



An Eastern Regional Inter-Denominational Learning Community 2016 - 2017

Discerning and bringing new growth in rural multi-church groups

The Eastern Region Training Partnership in association with the Arthur Rank Centre offer the exciting opportunity for those in multi-church ministry to take time out to think, pray and plan through **Germinate Groups**.

Participating church groups (a benefice, circuit, URC synod or equivalent) identify four people from across the group. These people would be leaders and influencers, lay and ordained but not necessarily in official positions. Your group would then join with eight other teams from across the region and different denominations for **creative and interactive training**. This is a time and space to work together to develop your church strategy and mission. This takes place over **two days every six months for two years**.

At its heart, this is an opportunity to invest time regularly to think, pray and plan together:

- to step back and reflect on what God is doing in your community
- to prayerfully reflect on what God is calling us to focus on
- and to plan the key things we need to do (or maybe stop) over the next six months.

The four two-day events on a Friday and a Saturday, each have a **broad theme**: journey, leadership, discipleship and mission. Within each of these, we will look at the following things.

- Our story and vision: what is our story so far? What are the joys and challenges? Where are we going? What new chapters are we writing?
- Our context: how has the world and our community changed? What are the implications for us?
- Our people: who has God given us today, and how do we nurture them?
- Our structures: what structures and systems do we have? What works well, what could work better? What need to change?

Two facilitators will lead the events, with input from experienced leaders in multi-church situations. There is a high ratio of group work to input, so experience can be shared and new ideas and plans considered. At the end of each gathering, each group puts together an action plan for the next six months to facilitate change.

Each group is allocated an 'accompanier' from your denomination who is there to encourage and bring an outside perspective on the plans, and will visit three months after the gathering, to help evaluate the action so far and offer guidance on the next steps.

Dates: 29-30th January 17-18th June 2016; 27-28th January 16-17th June 2017

Venue: St Nicholas Centre, 4 Cutler Street, Ipswich IP1 1UQ

Costs: Facilitation, materials, refreshments and meals (except breakfast) are covered by E RTP. Only travel and B&B costs need to be covered either by the local church or the denominational partner.

For more **information** contact your denominational office.

For more general information contact Revd Dave Gardner project team leader (01473 298521 or

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www.arthurrankcentre.org.uk/mission-and-ministry/germinate