



FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

Date of receipt: 10 February 2022

PLACEMENT PROFILE

SECTION 1 – BASIC INFORMATION

- 1.1 **Placement Name(s):** Kew Uniting Church
- 1.2 **Please list congregations/agencies names below**
- Kew Uniting Church (KUC) incorporating the congregations of East Kew Uniting Church, West Hawthorn Uniting Church and Korean Joongang Uniting Church of Melbourne
- 1.3 **Profile approved by Church Council/Governing Body** 14/01/2022
- 1.4 **Primary purpose of placement:**
- To minister to the KUC congregation and proclaim the good news of Jesus to the wider Boroondara community. The Minister will be required to work as a team with a Korean Minister of the Word and potentially another team member (part-time) in a cross-cultural setting, facilitating the spiritual development and pastoral care of the congregation, and leading the new KUC congregation to establish a vibrant worshipping community with a heart for ministering and caring for vulnerable people in the local community.
- 1.5 **Suitable for (bold all that apply): Minister of the Word / Deacon / Ordinand/ Pastor**
- 1.6 **Time fraction:** 100%
- 1.7 **Term:**
- Undefined up to 10 years (See Reg 2.7.3(a))** _____
- Fixed Term: _____ NA
- Initial Term reviewed in: _____ NA

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.

Please Note: Sections 1, 2 & 3 of this profile will be uploaded to the VicTas website.

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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

SECTION 2 – MISSION DIRECTION

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

As a Congregation of the Uniting Church in Australia it will meet regularly to hear God's word, to celebrate the sacraments, to build up one another in love, and serve the world while recognising the congregation has a covenantal relationship with the First Peoples of this land, and that it will seek to work together with other churches. (Basis of Union Paras 2, 15; Preamble to the Constitution of the Uniting Church).

To this end the Kew Uniting Church (KUC) will:

1. Meet in a variety of styles, times and ways of worship, including regular Sunday worship and other services which may use digital technology. Worship will be inclusive and participatory. All will be welcome.
2. Hear in an appropriate way, and with relevance to contemporary life, the Biblical witness through regular education programs for children through to adults with differing capabilities and interest.
3. Celebrate with each other, and the wider community of Boroondara, the joy of Christian life through festivals, exhibitions and special occasions that show imagination and creativity.
4. Build up all members through a pastoral care program which is inclusive, supportive of all in need, and which will feature shared meals together.
5. Serve the community of Boroondara through its partnership with Boroondara Community Outreach and its mission to empower the vulnerable; and in the congregation's own faithful and innovative service and witness to the way of Christ through such programs as the provision of housing, it will seek to be a blessing to the community of Boroondara, while at the same time challenge any injustice and inequality in the world.
6. Recognise and deepen its relationship with the people of the Kulin Nation through shared programs and advocacy for Indigenous people; and
7. Work together with local churches and people of other faiths.

2.2 Date adopted 9 February 2022

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

The Kew Uniting Church is situated in the north west segment of the City of Boroondara and the main complex is in close proximity to the retail and business sector of Kew junction. This congregation was formed in April 2021 with the amalgamation of three Uniting Church congregations - East Kew, Joongang and West Hawthorn. We strive to create a vibrant worshipping community that welcomes all and has a strong focus on mission. We partner with Boroondara Community Outreach (BCO) through sharing of physical resources (facilities), providing hospitality when required and offering support for the spiritual and Christian growth of the community.

The Congregation is made up of English-speaking and Korean-speaking members. There are 82 English speaking members and 28 Korean Speaking members. Average weekly attendance is 25 people for the English service and 20-25 people for the Korean service. The English-speaking cohort is an aging population. The Korean cohort is a relatively younger group of people including a number of youths.

2.4 What Church Style best describes the congregation(s)? (See [Church Style](#) document)

KUC is newly established from the merger of three congregations and possibly best approximating the *Family Church* style with the objective of developing in the style of a Program Church.

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

The Kew Uniting Church has not existed for the past five years.

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

Our goal is to offer a range of worship services to meet the needs and reflect the diversity of our community. We do not believe that a one-size-fits-all approach will work in developing a sustainable, intergenerational and intercultural Christian community in the 21st century. This is a summary of potential worship services that KUC may develop over the next 5-10 years:

- Sunday morning worship service. The current English-language service can be described as a “traditional” Sunday service that is familiar to Uniting Church members, reflecting the legacies of Presbyterian, Methodist and Congregational churches. Although most members of the congregation are satisfied with this arrangement, there has been a yearning for a different style of worship service amongst some members. This may be achieved by exploring different worship styles in this worship service over time, or providing an alternative worship service (see below).
- Alternative worship service in English. Some members of the English-speaking congregation have expressed their preference for a less formal, more interactive worship service. Current and future needs of second-generation Korean congregation should also be considered. There is also an opportunity to reach out to under-represented groups in the current English- congregation, such as younger people, families and people from culturally and linguistically diverse background in the local areas.
- The COVID pandemic has helped us see new ways of reaching out to our community through the use of modern technology and we wish to be innovative in applying these.
- Supporting a regular worship service for BCO participants. KUC will be working with BCO Reference Committee and BCO Minister to support a regular worship service that is tailored for BCO participants. KUC minister may be expected to support, participate or lead this service, in consultation with BCO leadership.
- Korean-language worship service. Taking into account the mission and support that this service provides to the Korean community, KUC should continue to support this through adequate resourcing (i.e., minister, venue, equipment). Future requirements for this service will evolve with changes in demographic of the congregation, such as increased number of second-generation, migration patterns (increase/decrease of new Korean students and migrants), etc.

2.7 What are the next Strategic Steps to achieving those goals?

Intermediate goals for KUC congregation

Next 5-years:

- Building stronger relationship between all members of the three merging congregations through mutual support in worship, mission and community life.
- Creating opportunities to welcome and engage people from different cultures and background in our worship, including BCO participants.

Next 10-years:

- Developing an intercultural and intergenerational Christian community. The English-language worship services welcome and nurture people of all ages, cultures, races and backgrounds. This will be achieved through multiple worship services through the week, such as a Sunday morning service, an alternative worship service to meet the spiritual needs of those who prefer less formal Sunday service, and supporting BCO to conduct an appropriate worship service for BCO participants. The Korean-language worship service continues to welcome and support those who wish to maintain strong ties to their language and culture.
- There will be joint activities/missions across the English-speaking and Korean-speaking members. For examples: regular bi-lingual services, choir and youth band, fundraising for mission, etc. The whole congregation works together to serve God and others.

SECTION 3 – CONTEXT

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

This data comes from

<https://www.boroondara.vic.gov.au/about-council/history-and-demographics/diversity-statistics#disability>

Most of the available data is from the 2016 Census, with some from the Victorian Population Health Survey 2014.

The Kew Uniting Church is situated in the north west segment of the City of Boroondara, and lies between two tram lines – the 109 to Box Hill and the 48 to North Balwyn. It is in close proximity to the retail and business sector of Kew junction.

In 2020 the City of Boroondara had a population of 183,023 and with a population density of 3,042 persons per square km.

At the 2016 Census, 45.9% of Boroondara's population identified as Christian whereas 37.1% indicated that they have no religious affiliation. Just 3.4% identify as Uniting Church as opposed to around 21% RC, 10% Anglican and 4% Greek Orthodox. However, across greater Melbourne only 2.3% of people identified as Uniting Church.

Country of birth. In 2016, 30.9% of the population was born overseas. Most residents born overseas were from non-English speaking countries (24.0% of Boroondara's residents).

The City's overseas-born population originated from more than 150 different countries. The main overseas countries of birth in 2016 were China (6.6%), United Kingdom (3.5%), India (2.4%), Malaysia (2.0%), New Zealand (1.6%) and Vietnam (1.2%). Residents who were born in Asian countries tend to be younger, for example people aged 20 to 39 accounted for 58.2% of Indian-, 38.6% of Sri Lankan-, 38.1% of Vietnamese- and 36.0% of Chinese-born residents in Boroondara. 27% of residents speak a language other than English but most of these were proficient in spoken English:

The 2016 census indicated that more than one-third (36.8%) of Boroondara residents born overseas had arrived in Australia over the last 10 years.

A total of 314 Boroondara residents identified as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander in the 2016 Census. The indigenous residents are generally younger than the non-Indigenous population. The 2016 census indicates that the majority (58%) of indigenous population group were younger than 30 years old compared to non-indigenous (39.8%).

Attitudes to cultural diversity were measured in the Victorian Population Health Survey 2014. Respondents were asked if multiculturalism makes life in the area better. Nearly three-quarters (73.2%) of Boroondara residents responded 'yes, definitely', which was higher than the rate of those that answered 'yes, definitely' in both the Eastern Metropolitan Region (60.7%) and Victoria overall (55.4%).

People with a disability made up 3.8% of the Boroondara population. The majority of these requiring assistance were aged over 70 years, and it is anticipated these numbers will increase.

Age distribution. The population of Boroondara has a fairly even distribution across all ages – largest group is 20-24 year old representing 8% of the population, most other 5 year brackets are 5-7%, dropping off after age 70 to 3% and less. 35% of households were couples with children and 8% were single parent families. Nearly 20% of households had children in the youngest age bracket.

Employment and income. Nearly 95% of all adults were in either full time or part time employment. Household incomes ranged from the lowest levels to the highest, with a significant number in the highest income brackets compared to the average across Melbourne. However, there are still significant numbers with either no income or minimal income. Employment profiles showed that around 60% of the population in employment were at manager level or professionals.

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

The KUC congregation has a larger cohort of the 70 years and upwards age group, particularly members of the English-speaking former East Kew congregation. Most of these are retired from full time employment, although many are active in the community. The majority of the English-speaking congregation were born in Australia, with only a small number born overseas. A small number of this cohort do not live in Boroondara.

Most members of the Korean speaking congregation were born in Korea, and most of these members do not live in Boroondara.

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

Although the wider community is generally perceived as a quite privileged group, living in large homes and sending children to private schools, there are still many in the community requiring assistance, both material support and mental health support. There are still several rooming houses and other social housing. There are single parent families and young families living in inadequate housing. Prior to the pandemic Boroondara Council identified that the most disadvantaged group in our community were single mothers with teenage children living out of their cars, or struggling to maintain safe places to live.

During the pandemic increasing numbers of homeless and marginalised members of the wider community made the Boroondara Community Outreach (BCO) their central point for support and sustenance.

The KUC congregation hopes to be able to offer BCO a permanent and 'fit for purpose' home, and to offer ongoing financial support and security, as well as other assistance as required and appropriate.

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

Note that KUC only formed in April 2021, and so has been unable to meet, plan and undertake service or partnership in the wider community during pandemic restrictions. However, we have been able to offer support as much as possible to Boroondara Community Outreach

The Korean speaking members of the church have additional commitments to support those in needs beyond our local community, such as overseas missions.

It is anticipated that in 2022 and beyond there will be new and greater calls on community focussed activities including the wider work of BCO (art groups, choirs) and with similar engagement with groups beyond our congregation.

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

KUC is currently co-located with a small private school (Andale school) that caters for children with language and learning challenges. The school is expected to move when the lease of the land expires in the next few years.

Other schools within 2-km radius:

Kew Primary School; Kew East Primary School; St. Anne's School; Preshil Kindergarten, Primary and Secondary Schools; Carey Baptist Grammar School; Sacred Heart Primary School; Methodist Ladies College; Ruyton's Girls; Xavier College; Trinity Grammar School