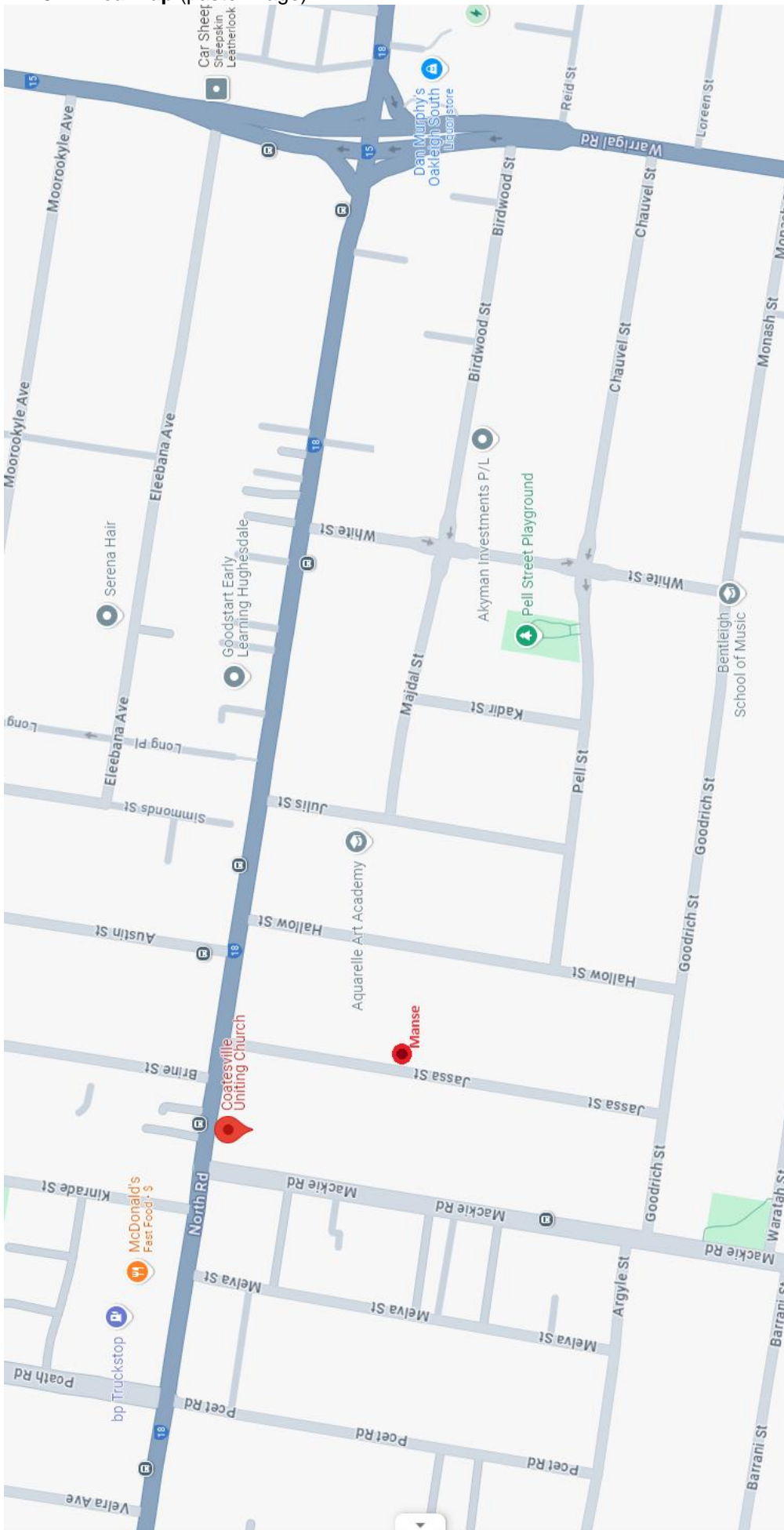




## A Placement Profile

<b>A1 Presbytery</b>	Port Phillip East Presbytery		
<b>A2 Name of Placement</b>	Coatesville - Minister of the Word		
<b>A3 Placement city/suburb/town</b>	Bentleigh East, Vic		
<b>A4 Church/Office location(s)</b>	1050 North Rd, Bentleigh East (Cnr of Mackie Rd)		
<b>A5 Congregations and agencies associated with this placement</b>	Coatesville		
<b>A6 Ministry leadership being sought</b>	Specific ministry role:	<input type="text"/>	
	Minister of the Word <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Deacon <input type="checkbox"/>	Ministry of Pastor <input 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 type="checkbox"/>	Part Time <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Time fraction <input type="text" value="0.6 - 0.8"/>
	Earliest Start Date:	15/07/2024	
<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 type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	
	Is a Priority Placement recommended?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>A10 Website</b>	www.greatplacetobelong.org.au		
<b>A11 Social Media</b>	https://www.facebook.com/p/Coatesville-Uniting-Church-100064960412910		
<b>A12 Google map link</b>	https://www.google.com/maps/place/Coatesville+Uniting+Church./@-37.9094167,145.0775456,18.25z/		

A13 Area map (paste image)



## B The Congregation

### B1

Mission and ministry sit alongside worship at the heart of Coatesville's expression of our recently renewed vision, values and foundational beliefs (<https://www.greatplacetobelong.org.au/what-do-we-stand-for>). For instance, our long-running community craft group embodies the values of love, caring, community and joy, as well as being a mission activity where our understanding of God (Foundational Beliefs) can be communicated through action and word.

Sunday morning worship is a blend of traditional and modern music styles, ably supported by our band and our Worship team. We are fortunate to have talented musicians who share their skills to help create vibrant and meaningful worship for all. New songs are composed by our music team for worship and to accompany the Seasons study material. (<https://www.greatplacetobelong.org.au/resources/>)

The COVID lockdowns forced worship and fellowship online. We chose to use Zoom as our platform, as it allowed everyone to contribute to readings, prayers and sharing their joys and concerns. The online community has continued to flourish, particularly with elderly members who have moved to supported accommodation and those who can't join us through sickness or travel. We even have one regular worshipper in New Zealand. While we have made a good beginning, there is significant potential to extend its depth and breadth.

Fellowship in the congregation is enhanced by regular and special events such as the annual Variety Concert, High Teas, Games Nights, Girls Night Out, Stressed Out Fellas Association (SOFA), the Fete and Family Fun Days. While many enjoy attending these events, others build relationships through planning and running them.

We are keen to reach out beyond the congregation. For instance, Family Fun Days integrate community groups who hire our hall, a local school and congregational activities into an enjoyable afternoon focused on young families. The December 2023 event had the hall packed, featuring performances by dance, music and drama groups, and the Coatesville band; alongside craft and play tables.

The opening of our community food pantry late in 2023, run by a group of our young adults, (<https://www.greatplacetobelong.org.au/programs/#Pantry>) has complemented our longstanding material aid program, Community Care. There is also an evolving outreach to the 'un-connected' in our local community combining books and hospitality.

Coatesville is led by the Minister in active collaboration with a team of Leaders, who together form the Church Council. Meetings focus on understanding the current state of affairs, collaborative problem solving and planning for the future, rather than just arid discussion following formal reports.

Aligned with our belief that we all share in the responsibility for mission and ministry, pastoral care is a shared responsibility at Coatesville. Our pastoral care group shares with the Minister in critical pastoral care. There is an active prayer chain and each activity group provides pastoral care to its members.

Since 2019 we have collaborated with the Murrumbreena and Leighmoor congregations in the LCM Cluster in combined worship and fellowship. We see the cluster as having significant potential for making greater impact on our regional community.

*The Mission Study report written by the Presbytery Liaison People, as well as the collated responses from the congregational discussion are an attachment to this document.*

Additional information related to the congregation and placement is available at:

<https://www.greatplacetobelong.org.au/minister>

user: minister

password: Coatesville2024

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

**Continuing to develop worship, fellowship, and opportunities for personal and spiritual growth across both online and face-to-face.**

While we have several long-running small groups, the needs of both the congregation and the wider community have changed over the years, and the opportunities we provide for faith development and fellowship also need to evolve. The online complement of Sunday worship often numbers more than fifteen, and there is a significant opportunity to build this community in fellowship and faith.

**Serving the local community through material aid and community-building activities.**

The long-running Community Care program has a substantial number of elderly volunteers and there is a need to complement this group with younger people, potentially from the wider community.

**Developing community with those who use our premises.**

There is an opportunity to engage with the wider community through these groups and local schools, which have already responded warmly through active participation in the initial Family Fun Days.

**Working with the other two UCA congregations in the LCM cluster (Murrumbeena and Leighmoor) to take advantage of our combined capabilities.**

While we have made a solid beginning with the cluster, there is an opportunity to make a substantial impact on our region by working together. Seasonal celebrations and regional community events could provide a focus.

**Community Connection - we would like to build upon our current initiatives (Community Care, Food Pantry, Street Library and Family Fun Day) and look at other possibilities to invite the community into our space.**

There is a long-held passion at Coatesville for building community connections. Family Fun Days are the latest manifestation and there is a desire to extend more general hospitality to the wider community. One evolving possibility is to provide a daytime community hub: an open space offering books, a place to read in company, refreshments and hospitality.

**B3 Does this placement relate to more than one congregation?  
If so, provide details on page 10.**

Yes

No

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

While we have a small number of Chinese, Indian and Filipino members, the congregation is almost entirely English-speaking.

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

Congregation, by		Community, by	
Individuals	Chinese, Tagalog, Indian dialect	Individuals	
Groups		Groups	Greek and Chinese predominantly

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

English

**B7 Describe any involvement your congregation has in covenanting activities.**

None, at this stage.

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

N/A

## C Mission

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

Caring for the community through material aid: Friday morning Community Care and the public Food Pantry, financial support for Frontier Services.

Building local community through ongoing activities and events such as the Craft Group, Library and Family Fun Days.

Developing connections with local schools: Coatesville PS in the past and, currently, Hughesdale PS.

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

See B2.

Daytime community hub, growing from the community library and hospitality initiative.

Sustaining and developing Community Care and the Food Pantry.

Growing the relationship with Hughesdale PS.

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

We have developed a new community library and food pantry.

Our traditional Christmas in the Car Park event has transformed into Family Fun Days which include the community groups that use our premises and the local school choir.

We've continued to refine the way we interact with our online worship community to improve ongoing fellowship.

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

Finding ways to address the social and spiritual needs of an evolving local community (see points of stress and pain, below).

Further development of online fellowship and worship.

Developing mission and ministry activities across the LCM cluster.

## D The Community

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

We would see ourselves principally serving those within a 2km radius, which includes parts of Bentleigh East, Murrumbeena, Hughesdale, Moorabbin and Oakleigh (postcodes 3163, 3165, 3166 & 3167). We are near the junction of three local government areas – Glen Eira, Monash and Kingston.

The immediate locality of Coatesville UCA, is predominately 'middle class', though there are a range of different socio-economic and ethnic groups. The local community is approximately evenly divided between Anglo, European (mostly Greek) and Asian (mostly Chinese and Indian).

The area is undergoing steady urban renewal with single residences being updated or replaced with medium density housing. Along the main roads, four-or five storey apartment blocks are becoming common, mostly adjacent to public transport.

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

The community feels safe, day and night.

There is a good mix of local and regional schools, shopping, transport, health services and recreational activities.

The area is physically pleasing and public and private areas are generally well-maintained.



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

Despite being an area where the average socio-economic profile is in the middle band, there are significant numbers of residents who do not have adequate, ongoing income or stable domestic situations.

Urban renewal is occurring, as long-time residents (many since the late 1950s) move into supported accommodation.

With increasing dislocation from the traditional church, the opportunities for members of the wider community to engage with spiritual matters has steadily decreased.

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

The congregation most closely represents the local profile of residents who have been in the locality for more than 20 years. We have a smaller number of members who represent other ethnic and socio-economic profiles.

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

A broad range, including many sports and entertainment venues and several swimming pools.

Two major regional shopping centres (Chadstone and Southland) as well as a substantial local shopping centre (Oakleigh) and two local sets of strip shops in Mackie Rd.

Monash Medical Centre is a 10-minute drive and there are a substantial number of local doctors, dentists and allied health practices.

Monash University is within a 10-minute drive.