



PIONEERING

Welcome to Fresh Hope Pioneering,

We exist to champion growing and reproducing, dynamic and Christ-loving communities marked by joy. Our team has three key functions.

We:

- 1.** Partner with existing churches who want to commit to the process of pioneering and multiplication
- 2.** Partner with people who want to pioneer new faith communities
- 3.** Train future pioneering leaders through our one-year incubator program, Frontier.

We also walk with churches and individuals as they discern if and when to partner with us in pioneering.

This information pack outlines our discernment process for entering into partnerships with pioneers, the types of partnerships we have and some general information about us.

If you are interested in partnering with us, then we would love to hear from you. Contact us at pioneering@freshhope.org.au.

In Christ's service,

The Fresh Hope Pioneering Team

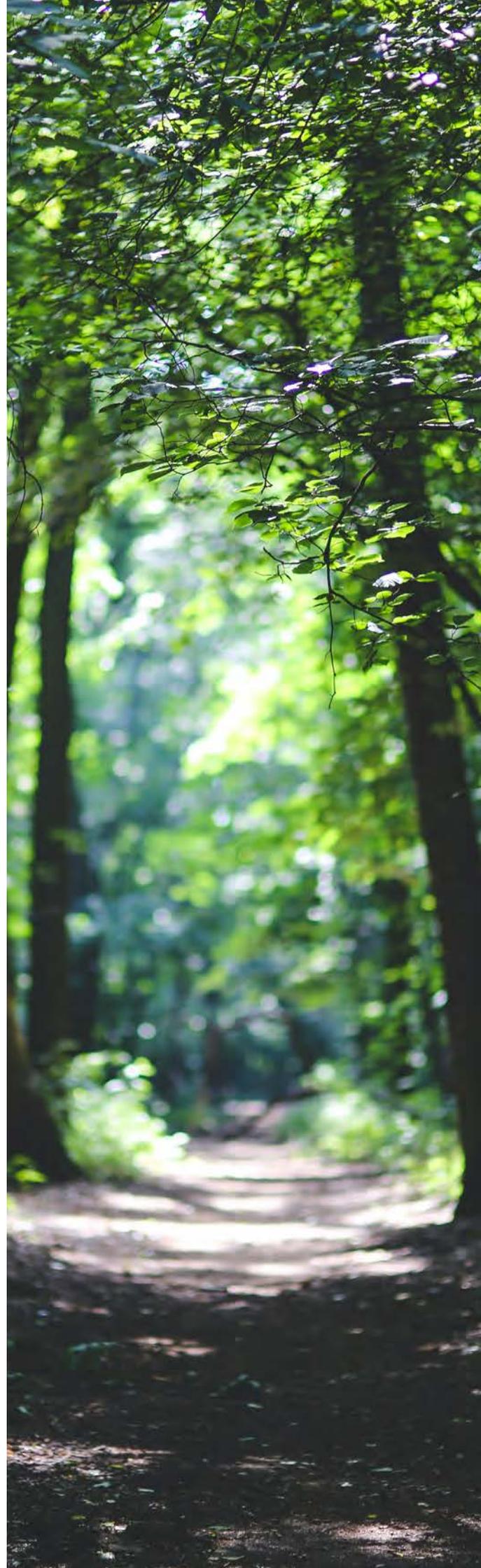
Discernment Process

What we are discerning

The discernment process is a period of mutual discernment: both Fresh Hope Pioneering (FHP) and the pioneer are discerning if they should enter some form of partnership in pioneering ministry. For our part, FHP will discern the following before entering a form of partnership:

- **A sense of calling to pioneer.** Does the pioneer have a clear sense of God's calling to pioneer? What is their preliminary sense of vision (i.e. how they plan to live out their calling in a particular way)? A fully fledged vision is not always necessary to enter a partnership but a clear sense of calling to pioneer is.
- **Character to support calling.** Does the pioneer have the integrity of a growing Christlike character? Do they show the fruit of the Spirit in different spheres of their life? Have any serious complaints been brought against them in any area of life?
- **Competency matching calling.** Does the pioneer's giftings, previous ministry or work experience match their calling? Has their calling grown out of how God has gifted them and what he has done in their life?
- **Capacity aligning with calling.** Does the pioneer's life stage, other commitments and resources allow them to pursue their calling at this time and/or are they willing to make changes to be able to do so? If the latter, are they adequately aware of the cost of the changes?
- **Calling aligning with FHP.** Does the pioneer's calling, tenets of faith and their preliminary sense of vision align with FHP's vision and mission in particular and Churches of Christ's more broadly?
- **Where they are up to in pursuing their pioneering calling and vision to enact it.** What should their next step be?

The pioneer is encouraged to have at least one person outside of Fresh Hope who is discerning their call to pioneer with them and if, when and how to enact it.



How we are discerning

Our discernment process deepens and widens over time. How much time depends on factors such as where the pioneer is in their own discernment journey and how aligned their vision is to FHP. We welcome conversations with those newly considering pioneering and those who have a fully fledged pioneering vision. There is no time limit to the discernment process, and we value the relational development that unfolds alongside the discernment process.

1. Conversation begins: Pioneer contacts FHP to express interest in partnering with us. FHP sends the pioneer an information pack and we meet to gauge initial interest and suitability.

2. Conversation deepens: Pioneer shares with FHP their discernment journey thus far, including things such as: their story of coming to and growing in faith, how they discerned the call to pioneer and how their preliminary sense of vision (if any) formed.

3. Conversation widens: Pioneer writes out what they shared in step 3 and submits it to FHP, who may share it with others in Fresh Hope (e.g. Mission and Ministry Director or Board Members).

4. Discernment deepens: FHP conducts reference checks on pioneer regarding both their character and credentials. Spiritual Formation may be required as part of this step if the pioneer has not done it with Fresh Hope Mission and Ministry.

5. Discernment widens: FHP and Pioneer each gather further information about the other needed to enter a dedicated time of prayerful discernment as in step 6.

6. Discernment focuses: FHP spends dedicated time in prayer over if, when and how to partner with the pioneer. The pioneer is encouraged to do the same with their discernment partner/s.

7. Discernment ends: FHP and pioneer meet to discuss if a form of partnership should proceed, and if so, what that partnership should look like. The discernment journey ends when either **a)** a partnership pathway is agreed upon between FHP and the pioneer, or **b)** a decision is made not to pursue a partnership.

Partnership Pathways

There are two key types of partnership that FHP enters with Pioneers: Exploration Covenants and Memorandums of Understanding. Spiritual formation may be required prior to or as a condition of entering a partnership, if and as discerned during the discernment process.

Spiritual Formation

Spiritual formation is a core part of the way Mission and Ministry grows and equips spiritual leaders. There are several courses on offer that have a spiritual formation component:

a. Frontier

Frontier is Fresh Hope Pioneering's one-year incubator for pioneers. It is a year of discipleship and discerning one's pioneering vision, venture and vocation.

b. Other Fresh Hope Spiritual Leadership Course

These courses include the Navigate programs, A Pilgrim's Way, and Spiritual Mentoring. More information can be found on our website:

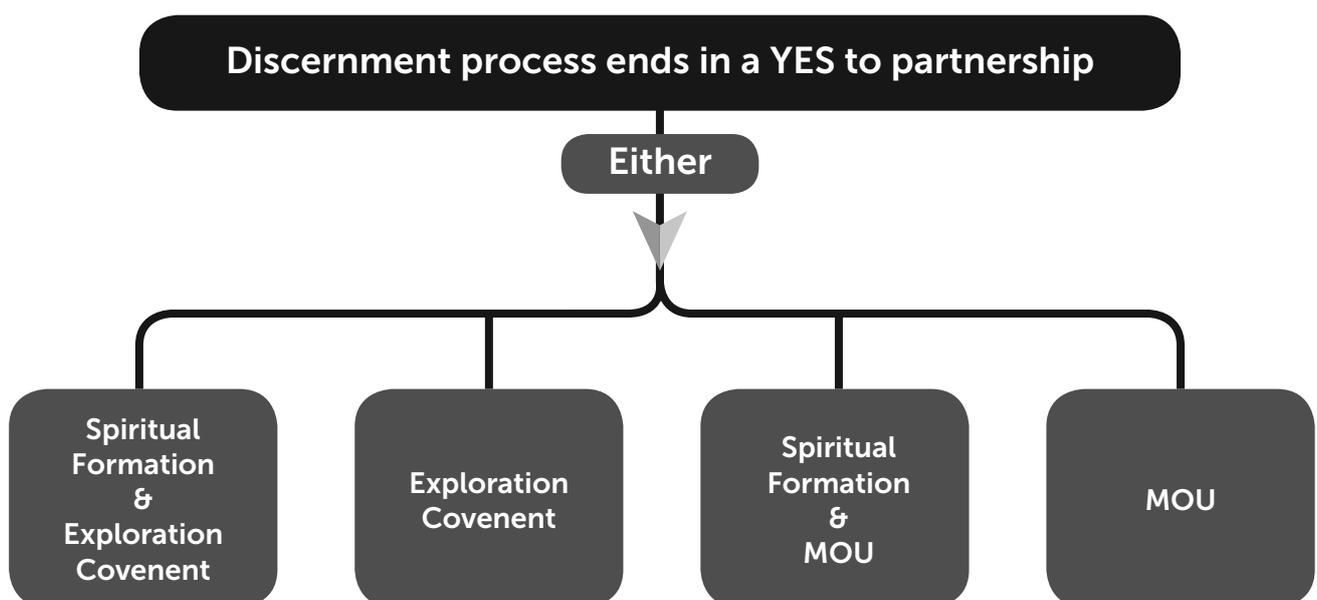
<https://missionandministry.freshhope.org.au/spiritual-leadership/>

Exploration Covenant

An exploration covenant is signed between Fresh Hope Pioneering and the Pioneer as the Pioneer actively explores where and how God is leading them to pioneer. Fresh Hope Pioneering offers mentoring, coaching, accountability, grant application support and other resources to support the exploration.

Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)

A MOU is signed between Fresh Hope Pioneering and a leadership team that is wanting to establish a new pioneering community under the leadership of a particular pioneer. This group has a sense of where, how and what they will pioneer. FHP offers leadership assistance, coaching, accountability, grant application support and other resources to support the establishment of the new community.



General Information

Grants

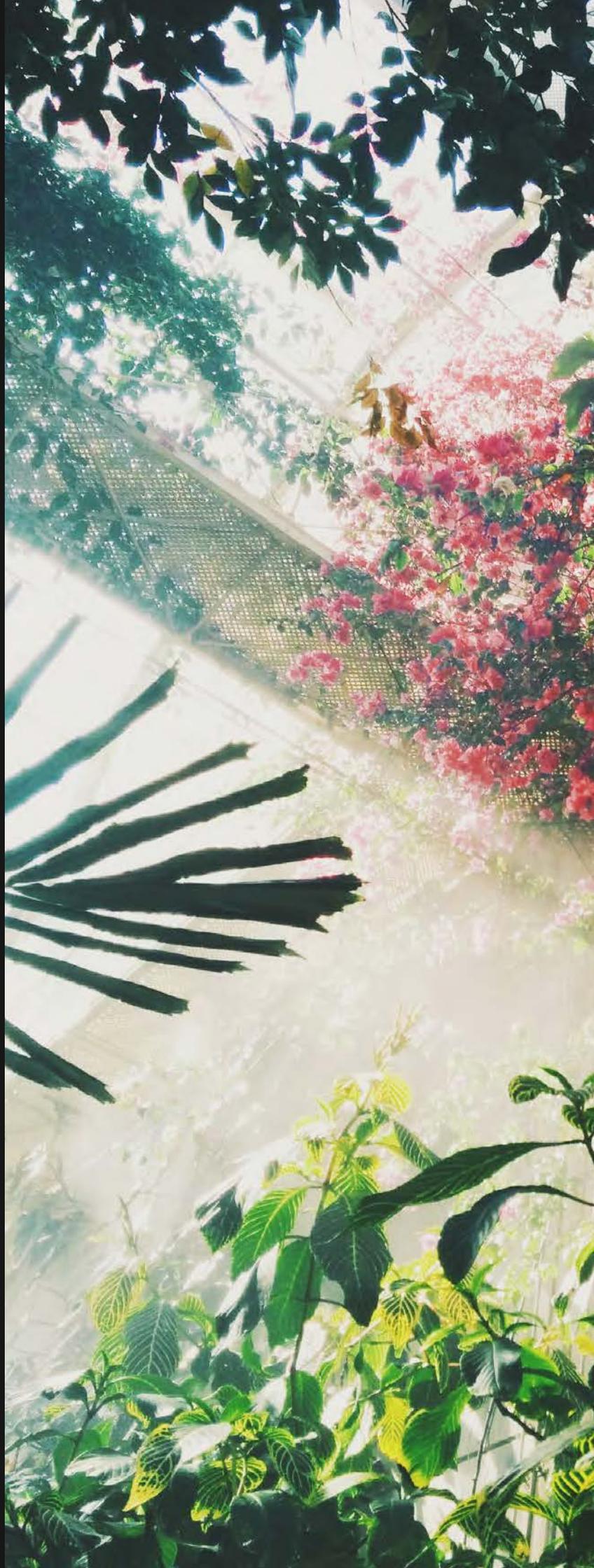
Fresh Hope Pioneering invites Pioneers to apply for grants. Enquiries about pioneering grants and applications can be directed to the FHP Team Leader. Smaller grants are on offer for those who are pioneering under the Exploration Covenant and larger grants for those who are pioneering under a MOU.

Affiliation

Churches join Churches of Christ in NSW and the ACT through a process of affiliation. The church applies to the Conference Executive (via Fresh Hope) for affiliation. Conference Executive considers the application and, if approved, the church is provisionally affiliated with Churches of Christ in NSW & the ACT for two years. This gives the church and Churches of Christ time to get to know each other to discern well whether to pursue and grant formal affiliation. At the end of the two years the church may apply to Conference Executive for formal affiliation. The entire conference of affiliated churches votes on this decision.

It is important to note that affiliation has implications for property. The property of all Churches of Christ Churches is held in trust by the Churches of Christ Property Trust. Churches wanting to affiliate who own property are encouraged to contact the Property Trust for further information:

<https://freshhope.org.au/members/church-resources/property-trust/>





Fresh Hope & Churches of Christ in NSW and the ACT

Churches of Christ in NSW and ACT is a movement of 79 constituent member churches who are relationally connected in collaboration in Christian ministry and mission.

Fresh Hope acts as a Ministry resource partner to churches and is also the public-facing brand architecture for a number of ministry activities, also referred to as Agencies (Fresh Hope Care, Fresh Hope Venues, Fresh Hope Housing and Fresh Hope Engage).

Fresh Hope provides resourcing capability to the member churches of Churches of Christ NSW and ACT. This includes support for church health and engagement, governance in relation to the endorsement and ongoing training of Churches of Christ ministers, and administration and oversight of the movement's Professional Standards Unit.

Fresh Hope Pioneering is a ministry of



fresh hope
mission &
ministry

Level 1, 3 Rider Boulevard
PO Box 3561
Rhodes NSW 2138
T: (02) 8719 2600
E: admin@freshhope.org.au
W: www.freshhope.org.au



missionandministry.freshhope.org.au



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