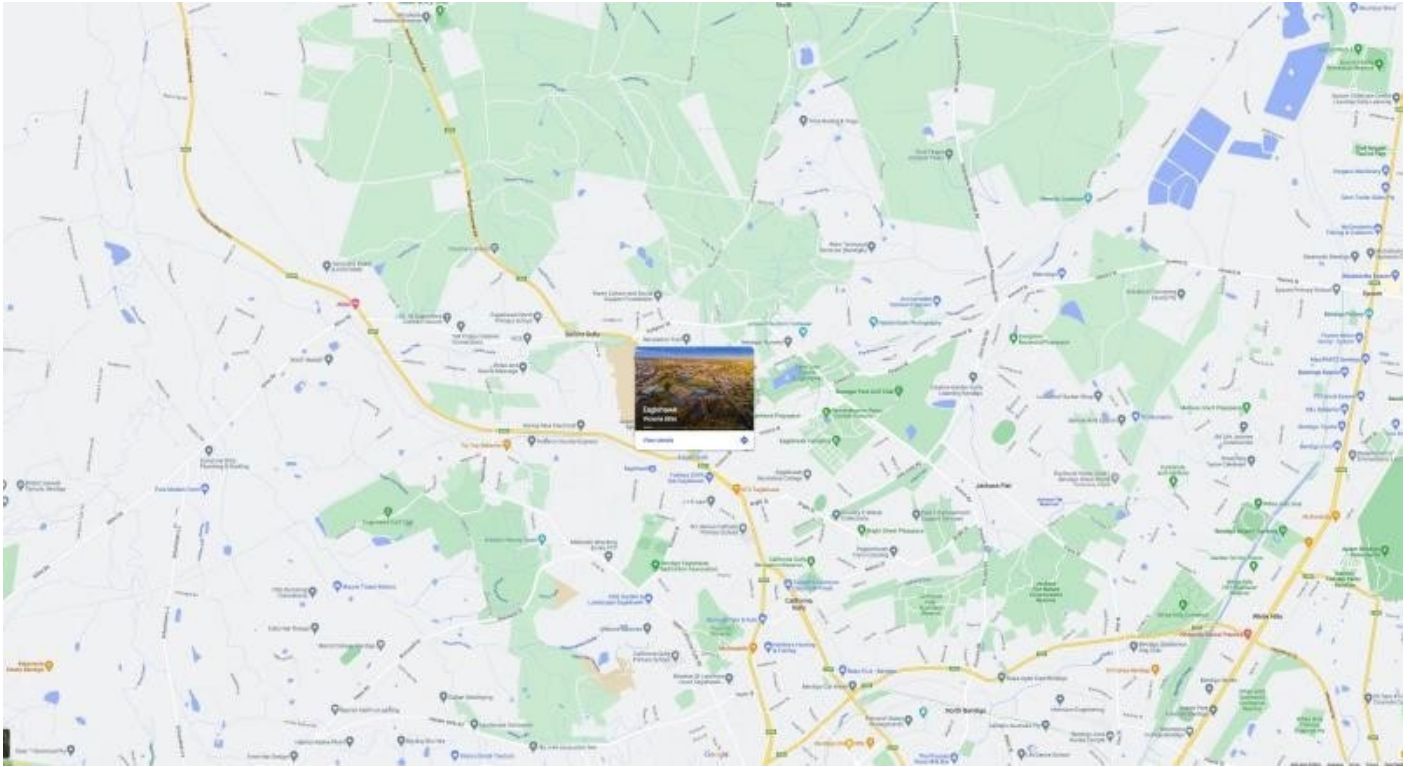




## A Placement Profile

<b>A1 Presbytery</b>	Loddon Mallee Presbytery		
<b>A2 Name of Placement</b>	Eaglehawk Uniting Church		
<b>A3 Placement city/suburb/town</b>	Part of the City of Greater Bendigo		
<b>A4 Church/Office location(s)</b>	On site at 36 Peg Leg Rd Eaglehawk		
<b>A5 Congregations and agencies associated with this placement</b>	Eaglehawk UC		
<b>A6 Ministry leadership being sought</b>	Specific ministry role:		
	Minister of the Word <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Deacon <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Ministry of Pastor <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Ordinand <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
<b>A7 Specific details</b>	Additional placement <input type="checkbox"/>	Replacement placement <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
	Full Time <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Part Time <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Time fraction	0.5 - 1.0 Negotiable
	Earliest Start Date:	Immediate	
<b>A8 Placement term</b>	Undefined <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Up to 10 years (see Reg 2.7.3(a))	
	Fixed Term	Required for non-congregational placements (see Reg 2.7.3(b))	Years <input type="text"/>
<b>A9 To be completed by Presbytery, with reasons given on page 13:</b>			
	Is permission sought to advertise?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	
	Is a Priority Placement recommended?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
<b>A10 Website</b>	<a href="http://www.eaglehawk.unitingchurch.org.au/">http://www.eaglehawk.unitingchurch.org.au/</a>		
<b>A11 Social Media</b>	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/eaglehawkunitingchurch">https://www.facebook.com/eaglehawkunitingchurch</a>		
<b>A12 Google map link</b>	<a href="https://goo.gl/maps/64iirYokuP6r2GCC8?coh=178572&amp;entry=tt">https://goo.gl/maps/64iirYokuP6r2GCC8?coh=178572&amp;entry=tt</a>		

**A13 Area map (paste image)**





## B The Congregation

**B1 Tell a potential minister about this placement and yourselves, in your own words and pictures, in no more than one page. Share something of your congregation’s values, beliefs and ways in which you live out and share the gospel message.**

**Include comment about why you need a new minister. How will this placement be exciting, challenging, and attractive to a minister? How can God be served in new ways here? What do you want the Minister to do with you and for you?**

**This is your chance to ‘be creative’ and catch the attention of someone who is thinking of sharing their call, their gifts, their life with you.**

EUC is an active Community of Jesus followers who live out our lives under the theme: “Striving to Be Like Jesus.” The congregation comprises people from the Eaglehawk area as well as other suburbs of Bendigo and some from other areas such as Melbourne via Zoom.

The church was originally established by Cornish Miners in 1853 in the Wesleyan tradition. Since that time there has been movement in congregations coming together for a variety of reasons such as the Basis of Union in 1977 and Bendigo Vision in early 2000.

At present we worship and serve the community with a diverse membership including many who don’t attend worship on Sunday but regard themselves as part of our church community through activities such as Food & Care and the Op Shop. Eaglehawk is a close-knit, passionate and caring community that is experiencing changes in the make up of the population as it expands to cater for the needs of its people. It is often referred to as the “Greater part of Bendigo.”

Our 10 a.m Worship service has been the stimulator and generator for our lives and outreach with the 6.30 p.m service being a study of the Bible and discussion group. The latter has developed into a Zoom community since COVID. Our church has always been prepared to consider and adopt new ways of discipleship by encouraging everyone to use and develop their talents, including leadership roles in worship. This has coalesced into what is now an intergenerational ministry with all age groups being given the opportunity to participate and interact. This happens through leadership development including Bible readings, music, media production etc. We pride ourselves on keeping our church involved in up-to-date developments such as Zoom, media inclusion, inter-Presbytery studies online and we are always eager to learn how to show our faith in ways that are meaningful to our community in general.

The worship life and teaching of our Church is central to serving our community where they are at. This includes young people (Cornerstone), Bible study groups, pastoral Care and Prayer Chain, Food and Care Outreach, Generational groups (Friendship and Men’s Coffee) and the Op shop which generates income for our budget but is also a huge form of Mission in our community in many ways. We see the development and encouragement of these and other groups as a way of building on our presence in the Eaglehawk community and sharing our faith in these difficult times for so many people.

Our church reaches beyond the building in Peg Leg Rd, to other community organisations where our members are actively involved in so many ways. We have had several members who have been honored with Citizenship awards and other honors due to the work they have done through our church and other community organizations. We are always trying to connect with the larger community and other churches through programs such as the World Day of Prayer, Bendigo Winter Night Shelter, Easter Sunrise service at Lake Neangar (which we arrange and fund annually) and many others. Through our FOCUS services which are held monthly and organized by our Lay Preacher, we support many organisations such as Chaplaincy (hospital and School) Frontier Services, Christmas Bowl, Bible Society, Uniting World, Leprosy Mission and many others.

We have been fortunate to have the funds from the sale of unused tennis courts to update our church facilities in 2021. This has enabled our programs to expand and become community based especially our Food and Care program that operates weekly. This has become a “one stop shop” for food, clothing, coffee and cake and most importantly a chat which has ignited friendships and support for those finding life difficult. Our introduction of Zoom in both services through our media upgrade has also expanded our church to include those as far away as Melbourne on a regular basis.

We would like to grow our group as we know it today, building a faith community with new ideas and strong connections to Eaglehawk. We want to be known as a “safe haven” for those in need, to live out our faith and step out in faith by connecting to those who are in need as we see this area of our lives increasing every day.

Our new minister:

We would like someone to lead us to the next phase of Christian ministry and outreach in the Eaglehawk community. This person will be supportive and inspirational through preaching, planning and interacting with our people, and through connections and interactions with the wider community. We know the presence of our minister in places like the Op shop and Food & Care is something that is appreciated by those who are part of our mission in those areas. The unique challenges presented by intergenerational ministry, teaching the scripture and development of our younger generation, through our specific programs, will be our main focus.

\* If a part-time placement eventuates, these expectations will be modified, giving due consideration to the time fraction and the background and skills and the availability and workload of the nominated person.

We have a manse in the Eaglehawk community, which is centrally located but separate to the church buildings. This provides an opportunity to be part of this community while also offering security and independence.

**B2 List and explain any particular priorities which the congregation has identified and which it will address in the next two to five years?**

Leading the development of a place where people from all walks and stages of life and places can come and seek a new, vital way of living in a safe and creative atmosphere.  
Our congregation has a growing awareness of and appreciation for Intergenerational ministry.  
Help our community to lead, support and expand our present programs that serve those in need: e.g Food & Care, Op Shop, and other programs that may be introduced.  
Support the Pastoral Care and Visitation program to enable support and connections.

**B3 Does this placement relate to more than one congregation?**

Yes

No

If so, provide details on page 10.

**B4 What ethnic and language groups are represented in the congregation?  
What proportion of the congregation does each represent?**

Eaglehawk congregation notes that it does not have groups of people from other ethnic or language groups.

**B5 What languages are spoken in the life of your:**

Congregation, by		Community, by	
Individuals	English	Individuals	Mostly English but some aren and other languages
Groups	English	Groups	

**B6 What languages are spoken by the congregation in worship?**

English

**B7 Describe any involvement your congregation has in covenanting with first nations people.**

None to date

**B8 List any UCA Schools and/or agencies (Uniting VicTas, Uniting AgeWell) with which the congregation has an existing relationship.**

Some support for Uniting World



## C Mission

### C1 List three of your missional activities that your congregation does best?

1. Food and Care: Outreach to the local community in the form of food hampers, coffee and cake, and pastoral care provided by our minister.
2. Our Op Shop provides affordable clothing, shoes and homewares to the Eaglehawk community.
3. On the first Sunday of each month we have a 'focus service' where a representative from a local charity or organisation gives a short presentation and the congregation is invited to donate money to that cause. Some examples of previous speakers have been; Bendigo Winter Night Shelter, The Bible Society, Frontier Services and Leprosy Mission.

### C2 What are three missional activities your congregation would like to develop?

- An informal church gathering suitable for families and the wider community,
- Providing in kind and pastoral support for marginalised people in our community.
- We continue to consider opportunities to connect with youth in our local community. This flows from the relationships we have already established with people in our community.

### C3 How has the congregation changed in the past two years?

- Some older members have sadly passed away.
- We have had a small number of people join us from other churches.
- Many people that don't regularly go to church but are part of our Op shop or Food and Care programs have come to church services for special events. Many feel part of our church community, despite not identifying as "religious".
- During COVID we began streaming our services on Zoom. We found this to be a valuable tool so continued the practice. Despite restrictions easing, many people continue to join our morning services on Zoom due to mobility or transport issues, visiting family out of town, or caring for loved ones. It was also decided to continue our night services on Zoom only as it meant people did not have to go out at night, particularly during winter.

### C4 What changes and developments are anticipated in the next three to five years?

- A number of our children who are in primary school now will become teenagers in the coming years. We have ways of including them in our church services, however we currently don't have any programs to cater specifically for teenagers. We will need to adapt our programs for their changing needs and interests.
- The social housing complex known as 'Virginia Hill' is located approximately 100 metres from the church is in the process of being demolished and will be re-built. This information is readily available online. We anticipate providing a safe and welcoming place for the residents of all ages and backgrounds through programs like Food and Care. We anticipate the need to adapt current programs or create new ones in response to needs that become apparent from our interactions with these residents. We feel it is important to listen to God's spirit and the needs of the people we serve, rather than creating programs on our own that are not needed or wanted.

## D The Community

### D1 Describe the wider community in which your ministry is located.

The Eaglehawk community that surrounds our physical building is made up of a very diverse and proud population, from different cultures and walks of life with growing cultural diversity.

- Eaglehawk has a median age of 43, 1483 families and a median weekly household income of \$1140.
- The church is located in an area where disadvantage is high and there is a lack of affordable social housing. Eaglehawk residents are a proud folk, often seen celebrating together the many wonderful things that make Eaglehawk what it is today – examples being a strong sense of community, generosity and helping those less fortunate than themselves – values seen every day. 5.6% of the community identify as having a Uniting Church faith ( 10.8 % Anglican, 16.9% Catholic , 47% none)\* \*Stats from the 2021 ABS Census

## **D2 What makes this an enjoyable place to live?**

Eaglehawk holds many social events throughout the year, none bigger than the Dahlia & Arts Festival which showcases the wonderful community spirit Eaglehawk has to offer.

Eaglehawk has many services available to the community including wonderful schools, shops, community services, beautiful parklands and of course a welcoming Uniting Church.

## **D3 What are the points of stress and pain in the wider community?**

Lack of affordable social housing is a real issue for our local community. How can people feel connected to an area if they cant afford to live in a suitable house that has heating, cooling and other basic amenities? Cost of living is a real issue as well, with many locals unable to afford food from the supermarket, therefore utilise our Food and Care Program each week. Numbers to this program continue to rise.

## **D4 How closely does your congregation reflect the demographics of your local area?**

In some ways, our congregation is reflective of the area, in terms of values, stresses and needs. The major area of difference is probably in age, where the local community average age is 43, our churches average age would most likely be over 60, with very few folk under 35.

## **D5 What community facilities are present in the local area?**

Primary and Secondary Schools – government and catholic education. Parklands

Local sporting clubs and facilities

Retail Shops including our very own Eagle Op Shop

IGA and Aldi are the two major supermarkets Cafes and pubs

Industrial area

Local Businesses

Winery

Golf Club

Open public play spaces included heated indoor swimming pool. Landfill and Recycling yard

Halls

Religious buildings and areas of gathering.

Fire Station

Police Station

Well serviced by primary and acute health care services.

Local parks, Whipstick State Forest, and Bendigo Regional Park.