



## PLACEMENT PROFILE

### SECTION 1 – BASIC INFORMATION

1.1 Placement Name(s): YY “Whitehorse Cluster” (East)

1.2 Please list congregations/agencies names below

- Blackburn North / Nunawading Uniting Church congregation

- Forest Hill Uniting Church congregation

- Mountview Uniting Church (Mitcham) congregation

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1.3 Profile approved by ~~Church Council~~/Governing Body / /

1.4 Primary purpose of placement:

To create a ‘team ministry’ providing regular worship, pastoral support, and community outreach to the above congregations related through an approved Cluster with a Regional Council.

Refer to the enclosed Proposal and Memorandum of Understanding.

1.5 Suitable for (bold all that apply): Minister of the Word / Deacon / Ordinand / Pastor

1.6 Time fraction: \_\_\_\_\_~250\_\_\_\_\_%

1.7 Term:

Undefined up to 10 years (See Reg 2.7.3(a))

Yes

Fixed Term:

Years

Initial Term reviewed in:

5 Years

This profile should be prepared by the Congregation(s)/ agency in consultation with Presbytery. It is specifically designed to assist in the placement process but it can also be used as a record of mission planning.

#### Contents

Section 1: Basic Information

Section 2: Mission Direction

Section 3: Context

Section 4: People and Activities – to be completed by each congregation in the placement.

Section 5: Joint Congregations – to be completed if more than one congregation in the placement.

Section 6: Working Relationships

Section 7: New Minister – this section contains a list of mission and pastoral activities which are also listed on Minister’s Personal profiles

Section 9: Presbytery – to be completed by Presbytery Pastoral Relations Committee.

Section 10: Terms of Placement

#### ENCLOSURES

Please mark all the documents attached to the profile:

- Floor plan of residence
- Financial information including a copy of last year’s Financial Statement and financial projections
- Position descriptions of relevant ministers
- Others **Cluster Proposal and Memorandum of Understanding**

## SECTION 2 – MISSION DIRECTION

### 2.1 What is the Vision statement and or Mission priorities of the placement (or of the individual congregations)

Establish a cluster of congregations in the Whitehorse area led by a shared ministry team with gifts and graces to provide liturgical leadership, pastoral care for a wide age range, and oversight of missional outreach activities.

2.2 Date adopted 21 / 01 / 2020

### 2.3 Provide a short description of the placement/congregation(s)

**Blackburn North / Nunawading** is a generally older congregation

- with small numbers of children and young people
- with long standing friendship groups, largely from within each former congregation
- having a network of pastoral carers to cover every member of the congregation
- endeavouring to relate to the growing Grace Community (Falam Chin speaking) with many children and young people.

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**Forest Hill Congregation** is made up of mainly older people ( age range 30 – 98 ), many of whom, while retired are still active and involved, including in leadership roles.

It is a supportive community with active visitation where each member is linked to a visitor.

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**Mountview (Mitcham)** congregation is made up of mostly mature age people within a 4 to 95 years age range, many of whom although retired are still active and involved, in leadership and pastoral roles and in our outreach centre.

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### 2.4 How has the placement/congregation(s) changed over the last 5 years?

Increasing need for ministry for the elderly.

Limited number of young children needing care [and faith development].

It is becoming more difficult to find members to take leadership roles.

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### 2.5 What are the congregation(s)/placement's goals?

To maintain the worshipping communities.

To work as a team with the other congregations to develop a collaborative Cluster and work towards our joint goals.

Actively maintain and extend our mission programs so our focus remains on the community (not ourselves).

To nurture and support the congregation in their spiritual and faith growth.

To be open to all people in a friendly, inclusive and supportive community.

To be aware of needs of, and provide support and care for, members of all age groups.

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### 2.6 What are the next Strategic Steps to achieving those goals?

Support the ministry team and shared visions and mission between the congregations.

Find ways and form partnerships to continue vital mission and outreach programs, including creatively thinking around resourcing

Ensure the financial sustainability of the congregations to enable it to carry out its goals

Support the Regional Council in the collaborative coordination of ministry

Provide more opportunities for study and discussion/sharing ideas.

Support programs and worship to enhance work with younger people.

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## SECTION 3 – CONTEXT

### 3.1 Describe the communities in which this placement is located (Mission context).

City of Whitehorse 2016 Census –

The local statistics are in line with all the overall Victorian and Australian datasets, except for the following variances / observations:

**Gender:** our city has about 1% more females

**Age:** up to 1% less in the 0 to 14 years group; yet up to 1% more in the 75 years and over group

**Religion:** of the 63% (much lower) that responded, about 49% reported Christianity;

**Marriage:** about 4% higher for married & widowed; and 2 to 3% lower for separated & divorced

**Family:** about 4% higher for couples with children; yet 4% less for without children & single parent

**Country of Birth:** up to 10% lower for Australian born, yet English-speaking at home is about 60%

**Ethnicity:** wide variety of other cultures (see 'Language'); aboriginal representation a mere 0.2%

**Language:** more than 120 languages are spoken, with Mandarin making up 13% of the total 40% non-English speaking at home, followed by Cantonese at 5%

**Education:** about 10% more have University/Tertiary education

**Occupation:** up to 10% more Professionals, making up about 32% across the city

### 3.2 How does your congregation reflect or vary from the age, and ethnic mix of your local community?

Age: Reflects less for the younger age groupings and more for the older age groupings

Ethnic mix: A few member families with overseas backgrounds, yet predominantly Australian born

### 3.3 What are the opportunities and points of stress and pain in the wider community?

Stresses: – Homelessness, the poor and the needy; not overt, but present

– Isolation because of increasing age / greater disability / greater immobility

Opportunities: – participate with other Whitehorse churches in the Winter Shelter program; look for benefits in collaboration with the other Cluster congregations;

- Building a strong relationship with non-UCA congregations using properties like the Renewed Grace Christian Church (Forest Hill) and the Grace Burmese Community (Blackburn North /Nunawading)

### 3.4 List ways in which you connect with, serve, or partner with people in your wider community?

**Blackburn North/Nunawading:**

- Financial support – Blackburn High School Chaplaincy, Uniting Church agencies and appeals
- Whitehorse Churches care
- Presbytery Mental Health Chaplaincy
- Craft group for older ladies (supports Box Hill Hospital Shop)
- Goods for Eastern Emergency Relief
- Support for the Asylum Seeker Program by donations through OEASN

**Forest Hill:**

Op Shop (on-site) both customers and volunteers from the community

Funds from Op Shop (approx. \$45,000 per year) supports local as well as overseas organisations; supports Uniting East Burwood;

Food collection and vouchers for Uniting East Burwood;

Support for Asylum Seeker Program – financial & goods;

Provide program for elderly in community through Monday Companions.

Volunteers and connections with Strathdon, Uniting Age Well.

Kids Hope – provides mentors for vulnerable children in local school and some financial support for families.

Partnering with other churches in Whitehorse Winter Shelter program.

**Mountview (Mitcham):**

- Centre 81 Drop-in (on-site outreach ministry) for customers, facilitated by volunteers from our congregation and other denominations within the local community
- Food parcels, advice and referrals provided to the most vulnerable in the community from our Centre 81 outreach ministry
- Ongoing financial support for Y.Y. Mental Health Ministries
  
- We host the LinC Office (Love in the name of Christ; outreach services) for the Whitehorse Region
- Partnering with other ecumenical and Uniting churches via membership of Whitehorse Churches Care organisation, in regional mission programs such as the Whitehorse Winter Shelter program (a Stable One concept)
- Centre 81, on behalf of the Mountview Congregation, is working in partnership with Uniting Vic-Tas' Mountview House emergency accommodation to create 'community'
- Ongoing support for combined services with neighbouring Uniting churches

**3.5 What schools/agencies/institutions are in your local communities?**

Multiple primary and multiple secondary schools (incl. public, catholic and private); plus both TAFE and University Campuses

Uniting AgeWell – Strathdon; numerous Retirement Villages and Residential Care facilities; Uniting (various, including new partnership with Mountview congregation for temporary housing).