

PRESBYTERY OF WESTERN VICTORIA

Presbyteries within the Synod are resourced by three ministries:

Administration:

Mission and Education:

Pastoral Care:

About Us

The Presbytery of Western Victoria is a large area stretching from the South Australian border west of Portland, just north of the Dukes Highway west of Serviceton, turning northeast to include Jeparit, Warracknabeal and Beulah and running down southeast, to take in the towns north and north east of Ballarat, including Ballan, before turning south and passing to the west of Geelong, to the coast at Apollo Bay. It includes a number of major centres such as Ballarat, Warrnambool, Horsham, Colac, Hamilton, Portland, Ararat and Stawell.

In common with much of rural Victoria agricultural activity is varied, including dry land cereal and grazing, dairy, forestry, wool and beef production. Tourism and service industries, education and medical facilities are spread throughout the region. The most remote parts are about five hours from Melbourne.

There are about 90 congregations ranging in size from the faithful handful to nearly 300 members. They meet in small weatherboard, brick or blue-stone buildings, through to large city churches, Many of our Congregations have celebrated between 100 to 160 years of witness.

The geography in which they are set is as varied as the buildings and the congregations themselves - from the wide Wimmera plains to the high-lands of the Great Divide, from coastal towns to places hundreds of kilometres from the sea. While some areas continue to grow, others are declining in population and services.

To try to overcome the 'tyranny of distance', the Presbytery is divided into six regions, each with its distinct characteristics. Ministering to such dispersed and disparate populations when the numbers of ordained ministers and deacons in placement are declining, continues to provide us with our greatest challenge. Many congregations depend on the devotion of lay ministry teams, which are supported through continuing education and training programs which aim to try and equip the whole people of God for effective witness in their various communities.