



A Placement Profile

A1 Presbytery	Yarra Yarra Presbytery		
A2 Name of Placement	Manningham		
A3 Placement city/suburb/town	Templestowe, Victoria		
A4 Church/Office location(s)	Manningham Uniting Church and Community Centre, 109 Wood Street, Templestowe VIC 3106		
A5 Congregations and agencies associated with this placement	Manningham		
A6 Ministry leadership being sought	Specific ministry role:	(One of two placements in the congregation)	
	Minister of the Word <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Deacon <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Ministry of Pastor <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Ordinand <input type="checkbox"/>		
A7 Specific details	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 Negotiable - minimum 0.6 FTE
	Earliest Start Date:	1/01/2025	
A8 Placement term	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
A9 To be completed by Presbytery, with reasons given on page 12:			
	Is permission sought to advertise?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
	Is a Priority Placement recommended?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
A10 Website	http://manninghamuc.org/		
A11 Social Media	https://www.facebook.com/manninghamunitingchurch/ https://www.instagram.com/manninghamuc/		
A12 Google map link	64VH+QV Templestowe, Victoria		
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.

Manningham Uniting Church is made up of people who seek to follow Christ's example in loving God and loving our neighbours - locally, nationally and globally. We are one congregation with a huge variety of individuals. Theological diversity is respected and enriches our church. We pride ourselves in being a welcoming and open community for a diverse range of people. We hold several worship services each week, with different styles. There is "Fellowship@10" where the attendees are mainly older and who enjoy hymns and the choir. Run at the same time in the nearby Auditorium is "Family@10", which is a laid back, intergenerational service, with creative worshipping ideas, like 'choose your own adventure' options, and a band leading contemporary music. A children's program 'Kids' Church' is run as part of Family@10. After these two services, there is a shared morning tea so that we can catch up with each other. Two other services, which run monthly, are: "Emerging Church", exploring progressive ideas, and "Café Church", which is a small group worship and discussion over a cuppa. Some people attend more than one service style, moving between the services from week to week. We have a number of lay people who lead services, and/or assist the minister or visiting preacher with coordination and facilitation of a service.

We have a strong focus on Mission, both for and with the local community, which is facilitated by having the use of spaces in our wonderful Church and Community Centre. Playgroups are run throughout the week in our fantastic playgroup room and there are weekly and monthly groups run by our church people, and other activities run by community groups. Many of our church members are passionate about social justice, both in Australia and overseas, and there are groups that meet to learn about and support various social causes such as the environment and refugees. Other groups are set up to socialise and support each other.

The aging community, and children, youth and families are priorities for our church. We value our older members and as more become frailer, we strive to support them, whether it is in transport to church, services at aged care facilities, or becoming more dementia-friendly.

At MUC we welcome the gifts and graces of all involved equally, including in the ministry team. We support a flat-structured ministry team where all have equal input, agreed responsibilities are clear and decisions are made by consensus. All members of the ministry team are members of Council.

We believe there are a lot of exciting opportunities for a potential new Minister, Deacon or Pastor, who would join our current ministry team in inspiring our love and worship of God, and in encouraging and building on current and new initiatives. The opportunities are many and varied, and involvement would be according to the new Minister's, Deacon's or Pastor's own strengths, gifts and interests, although a passion for working with and supporting young people would be highly valued. We would welcome an additional member of our ministry team to assist us in meeting our ministry goals of supporting current members and families, and also in our desire to reach out to, connect with and help to meet the needs of the local community and those further afield.



Band at weekly Family@10 service.



MUC has a very active Playgroup ministry.



Morning tea involving attendees from both Sunday morning services.

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

Our children, youth and families are priorities for us. As well as running Kids' Church, we are currently working to set up a youth group and looking at ways to keep teenagers engaged and to develop our intergenerational ministry. Another priority is the aging community, especially as many in our church community become frailer and need more support. As part of this, we want our church to become more dementia-friendly. A third priority is to engage with the surrounding community and work together with different community groups to discover needs that we can work to address. We are planning to employ a Community Engagement worker as part of this process.

B3 Does this placement relate to more than one congregation?

Yes

No

If so, provide details on page 9.

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

Almost all of our congregation speak English well. We have some in our congregation who have first languages other than English, such as Farsi and Mandarin.

B5 What languages are spoken in the life of your:

Congregation, by		Community, by	Census info
Individuals	English, Mandarin, Farsi	Individuals	English, Farsi, Mandarin, Cantonese, Greek
Groups	English	Groups	English, Farsi, Mandarin, Cantonese, Greek

B6 What languages are spoken by the congregation in worship?

English

B7 Describe any involvement your congregation has in covenanting activities.

No formal arrangements, but we do connect with a number of different groups, such as First Nations peoples (some of whom have come to tell us their stories), refugees and people seeking asylum (via the Uniting Welcome Centre), Muslim women (who have set up a weekly playgroup in our community centre), and people of Greek heritage (a Greek church runs a weekly worship service in the Historic Church on our site)

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

MUC has developed a relationship with the Uniting Asylum Seeker Programs, via the Team leader, and we hope to develop this further.

C Mission

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

Not in any priority order

1. Aged care in general (visitation, dementia support, community support group)
2. Younger persons and families (Playgroups, support of local secondary schools and Catch Your Breath (a group supporting neurodiverse youth))
3. Connecting with the wider community (Building Bridges through Story, Connections (supporting refugees), support of the community with food and produce (Doncare, LinC, Carenet), overseas support for developing countries)

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

Not in any priority order

1. To build on or expand on all the above areas but particularly that of support for younger people and families, and development of intergenerational ministry.
2. Reach out to other major ethnic and language groups in Manningham either directly or through use of MUC's Community Centre facilities.
3. Encourage increased social and local community engagement with our immediate neighbours through access to and use of Community Centre facilities and facilitation of community connections.

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

1. The continued coming together of the original four congregations from four different sites with four different cultures to the more recent (2022) relocation to one site for our multigenerational congregation, working toward a shared vision, values and goals.
2. Sharing our site as a public front to foster a community connection, presence and spirit - like our playgroups, Redgum cafe and rental spaces for work, further development and social activities.

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

Continue to build on the connections that we have made through our different existing missional activities. Growth of intentional neighbourhood and community connections. We plan to employ a Community Engagement Worker to assist with both of these goals. MUC also expects completion and letting of 8 residential units on the site of one of our former congregations to occur in late 2024, completing the Asset Strategy Program undertaken in conjunction with Synod.

D The Community

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

The ministry is based in Manningham, a municipality in Melbourne's eastern suburbs stretching from Bulleen to Wonga Park. The Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung people are the Traditional Owners of the land and waterways now known as Manningham. Around 126,000 people, more than 40 per cent born overseas and with diverse cultural backgrounds, reside in the municipality, a large section of which is designated as a green wedge to protect the natural environment. Over 300 parks and reserves exist, as do a diverse mix of schools, shopping and dining precincts, wineries, local galleries, nurseries and other attractions.

D2 What makes this an enjoyable place to live?

Manningham municipality seeks to welcome and celebrate people from all backgrounds and the contributions they make to the social fabric of the region. It strives to be a peaceful, inclusive and safe community with this diverse cultural base, valuing sustainable and healthy living, and displaying respect for others and for the natural environment. It is located near the Yarra River, is easily accessible both to the city and to rural areas via high quality transport infrastructure, and features high quality health, sporting, community and educational facilities.



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

Recent municipal surveys have highlighted social connection and a focus on mental health as community priorities, along with recreation and fitness. Increased risk of loneliness has been identified as an issue among groups such as young people, older adults, people from multicultural backgrounds, LGBTIQ+ people, and those living with disability. Almost 20 per cent of Manningham residents live alone, a similar percentage live on less than \$400 per week, around 6 per cent have some form of disability and the incidence of dementia is predicted to double by 2050.

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

The MUC congregation does not closely reflect the area's demographics. It is made up of a large percentage of members older than 65. In recent years the number of young families has grown and includes children aged from new-born to teenagers. The majority of MUC members were born in Australia and speak English as their first language. Recently there is an increasing number of people of migrant background connecting with MUC through groups in our Community Centre run either by MUC or by community tenants, for example, the English Language classes; and the number of families with diverse cultural backgrounds connecting with MUC through our Playgroup Ministry has also significantly increased over the last two years.

D5 What community facilities are present in the local area?

The district spans a roughly east-west direction along the southern banks of the Yarra River and across the undulating valleys of the Koonung, Ruffey and Mullum Mullum Creeks, alternating from typical low density suburban housing in the west to remnant bushland, within a green wedge, in the east. As such, the district encompasses the transition between the built and natural environments in Melbourne's east and promotes itself as a "balance of city and country".

It has a large range of facilities, including a mix of housing types, shopping centres, schools, restaurants and sport and recreational spaces. Manningham Uniting Church's "Church and Community Centre" is a recent addition to the municipality's facilities, with its mix of auditorium, meeting rooms, café, shared office space and worship spaces.