



FOR OFFICE USE ONLY
Date of receipt: 13 October 2022

PLACEMENT PROFILE

SECTION 1 – BASIC INFORMATION

1.1 Placement Name(s): **Presbytery of Western Victoria- Henty Region- Gunditjmara Country**
Greater Grange Cluster
Minister of the Word (full time position)

1.2 Please list congregations/agencies names below

- The Greater Grange Cluster consists of the congregations of the former Grange Cluster (Hamilton, Dunkeld, Cavendish, Pannyabyr & Penshurst) together with the congregations of the former Glenelg Cluster (Coleraine, Casterton, Digby, Strathdownie, and Carapook which is likely to close soon). Ministry agents will serve in the Greater Grange Cluster with the Full Time minister having major emphasis on the former Grange Cluster and the 0.5EFT Placement emphasis being on the former Glenelg Cluster.

1.3 Profile approved by Henty Region / /

1.4 Primary purpose of placement:

- Provide styles of worship with an emphasis on mission, appealing to a range of generations building up the congregations on their faith journey and continuing the connectedness with Staff and students at The Hamilton and Alexandra College.
- To work cooperatively with a ministry team, sharing and complementing skills across the Henty Region, and especially with the other Greater Grange Cluster Minister in Placement
- To provide leadership, nurture and support in worship, lay education, pastoral care and spiritual development, and to provide encouragement for those programs already in place
- To provide a major focus in Hamilton (city population of 10,000)
- To support Lay Preachers and Worship Leaders in areas of education, worship preparation and leadership

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 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

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)) X

Fixed Term: _____ Years

Initial Term reviewed in: _____ Years

SECTION 2 – MISSION DIRECTION

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

HENTY REGION WITHIN THE PRESBYTERY OF WESTERN VICTORIA

MISSION STATEMENT

To be the heart, voice, hands and feet of Jesus Christ across the Henty Region.

We believe that God calls each one of us to celebrate and share his love through worship, caring for each other, nurturing disciples, encouraging people to discover faith in Jesus Christ and to walk alongside the people of our community, sharing the love of Jesus.

MISSION GOALS

To show and share our faith through worship,
to connect worship and faith to our everyday lives,
to reach out ecumenically as well as to the wider community,
especially to the disadvantaged and those without a voice.

We endeavour to achieve these goals through:-

- ❖ the ministerial team in placement which offers complementary gifts which nurture, challenge and resource lay leaders and members of the congregations alike, empowering people to live out their faith with confidence,
- ❖ allowing the example of Christ to shape our daily attitudes and actions,
- ❖ a desire to build on and extend existing ecumenical relationships, working co-operatively with others,
- ❖ pastoral care that extends to every part of the region,
- ❖ seeking out and serving those who struggle with their everyday needs and ensuring their voice is heard,
- ❖ continuing to strengthen variety of styles of worship and
- ❖ encouraging a greater inclusion and understanding of ministry across the whole region.

2.2 Date adopted **23/ 07 /2017**

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

The Presbytery of Western Victoria is divided into 6 regions based on geographical areas. The Henty Region covers the area from the southern Grampians and Hamilton down to Portland and west to the South Australian border. The region is divided into two clusters. The Greater Grange Cluster, covering Hamilton, Cavendish, Dunkeld, Panyyabyr and Penshurst, Coleraine, Casterton, Digby, Carapook and Nareen. The Surry Cluster, covering Portland, Dartmoor,

Strathdownie, Macarthur, Heywood and Bolwarra.

The minister of the Greater Grange Cluster will have a main focus on the congregations of Hamilton, Cavendish, Dunkeld, Panyyabyr and Penshurst.

The region has a regional council that is responsible for the costs of stipends and manses. Individual church councils have oversight of their properties.

The region aspires to have a team of 3 ministers in placement to cover the ministry needs of the region. The regional council has recently determined that it will reduce this number to 2.5 EFT in placement, with 1EFT in each of the Greater Grange and Surry clusters and it is proposed 0.5 EFT in the Greater Grange Cluster.

Currently there is only one minister in the Henty Region, Rev Ross Stanford, in the Surry Cluster. The Hamilton congregation also funds a 0.5 EFT pastoral role, working with the food distribution program. This role is filled by a lay person.

Hamilton Congregation is the largest in the Henty Region. Weekly services at 9.30 am allowing the Minister to conduct services in outlying areas as per need on the Preaching Plan, approximately 3 per month. The Hamilton Service is live streamed to a broader community. Congregation and community members are involved in a food distribution program, a Tuesday meal program, managing a pre loved furniture and bric a brac op shop (The Argyle), the Hamilton Men's Shed, a Mother Goose Pre School program and supporting the connection with The Hamilton and Alexandra College (an ELC – Year 12 boarding School associated with the Uniting Church). The UC alternate with other denominations providing worship and communion services to the three nursing homes in Hamilton and another in Penshurst.

The funeral ministry is also an important part of the life of the congregation, often this is an outreach to community families not directly involved in regular church life.

Dunkeld – a small ecumenical group meeting in the Community Centre on the second Sunday of the month at 5 PM, members usually share in a Café meal following the gathering and 1st and 3rd Sundays worshipping in the Anglican Church with a traditional Anglican Eucharist led by the Hamilton priest.

Cavendish – monthly UCA service at 11.15 and monthly service with the Lutherans, lay led worship.

Penshurst – a small congregation, meets fortnightly with some Hamilton folk joining in. Supports aged care worship in Kolor Lodge/Penshurst Aged Care Facility.

Panyyabyr – meets quarterly on a Sunday afternoon at the Victoria Valley Hall, small rural community.

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

The congregations' theological styles are liberal/progressive with a strong emphasis on mission as identified in the PROGRAM style. The Minister and Church Council work collaboratively together.

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

Whilst ageing, the Hamilton Congregation remains very committed and as detailed above is very involved in the community. The challenge is to encourage more community members to volunteer in this important work. Many of the Outreach programs involve people from other denominations and many non – church folk as volunteers.

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

- To work with the Minister in actively spreading the Good News of Jesus Christ through word and deed in all the Church's activities.
- To continue to actively participate in and develop current programs and outreach activities.
- To strengthen and encourage the lay leadership and build up others to develop new skills.
- To encourage community members outside of the congregation to be involved in outreach activities.
- To work ecumenically, especially in the smaller rural congregations.

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

- To establish a strong relationship between the Minister and the Church Councils and then

into the congregational life.

- To promote learning opportunities for Lay Preachers, Church Councillors and the Congregations.
- To continue to support the church communities in learning to deal with change.
- To continue to be actively involved in the broader Hamilton community, encouraging others to be involved in UCA outreach activities.

SECTION 3 – CONTEXT

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

Hamilton is a rural city, with a population of approx. 10,000. Major educational facilities from pre – school to Tertiary. Excellent medical clinics and hospital, dentists. Strong sporting participation and facilities across a range of sports. Cultural centre with strong music focus, annual Eisteddfod, highly renowned Art galleries, cinema, library and Performing Arts Centre. Sheepvention is an annual August event based on sheep/wool and agricultural pursuits, attracting visitors from across South Eastern Australia.

Cavendish, Peshurst and Dunkeld – all small rural towns servicing a farming population and more recently popular with tourists.

Peshurst has a Volcanic Discovery Centre and Dunkeld is the last stop on the 160 kilometre Grampians Peaks Trail. Dunkeld has a volunteer run Visitor Information Centre and famous Royal Mail Hotel.

Pannyabyr is an isolated rural community north of Dunkeld on the alternative route to Halls Gap.

Cavendish is an active rural community, developing tourism through a walking trail and food venue, The Bunyip Restaurant.

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

Senior members form the basis of the congregations. Hamilton's population is not ethnically diverse, although greater diversity has occurred in the last five years mainly working in retail, education, health care and local government. There are some Sri Lankan, Indian and Chinese people in Hamilton. Although not actively involved in the worship life of the congregation, some are involved in Church activities. There is no formal KUCA at the moment.

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

OPPORTUNITIES

- Sheepvention is a major Western District initiative which is Hamilton based but involves a wider district.
- Sunday Services are live streamed, attracting 50 – 60 viewers per week from all over Australia.
- To continue to foster the link with The Hamilton and Alexandra College community as follows: the possibility of youth ministry could be discussed with the Principal. Easter/Christmas Services are shared with the Presbyterian Minister for historic and church capacity reasons, Hamilton UCA minister's involvement with the Hamilton College Official Functions – Speech Day, ANZAC Service, Scholar's Assembly, Beginning of the Academic Year Service for Staff, Year 12 Leaver's Service etc; Occasional other events by invitation and assistance/support in times of crisis.
- The opportunity to share the gospel with the community groups we have links with.
- Work with counselling in emergencies – VCCEM, CFA and Red Cross Emergency Services, for example in fires, floods etc

STRESS & PAIN

- Most would cite gambling, drinking and drug problems, in particular ICE as causes of stress in the wider community.
- The exodus of young people to Melbourne and larger Regional cities for further education or employment is concerning as they rarely return. A few do return to raise their children.
- Decline in younger people willing to take on responsible positions in sporting clubs, service groups, community groups as current office bearers and leaders age and need to be replaced.

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

- - Mentoring in local schools 'Standing Tall' Program
 - Argyle Shop – providing low cost second hand furniture and bric a brac for the general public to purchase with proceeds supplementing the Church income and providing goods/furniture etc to needy families or those who have lost their home in a disaster. It also provides a place for the community to donate goods to a worthy cause eg. from a deceased estate. Proceeds are also used to support local needs and initiatives.
 - Weekly Food Distribution Program – reaching some 100 households per week networked across a wide area in Hamilton and the district
 - Tuesday Meal catered for by congregation for people in need
 - Mother Goose Program – a bonding activity for parents/carers with young infants
 - Men's Shed – auspiced by the Hamilton Congregation
 - TURASS – a progressive spirituality group
 - Hamilton Church Complex is used by outside community groups eg ballet school, AL – Anon, Rural Australians for Refugees
 - There is significant involvement by congregational members in CWA, Red Cross, Legacy, RSL, Lions, Rotary, Sporting Clubs, Hamilton Eisteddfod, Cemetery Trusts, Hamilton Singers and Arts Activities.
 - Emergency counselling VCCEM and Red Cross ES
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3.5 What schools/agencies/institutions are in your local communities?

- Hamilton - 6 Pre Schools, 7 primary schools, 4 secondary schools – 3 of which offer boarding students from Rural Areas, SE South Australia, Asia as well as indigenous students from NT and WA.
 - District – there are Child Care, Pre school and Primary School facilities in the outlying towns of Penshurst, Dunkeld, Cavendish and Tarrington.
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- Secondary schools are Monivae College (Catholic), Good Shepherd College (Lutheran), The Hamilton and Alexandra College (UCA) and Baimbridge College is the state secondary school.
 - Children and adults with special needs are well catered for with a Special Development School (Parklands School), Mulleraterong – day services, Southern Stay Residential Care and Nigretta Supported Employment Workshop
 - SW TAFE have a campus in Hamilton. RIST (Rural Industry Skills Training) also operates in Hamilton. Hamilton District Skills Centre offering secondary students in training in Hospitality, carpentry and automotive.