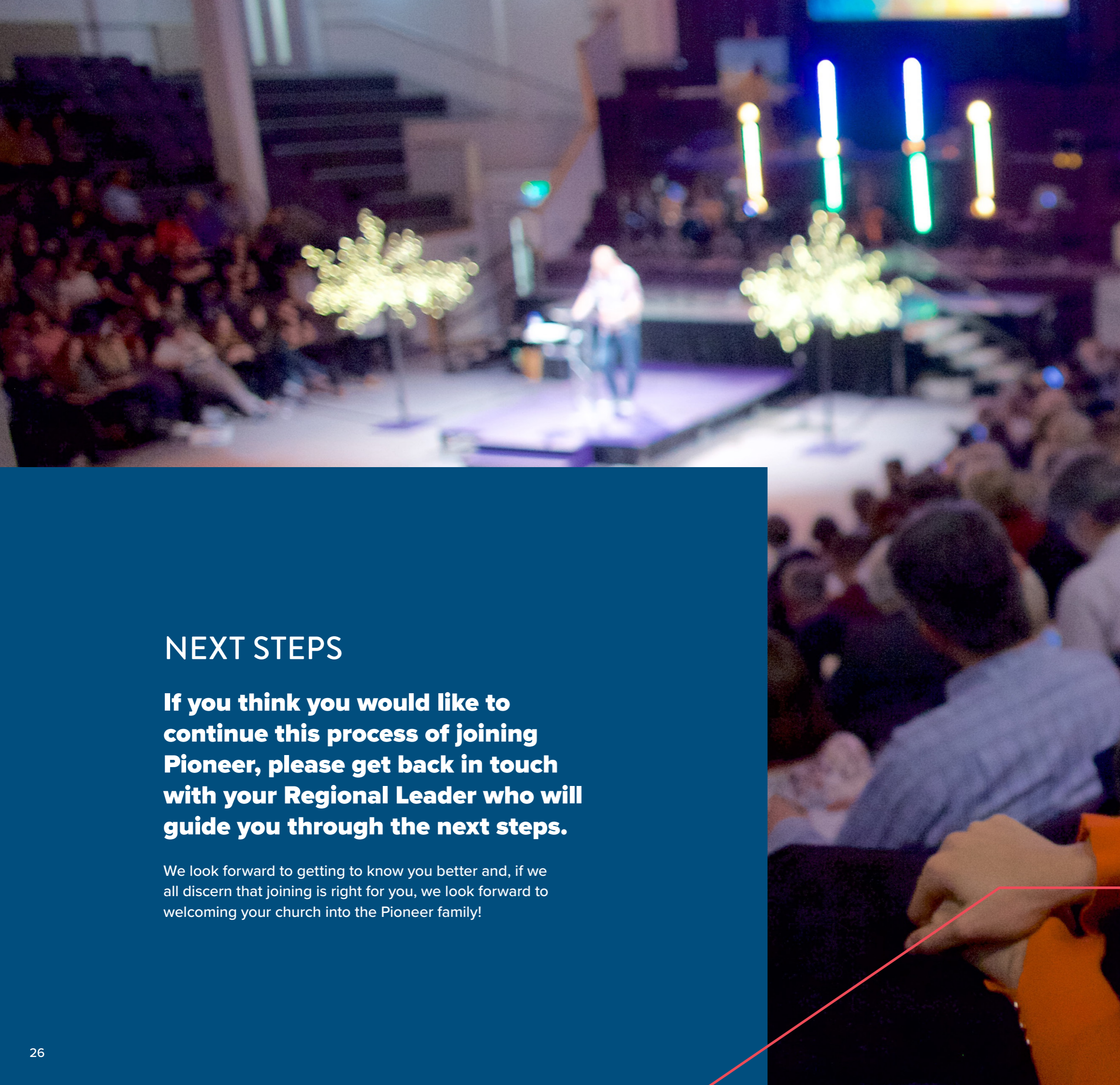
- Belonging to a supportive family of churches sharing common vision, values and distinctives.
- Taking inspiration from others advancing the Kingdom in different ways; providing each other with ideas and momentum.
- Playing your part in shaping Pioneer's future, as you contribute your strengths, gifts and experience to build the network.
- Getting support and encouragement from your Regional leader and team. This is particularly important in times of leadership transition or complicated situations where objective, wise external help is invaluable.
- Accessing inspiring events and excellent training eg. affordable leadership training called Pioneer Pathway and free safeguarding training.
- Enabling key people and ministries in your church to meet up with others in similar roles and ministries across the network eg. Pioneer youth leaders, worship leaders, children and families workers, evangelists and Pioneer RISE (leaders in their 20s & 30s)
- Adding an additional layer of accountability for your leadership team, providing reassurance for your members.
- You can use our logo and branding to gain the added credibility of being part of a national network. Pioneer is a recognised network within Churches Together in England (which can even help with getting children into Church of England schools).

## WHAT DO WE EXPECT IN RETURN?

There are a few things we ask of you to enable the network to flourish:

- A commitment to the vision and values of Pioneer, including speaking highly of the network and working with us relationally on any potential difficulties in theology or practice.
- Regular attendance at both national and regional events. In particular, we ask that your key leaders complete all four Pioneer CORE training modules (two days every six months) and make the Annual Leadership Conference a priority each year.
- That you connect and build relationships with your Pioneer Regional Leader and other churches in your region.
- That you invite your Regional Leader (or an agreed member of the Regional Team) to provide oversight and accountability for your church. This might look like providing pastoral support for key leaders, an informal annual review with the senior leader(s), mediating in any team conflict, signposting relevant resources, offering advice on strategic decisions, involvement in leadership transition and commissioning new leaders.
- Compliance with GDPR, Governance and Safeguarding policies.
- A regular financial contribution to the work of Pioneer. We ask all churches to contribute at least 3% of their donated income. In addition, we also take up occasional special offerings, such as at our Annual Leaders Conference.





## NEXT STEPS

**If you think you would like to continue this process of joining Pioneer, please get back in touch with your Regional Leader who will guide you through the next steps.**

We look forward to getting to know you better and, if we all discern that joining is right for you, we look forward to welcoming your church into the Pioneer family!

## KEY CONTACTS

### GENERAL ENQUIRIES

[admin@pioneer.org.uk](mailto:admin@pioneer.org.uk)

### SAFEGUARDING

[safeguarding@pioneer.org.uk](mailto:safeguarding@pioneer.org.uk)

### PRIVACY

[gdpr@pioneer.org.uk](mailto:gdpr@pioneer.org.uk)

## REGIONAL CONTACTS

### NORTH REGION

Leader - [richard.anniss@pioneer.org.uk](mailto:richard.anniss@pioneer.org.uk)

Leader - [judith.anniss@pioneer.org.uk](mailto:judith.anniss@pioneer.org.uk)

### MIDLANDS REGION

Leader - [ness.wilson@pioneer.org.uk](mailto:ness.wilson@pioneer.org.uk)

### EAST REGION

Leader - [graham.blake@pioneer.org.uk](mailto:graham.blake@pioneer.org.uk)

### LONDON REGION

Leader - [linda.ward@pioneer.org.uk](mailto:linda.ward@pioneer.org.uk)

### SOUTH REGION

Leader - [paul.weston@pioneer.org.uk](mailto:paul.weston@pioneer.org.uk)

Leader - [paula.weston@pioneer.org.uk](mailto:paula.weston@pioneer.org.uk)

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