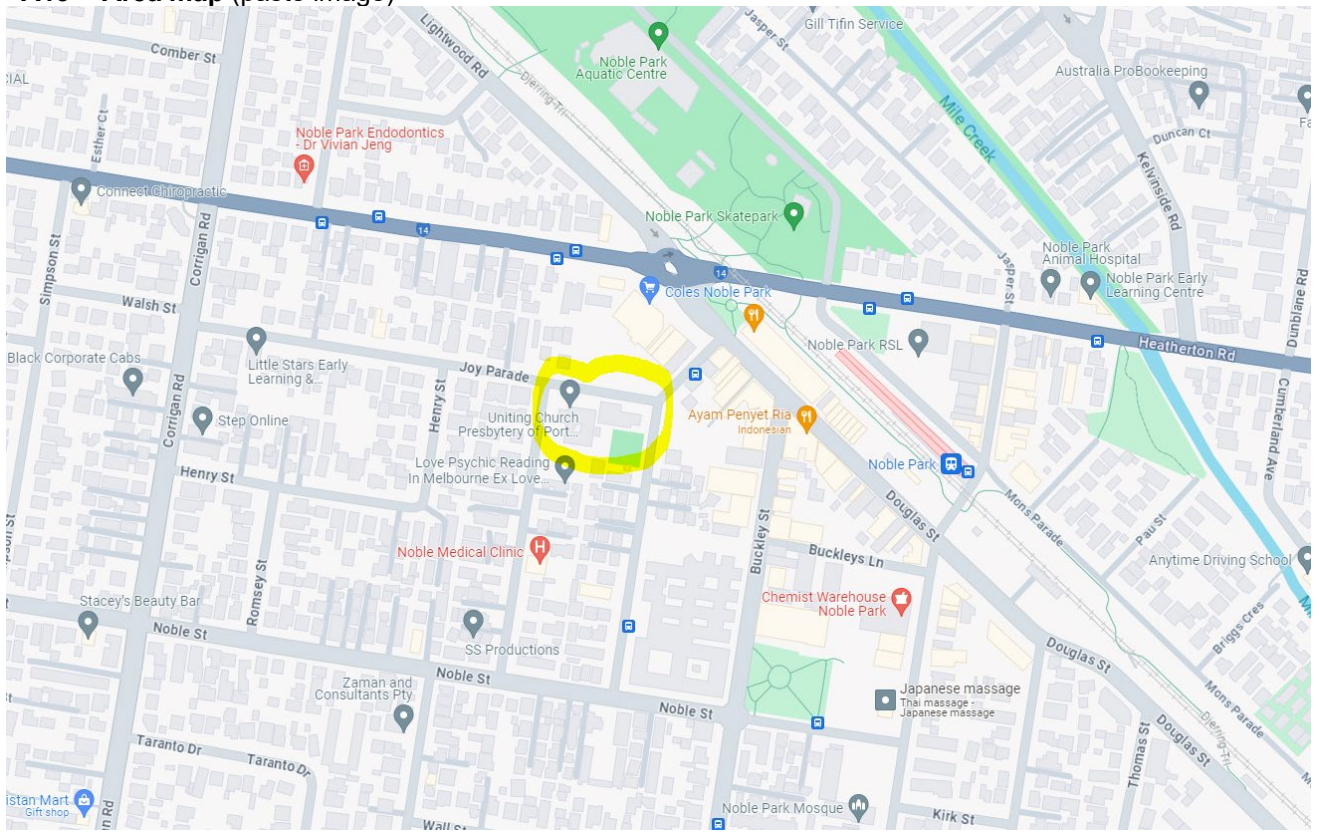




A Placement Profile

A1 Presbytery	Port Phillip East Presbytery	
A2 Name of Placement	St Columba's	
A3 Placement city/suburb/town	Noble Park	
A4 Church/Office location(s)	2 Joy Pde, Noble Park	
A5 Congregations and agencies associated with this placement	Single congregation	
A6 Ministry leadership being sought	<p>Specific ministry role:</p> <p>Minister of the Word <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Deacon <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ministry of Pastor <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Ordinand <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>This placement is the sole "professional" ministry placement to this congregation. We believe that a Minister of the Word is the most appropriately qualified person to lead us, given the priorities noted below. However, we do not wish to exclude a Deacon with appropriate skills. This congregation is open to the placement of an ordinand.</p>
A7 Specific details	<p>Additional placement <input type="checkbox"/> Replacement placement <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Full Time <input type="checkbox"/> Part Time <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Time fraction <input type="text" value="0.5"/></p> <p>Earliest Start Date: <input type="text" value="1/07/2024"/></p>	
A8 Placement term	<p>Undefined <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Up to 10 years (see Reg 2.7.3(a))</p> <p>Fixed Term <input type="checkbox"/> Required for non-congregational placements (see Reg 2.7.3(b))</p>	<p>Years <input type="text"/></p>
A9 To be completed by Presbytery, with reasons given on page :	<p>Is permission sought to advertise? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Is a Priority Placement recommended? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>	
A10 Website	<input type="text" value="n/a"/>	
A11 Social Media	<input type="text" value="n/a"/>	
A12 Google map link	<input type="text" value="https://www.google.com/maps/place/St+Columba's+Church/@-37.9662696,145.1698795,16z/data=!3m1!4b1!4m6!3m5!1s0x6ad6148fbdd49f0xa6e6fdc133cb58e118m2!3d-37.9662739!4d145.1724544!16s%2Fg%2F11f5jptpp6?entry=ttu"/>	

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.

St. Columba's Noble Park is located within the City of Greater Dandenong, one of the most multicultural regions in all of Australia with over 60% of residents being born outside of Australia and almost 70% speaking languages other than English. The congregation is ideally located for a minister to assist the congregation in growing cross cultural and intercultural missional engagement. The congregation has also taken significant steps towards being an intercultural community through its amalgamation with the former Keysborough Samoan congregation.

The congregation is committed to caring for the vulnerable in our wider community and engages with local aged care facilities. Our elders regularly minister to residents through pastoral visits and offering communion. We lead monthly worship services at [Noble Gardens](#) for residents and staff.

Our worship centre is home to a number of non-Uniting Church CALD congregations including:

- Iglesia Evangelical Mont de Sion Inc (Spanish speaking)
- Oromo Christian Fellowship in Australia
- Free Wesleyan Church of Tonga in Australia
- Chollo Community Fellowship Group Victoria
- Samoan Methodist Congregation

The congregation hosts the Presbytery of Port Phillip East office and many Presbytery meetings and events are held at St Columba's.

The congregation is ready to open a new chapter of intercultural ministry and mission. We believe the congregation is well placed to offer leadership to the wider church and looking for a minister who will partner with us.

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

Nurturing our faith
Like many UCs our numbers are declining.
We would love to encourage young people, esp young families.

**B3 Does this placement relate to more than one congregation?
If so, provide details on page .**

Yes No

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

English - majority
Samoan - 10%
The following groups are represented by individuals or 1-2 families
Pilipino
Sri Lankan
Indian
Malaysian
PNG
Fijian
South African



B5 What languages are spoken in the life of your:

Congregation, by		Community, by	
Individuals		Individuals	
Groups		Groups	

B6 What languages are spoken by the congregation in worship?

English mostly, some Samoan.
At times, we invite members to say the Lord's prayer in their chosen language.
Noble Park is a culturally, linguistically and religiously diverse society.

B7 Describe any involvement your congregation has in covenanting activities.

None

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

None

C Mission

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

Supporting one another
Supporting Mission Liaison Group

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

Something with youth
Explore opportunities with Scope and Migrant

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

In 2022, The Keysborough Samoan UC congregation began worshipping in our buildings due to the deteriorating condition of their Keysborough property. As they did not have a minister, they would join our congregation on first Sunday of the month for HC. Early in 2023, the Samoan congregation voted to seek a merger with the St Columba's congregation and St Columba's unanimously agreed to an amalgamation. In June 2023 the merger was formalised at a presbytery led service. The Samoans requested that we continue under the St Columba's name. Some Samoan members participate in worship (eg bible readings), sometimes in Samoan. Our Worship Committee is beginning to explore the regular use of some Samoan customs in worship - eg a sung blessing before scripture.

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

We fear further shrinkage as the congregation ages.
Development of our "back yard" with a hangi pit - facilitate social activities

D The Community

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

Noble Park (and indeed the whole City of Greater Dandenong) is one of the most ethnically, linguistically and religiously diverse areas in Australia. Generally lower socio-economic groups. Keysborough is probably more "middle class"

D2 What makes this an enjoyable place to live?

Ethnic diversity

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

Homelessness, poverty.
Drug and alcohol issues.
We see this from time to time with evidence of "rough sleepers" on our property.

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

Not terribly. As well as Noble Park, we draw members from Dandenong, Keysborough and Dingley Village as well as a few from further afield.



D5 What community facilities are present in the local area?

Paddy O'Donahue Centre.

Sporting facilities including a good swimming pool.

Memorial Drive Community Centre

Child Care facilities

Part of our land was sold some time ago to a developer, this was subsequently purchased by the City of Greater Dandenong and has been developed into a community open space.