



Frequently Asked Questions

1. How do I know if Cyclical PCC is right for me?

Start by reading through the document *People Who Might Be a Good Fit For Cyclical PCC*. [LINK] Next, fill out the interest form. [LINK] From there, you will be contacted to set up a time to talk with the program coordinator for Cyclical PCC. You'll have a chance to tell your story and ask any questions you might have about initial steps.

2. Can I “check out” Cyclical PCC before committing?

Yes. In fact, we recommend this. Often, potential Discerners are unsure about whether Cyclical PCC might be right for them, if they are at an appropriate point in their lives to start something new or if their ideas for new ministry could ever get off the ground. The program coordinator will help connect you to a cohort where you can sit-in and participate before deciding to commit to a more long-term discernment process.

3. What does it mean to “join” Cyclical PCC?

Joining Cyclical PCC means that you will be connected to a network of PCC leaders exploring calls or taking first steps towards starting new ministries. As a participant you will receive access to Discerning Missional Leadership Assessments, online cohorts, the Annual Spring Gathering and a coach to help you discern and take steps forward.

When you are ready to commit to the Cyclical PCC process, a letter will be sent to your presbytery informing them that you are part of Cyclical PCC, which normally means that you are thinking about the possibility of starting a new worshipping community within their bounds.

In The Presbyterian Church in Canada we believe strongly that discernment is both an individual and corporate process. Working with your presbytery represents an important part of your discernment and is crucial to establishing a sustainable new worshipping community.

4. Is there a financial cost to participating in Cyclical PCC?

Cyclical PCC is a leadership training program offered through support from *Presbyterians Sharing* [LINK]. While there is no enrollment fee, there are some small costs associated with the in-person events, such as the assessment and the annual gathering.

5. Will Cyclical PCC find me a “Church Planting” job?

The short answer to this is No. Cyclical PCC is leadership development process that helps leaders discern call and identify ways of starting sustainable ministries in their local context. Cyclical PCC does not provide job placement services or special access to ministry grants.

Each participant will be taken through a process to help them discern vision for ministry in their local context which will include creating a plan for financial sustainability, identifying potential funding partners and recruiting a team to help with these efforts.

6. Can I get funding for my innovative ministry idea?

Participation in Cyclical PCC does not guarantee you any funding. With approval from your presbytery you may be eligible to receive funding through the various grant programs of The Presbyterian Church in Canada; however, these grants are limited and the application process is competitive.

An important part of the Cyclical PCC process is to help participants identify a variety of potential funding sources and develop financially sustainable ministry plans.

7. If I am in Cyclical PCC or I go through Cyclical PCC's Discerning Innovative Leadership Assessment does this mean I am authorized by The Presbyterian Church in Canada to start a New Worshipping Community?

In The Presbyterian Church in Canada new worshipping communities are established by presbyteries. Cyclical PCC is not an endorsement body. Rather, it is a leadership development program that assists participants engage in appropriate discernment and develop skills related to starting new ministries.

It is crucial to connect with your presbytery in the early stages of starting a new worshipping community. While Cyclical PCC can provide you with discernment tools and leadership training, only presbyteries understand the local context and ministry needs well enough to provide appropriate support, oversight and care for a new ministry.

8. What does a New Worshipping Community look like?

New Worshipping Communities are innovative and creative expressions of ministry that are responsive to the work of the Holy Spirit. These ministries take many forms: dinner churches, sports ministries, house churches, traditional church plants, café ministries, to name but a few. The important aspect is that new worshipping communities be focused on Word and Sacrament and reaching new disciples.

9. If I'm a minister of an existing church should I leave my congregation to start a new worshipping community?

This question is best worked out in the context of a discernment process. For some it will be appropriate to leave a current call to begin a new worshipping community, for others the appropriate decision will be to remain in their current call and begin a parallel ministry. Yet

another possibility is to move to a part-time call and begin a new ministry. Ultimately, this is a decision that you will need to work out prayerfully and in conversation with your congregation.

10. But what if I figure out that I shouldn't start a new worshipping community?

This is why we emphasize discernment before starting. You may discover through the first phase that you are being led in a different direction. That is fine. You would simply no longer be part of the cohort and you would be advised on where to seek support for next steps.

For further information, please contact Jen de Combe, Associate Secretary, Canadian Ministries, The Presbyterian Church in Canada at jdecombe@presbyterian.ca or 1-800-619-7301