Virginia Baptists have always been pioneers. Because of our adventurous spirits and willingness to explore new territory, others outside the Commonwealth are often drawn to us and want to partner with us.

Fresh Expressions, is an initiative of the Baptist General Association of Virginia that seeks to bring faith communities together in ways and places that are usually not in traditional, local churches. A Fresh Expression is a form of church for our changing culture, established primarily for the benefit of those who are not yet a part of any church.

“God has gifted every church with pioneers—people who are ready to take the church into the community,” says John Upton, BGAV executive director. “Fresh Expressions is about identifying those pioneers and setting them free.”

“A pioneering leader is an ordinary follower of Jesus doing extraordinary things,” explains Travis Collins, director of mission advancement and Virginia coordinator for Fresh Expressions. He goes further to say that when we talk about pioneering in Fresh Expressions, we aren’t meaning that we are abandoning the existing church—the local church. “We’re simply extending
the ministry of the local church to those growing edges of the Redeemer’s kingdom."

Whether meeting in a neighborhood, workplace, athletic field, or anywhere, these pioneers can remain actively involved with their local churches—simply extending their congregations to people that their congregations are not likely to engage.

To learn more about Fresh Expressions and how you or your church might get involved, visit www.FreshExpressionsUS.org.