



PLACEMENT PROFILE

SECTION 1 – BASIC INFORMATION

Placement Name(s): **MELTON UNITING CHURCH – GRACE COMMUNITY MELTON**

1.1

1.2 Please list congregations/agencies names below

MELTON UNITING CHURCH – GRACE COMMUNITY MELTON

1.3 Profile approved by Church Council/Governing Body

11th October 2022

1.4 Primary purpose of placement:

Melton Uniting Church - Grace Community Melton is a vibrant, multicultural and intergenerational community with a strong commitment to being a Community of Grace, expressing the love of God through the worship of God and in the service of the community. We are seeking a missional leader, teacher and pastor who can guide the church as it continues to grow.

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)) UNDEFINED

Fixed Term: Years

Initial Term reviewed in: 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.

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

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 8: Presbytery Comments

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)

VISION:

To grow disciples of Jesus in a vital multicultural community connecting with the people of Melton, helping each member to fulfil our mission, empowered by the Holy Spirit for the glory of God.

MISSION:

To be an irresistible expression of God's grace to all people.

VALUES:

Unconditional love

Uncompromising commitment to Jesus Christ

Understanding and servicing our community

Utmost surrender in worship

2.2 Date adopted 2019

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

Melton Uniting Church - Grace Community Melton has an average weekly attendance of 100 people. Our worship style is contemporary and family and newcomer friendly. We have a strong ministry to children and youth and involve older youth as assistant leaders. The majority of our congregation would be 60+ but we have always been a congregation that seeks to be relevant to our community and current times. Participation by congregational members in Worship is encouraged. We believe that prayer and the Holy Spirit underpin our actions as we attempt to be Christlike in the way we connect with our local community.

We view our service style as contemporary because we consider ourselves to be modern, open, flexible and the Minister can add their style and flair to the worship. We follow an order of service but engage technologies (YouTube, Live Streaming, Pro Planner (projection and PowerPoint), Database, Email notices, Lighting, Sound) to reach our members in as many ways as possible. Worship includes a mix of hymns and upbeat songs.

We are an intergenerational church in the way that we include all ages in leading worship and hold a family service once a month. All ages are represented at our Messy Church gatherings.

We are a multicultural church and involve Indian, South Sudanese and Pacific Islander people as well as those of Anglo heritage in all ministries of the church including our Children, Youth and Worship ministries. Around 15 years ago we were approached by Synod to provide a worship space for James Aboj who is an Anglican minister, to enable his cultural group to hold Sudanese language services. We simply provide the worship space and James is the spiritual leader of this group. Over the years some South Sudanese families, children and youth have become members of Grace Community Melton Uniting Church and have become involved in youth leadership. Many Sudanese families are involved in Messy Church and Sunday School. We also provide a worship space for the Egyptian Orthodox Church when required. Recently we have embraced a South Sudanese Bible Study group for young adults, now part of Grace Community. Through this we are making links into the community, presenting a positive face in difficult times by supporting a new basketball team.

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

A combination of:

Pastoral Church

Program Church

In the recent past, our Minister has been very hands on and knowledgeable about the workings of the church and its people, which is very much like the Pastoral Church style. But we have other committees and individuals that are also knowledgeable, provide continuity and are helpful with their advice and experience. The minister does not have to be everywhere for everyone. For this reason, we are operating as a program church. We are respectful of the Minister's personal time.

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

Over the last 5 years the congregation numbers have remained stable with the addition of some new younger family memberships. Leadership has adapted well to the changed circumstances by providing on-line services and prayer meetings when we could not meet together. The church has been involved in

creating a new connection with the local community by renaming ourselves as Grace Community Melton. The life of the congregation has benefitted from the addition of more Sudanese, Islander and Indian members and by the increased involvement of our Sudanese youth and leaders.

We have growth while retaining long standing and new members during Covid 19. Since the various lockdowns have been lifted people are coming back to worship in person.

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

The overall goal at Grace Community Melton is nurturing, growing and developing the spiritual life of the congregation. The placement goals centre on the overall goal but are centred on 5 major areas of focus discerned by Melton Uniting Church - Grace Community Melton.

1. Growing and building the ministry to children, and families
2. Developing and growing our emerging leaders and current leaders
3. Growing and developing Melton Uniting Church - Grace Community Melton's connection and outreach into the community of Melton
4. Building and growing pastoral care to the people of Melton Uniting Church - Grace Community Melton
5. The continued development of the Melton Uniting Church - Grace Community Melton church site

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

The strategic steps to achieve the goals at Melton Uniting Church - Grace Community Melton are to continue to build upon the growing number of people seeking a spiritual home; pastorally care for new and old members; develop and grow emerging leaders and to explore new ways to reach the church and unchurched. Sunday morning worship, Sunday School and Youth group are growing and developing new people, members and emerging leaders. The Friday night youth group has grown from one Friday in the month to two Fridays in the month with an outreach into the Melton community. Messy Church has a core group of church families but is beginning to reach the Melton community. The strategic steps build upon the foundation at Melton Uniting Church - Grace Community Melton with the current members growing, developing and mentoring people seeking a spiritual home, new members and emerging leaders. The strategic steps are intergenerational and cross cultural to reflect the diversity of Melton Uniting Church - Grace Community Melton.

Our definition of intergenerational is that there are services within the month that everyone worships together, such as Family Services and at the time communion is distributed. Our older members are encouraged to sit side-by-side with families with children and there are occasions when the youth members have played music, provided the bible readings or a skit to illustrate a story.

SECTION 3 - CONTEXT

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

The City of Melton population forecast for 2022 is 216,389 and is forecast to grow to 450,823 by 2051.

Summary of population growth 2020 - 2021

The City of Melton increased 6,709 people at 3.9 per cent from 2020-2021, which is slightly lower than the growth in 2019-2020 (4.6 per cent) however remains the second fastest growing municipality in **Victoria**, behind the Surf Coast Shire (4.4 per cent).

Rockbank - Mount Cottrell area retains **Australia's** second highest growth rate, growing by 34 percent, and Victoria's first highest growth rate.

Population Characteristics as of 2021 (except where indicated as 2016)

CATEGORY	MELTON	GREATER MELB	CHG 2016 TO 2021
Estimated Population for 2021	181,223		+39,803
Land Area	527.3 sq km		
Population Density	343.7 ppl / sq km		
Males to Females	49.9% vs 50.1%	49.2% vs 50.8%	
Australian Citizens	80.9%	81.1%	
Population over 15 years old	75.6%	81.9%	
Households – Couples with Children	44.8%	33.1%	+6,676
Average Household Size	3.05	2.58	
Age Groups: (only the 2 largest groups are listed)			
1 st Largest - Parents & Homebuilders (35 – 49)	24.0%	21.5	+10,784
2 nd Largest – Young Workforce (25 – 34)	15.8%	16.0%	+7,374
Ancestry (2016): (only the first 3 nationalities listed)			
Australian	24.1%	24.0%	
English	22.5%	26.6%	
Maltese	7.6%	1.5%	
Speaks English Well or Very Well	88.9%	90.0%	
Religion* (2016) – Christian	56.8%	46.3%	+6,684
Religion* (2016) – No Religious Belief	22.1%	31.3%	+11,227
Religion* (2016) – Largest Group Western (Roman) Catholic	32.7%	23.2%	+4,196
Education (2016) – Bachelor or Higher	16.0%	27.5%	+5,220
Education (2016) – Adv Dip or Diploma	9.1%	9.5%	+3,220

* Religion statistics have not been updated from the 2020 census and in 2016 almost 10% of the population did not answer the question.

* There are more people over the age of 15 in Melton than in Melbourne. It is a fact that all churches have an aging congregation and Melton Uniting Church - Grace Community Melton is no different. Decades ago when Melton was a small, rural community people moved here to retire. But the demographics are changing and the change is visible when looking at the congregation on Sunday morning services.

Housing Prices:

For the month of June 2022, in Melton, there were 62 houses for sale, 64 houses for rent (approx. \$330 per week). A 3-bedroom house, median purchase price was \$490,000.

Summary:

The majority of residents speak English, work (full-time or part-time), are families with a house, a mortgage, and 2 cars working in Construction related industries or Retail. Note that some of the industries and occupations are based on 2016 census figures which are in the process of being updated by the ABS.

References:

Idcommunity <https://profile.id.com.au/melton/highlights-2016>
 Australian Bureau of Statistics <https://www.abs.gov.au/>

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

Grace Community Melton Profile:

Age Group:	
0 – 25	30%
25 – 60	20%
Over 60	50%

Ethnicity:	
Australian & English Backgrounds	70%
Sudanese	20%
Islander & Indian	10%

Specific to the ethnic mix of the Grace Community Melton congregation is the participation of the Sudanese elders (as related to their culture), families and youth.

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

Melton's greatest opportunities lie in its young, multicultural and growing population. Almost half of residents are couples with children, indicating opportunities to expand the church's outreach through youth and children's ministries. However, the Melton community suffers from many challenges related to socioeconomic disadvantage, including a higher unemployment rate compared to state and national figures, lower education outcomes and poor access to hospitals. There are also concerns regarding the prevalence of family violence, as well as justice engagement amongst young people. The community could use more child care facilities, schools and bus routes and other infrastructure that comes with a boom in population.

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

- Dadirri Counselling Service Melton
- Combined Churches Caring Melton (CCCM)
- Much More Opportunity Shop
- Melton Uniting Playgroup
- Melton Uniting Kindergarten

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

There are 40 schools within the City of Melton, most of which are government primary schools. The few health services available in Melton include a Primary Medical and Dental Clinic, a Women's Clinic, pharmacies and other small services. A new hospital is expected to be built over the coming years and a site has been chosen. The Melton City Council has started planning but they have not broken ground on the new facility. There are a range of charities and community initiatives operating in Melton, including Combined Churches Caring Melton (CCCM), a Foodbank and several Op Shops, one is operated by Grace Community Melton.