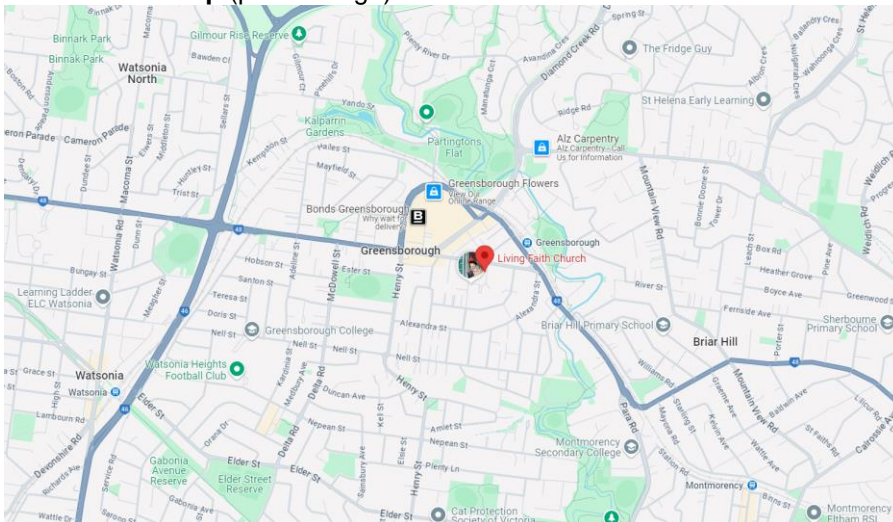




## A Placement Profile

<b>A1 Presbytery</b>	Yarra Yarra Presbytery		
<b>A2 Name of Placement</b>	Living Faith Church, Greensborough		
<b>A3 Placement city/suburb/town</b>	Greensborough		
<b>A4 Church/Office location(s)</b>	37 Grimshaw St. Greensborough 3088		
<b>A5 Congregations and agencies associated with this placement</b>			
<b>A6 Ministry leadership being sought</b>	Specific ministry role:	<input type="text"/>	
	Minister of the Word <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Deacon <input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Part Time <input type="checkbox"/>	Time fraction <input type="text"/>
	Earliest Start Date:	30/09/2024	
<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 11:</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>	<a href="https://www.livingfaithchurch.org.au/">https://www.livingfaithchurch.org.au/</a>		
<b>A11 Social Media</b>	<a href="https://www.youtube.com/@livingfaithchurchonline2080">https://www.youtube.com/@livingfaithchurchonline2080</a>		
<b>A12 Google map link</b>	<a href="https://g.co/kgs/QAUVrCQ">https://g.co/kgs/QAUVrCQ</a>		
<b>A13 Area map (paste image)</b>			



## 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.**

# Tell a potential minister about this placement and yourselves.

Living Faith Church (LFC) is a welcoming, caring, and resilient congregation with a range of missional activities. The community is actively adapting to challenges and opportunities through hospitality, inclusion, technology, and good governance. LFC engages in meaningful worship, pastoral care, local church networks, and outreach both regionally and abroad to further our vision: Everyone closer to God.

LFC is a co-operating, UCA and Churches of Christ (CCVT), congregation with a shared history dating back to 1850. The two congregations joined together in 2006 and are one regional church with an average of 84 people in attendance and 60 online views each week. Services are in person and live-streamed Sunday morning. Both traditions are accepted and respected, but we are primarily one church family, Living Faith Church. You will join a team ministry including a 0.6 CCVT Minister and a 0.4 CCVT Minister whose focus is on families and youth, a key area for support and growth.

We have robust Ministry Groups that serve our community in the surrounding suburbs, interstate, and overseas. LFC has ties with the Church in Vanuatu, providing financial support to a congregation and services on the islands. The church facilities are being utilised by Agape Christian Chinese Church. The two churches work well side by side in using the space and ministering to different communities. LFC is a part of the Greensborough Inter-church Council, the local ministers' association, and cooperates with local churches pastorally, with youth and key liturgical events.

LFC is a welcoming and inclusive community that embraces people from various backgrounds and denominations and offers diverse expressions of faith for all. Inclusion, generosity and resilience are part of our shared history which informs all areas of ministry in our context.

Hospitality and discipleship are central to our culture and practice. This has informed our approach to Safe Church, inclusion, Life Groups, and children's ministry. We love a cup of coffee and a meal together. We are all busy, but not too busy for each other. Jesus is at the heart of everything we do.

# Share something of your congregation's values, beliefs and ways in which you live out and share the gospel message

Our key focus areas:

## Transformation

The Holy Spirit causes ongoing meaningful change in our lives. We seek this out and will help each other to find God and become more Christ-like.

## Service

Motivated by Christ, we join God in actively showing love, living out God's call to justice and using our gifts for God's purpose.

## Faith

We trust God. We seek to grow our understanding of God's word and our shared story. Our trust in God sustains us and is our hope for the future.

## Acceptance

Reflecting the love of God, by affirming the image of God in each of us, valuing one another and celebrating our differences.

# What do you want the Minister to do with you and for you?

Our Mission Study highlighted some key qualities that our community are looking for,

Leadership, Community development and discipleship, Strong engagement skills, Preaching, sound theology, skills in pastoring member's faith and belief, and presiding at the celebration of the sacraments. Ability to work in partnership with the other members of the ministry team.

These skills are within the congregation; fresh effort will empower and strengthen them. Everyone closer to God is both individual and communal. You will be supported in your relationship with Jesus and will be expected to foster a culture that will enable new growth.

LFC provides a deep sense of community, meaningful worship, opportunities for service, faith formation and growth, offering a supportive environment where members can explore and express their faith together. The church's commitment to inclusivity, outreach, and pastoral care further enhances the joys experienced by its members.

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

What are the mission priorities of the congregation/placement?

LFC is prioritising inclusive intergenerational community and streamlining processes. Cooperation and community are important to LFC's character and success. The church is adapting to a reduced volunteer capacity and a generational gap. We are proactively looking to reverse that trend. Christ centred encouragement and discernment will enable fresh growth and for new ways of being missional to develop.

As a community we have engaged faithfully in prayer, social justice, and reconciliation. We believe that God is leading people to our community who need this too. You will help us to develop strong intergenerational bonds, LGBTQ inclusion, and biblical community.

Living Faith Church will leverage our central location for community outreach and support. We are engaged in practical measures such as local volunteering and sharing our facilities. You will help us to develop our specific strengths to bless our community, spiritually as well as practically, in ways that are sustainable and helpful.

We have started to enhance our technological capabilities to be more accessible and reliable. This is just one example of the quiet kingdom work that occurs that paves the way for everything else we do.

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

If so, provide details on page Error! Bookmark not defined..

Yes

No

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

Australian 95%

Other 5% (includes AUSLAN, Dutch, German, Indian, Korean, New Zealander, South African, Sri Lankan)

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

Congregation, by		Community, by	
Individuals	English,	Individuals	English 95% 5% (other)
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.**

Living Faith Church engaged faithfully with the Voice campaign and sought to understand our call to reconciliation. Our leadership have been on songline tours to learn our local history. Our Life Groups developed and participated in bible studies aimed at unpacking and engaging with reconciliation. We sent a delegation to ABC's Q&A show on the topic and developed an Acknowledgement of Country. We campaigned for the Yes vote. In all that we worked to show grace to those within our community who disagreed.

The Voice referendum, like many campaigns before it, was an opportunity to engage in reflection and repentance, to restore relationships, and pray for reconciliation.

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



LFC has no formal relationship with any UCA schools, it has a long history of engagement with the local primary school, Greensborough Primary School, initially with the teaching of Religious Education, and currently with the Kids Hope program. The school's Chaplain/Wellbeing person is a member of LFC.

## C Mission

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

Living Faith Church does Life Groups, Pastoral Care, and Community Groups well. We encourage both independent and LFC initiatives, with policy and communication support.

#### Life Groups

60% of our congregation are in weekly groups that pray, engage in biblical study, and discipleship. This is a source of joy, care, and growth for the LFC community and its members.

#### Pastoral Care

Together with the Ministry Team, pastoral care is overseen by a robust group who engage in visitation and support. They hold carer support groups, community lunches, welcome new members, maintain connections and community with our members over time. This is particularly important for our older or vulnerable members.

#### Community Groups

We maintain several important community groups. Some long lived and others, such as Alpha, are seasonal. These include Codgers, Kids Hope, Gardening, Craft and Knitting groups, Prison Fellowship, Diamond Valley Foodshare, Breakfast and Dinner events, Roleplaying and boardgames. Some of these groups are managed by LFC, but we believe it is important for our members to engage in both personal and external missional activities.

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

Living Faith Church is keen to uplift our presence within Greensborough, to continue to develop our website and streaming, and to improve our members engagement and satisfaction. This is captured in our vision: Everyone closer to God.

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

Living Faith Church is in a healthy state. We are ageing and time poor, but we have also risen to the challenges of LGBTQ acceptance, social justice, and Safe Church. Our members are both welcoming and tightly knit. We have iterative, streamlined processes and policies that encourage faithfulness, community, and humility.

Our members trust the leadership and are confident that their hopes and concerns will be listened to. We take our faith seriously, personally, and joyfully.

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

From the Mission Study of Living Faith Church, several overarching themes emerge that are crucial for understanding the church's current situation and its future directions:

- Community engagement and outreach, strengthening our partnerships and connection.
- Volunteer and leadership development, adaption to new needs and capacity.
- Inclusivity and diversity, spiritual growth and worship.
- Physical, technical and aesthetic improvements.

To put those congregational priorities into perspective, these have been the recent Church Council goals.

2023:

- to elevate prayer in our meetings and processes.
- to develop the skills needed for reconciliation.
- to be more organised and deliberate in our care for others.

2024:

- Moving from Tasks to Mission (Transformation),
- The development of Position Descriptions for more of our Ministry Groups (Service),
- The Call for a new UCA Minister and the support of our Ministry Team (Faith),
- Intergenerational and inclusive worship, especially with Agape Christian Chinese Church (Acceptance).

## D The Community

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

The following is the 2021 ABS census data for the Local Government Area (LGA) of Banyule in which Living Faith Church is located.

LFC is physically located in Greensborough, members live in the Banyule suburbs and the neighbouring North East Melbourne LGAs: Nillumbik which includes Eltham and rural communities such as Hurstbridge; Whittlesea which includes Bundoora, South Morang and Epping, and is a major growth corridor.

Each of the areas in the local community have varying levels of advantage and disadvantage, with increasing housing density and urban renewal occurring or having occurred in many of the suburbs. There is a strong community desire for natural environments, with parkland surrounding the various rivers and creeks providing walking and cycling paths and the location of the many sporting facilities in the area. Major infrastructure projects such as the North East link and rail projects such as railway duplication of the Hurstbridge line have in recent times had significant effects on the traffic flow and area, particularly close to the church.

Population: 21,070

Median age: 41

Number of families: 6,043

Average number of children per family: 1.8

Average number of people per household: 2.6

Percentage identifying as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander: 0.6%

Median weekly income: \$2,000

Works full time: 57.7%

Works part time: 32.3%

Unemployed: 4.0%

Religious affiliation: - Christianity overall: 49.2%

- No religion: 43.7%

- Catholic: 26.6%

- Anglican: 7.1%

- Eastern Orthodox: 4.1%

- UCA and Churches of Christ: 2.1%

Country of birth: Australia: 76.4%

Country of birth of both parents: - Australia: 52.2%

- Overseas: 31.7%

Community priorities, Banyule City Council

- Natural Environment

- Feeling Safe

- Cost of Living

Respondents self-reported their physical, mental, and social wellbeing at 70%.

14% are engaged in volunteer work and 35% report one or more long term health conditions.

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

People are generally friendly and helpful. Socioeconomically, many people have sufficient funds to support recreational and social activities.

The Plenty River runs through Greensborough, and this allows for a green corridor with walking and bike paths.

Excellent medical and allied health services are available in the community. Banyule Community Health Service is a neighbour of the church. Aged care is supported through residential care facilities and in-home care which can be accessed local agencies. The Austin and Mercy Hospitals are the closest major public hospitals, with private hospitals such as Warrigal, Latrobe and North Park in the area.

A variety of education options are available for children and adults with excellent library facilities and community Neighbourhood houses running learning opportunities that often reflect local community interests. Families can access Library story times and Toy libraries and childcare centres. There are many and varied sporting groups with associated playing fields and sporting facilities. These are kept busy every day by people walking dogs, exercising or sports training. The local council run swimming pools and sports centres. These are hubs for recreational activities including swimming, fitness gyms and hydrotherapy pools, which are well used by adults including people with disability.

Cultural groups centre around theatre (Eltham Little Theatre, Heidelberg Theatre Company located in Rosanna): music (e.g. Diamond Valley Singers, Heidelberg Chorale) and dance schools for children and adults and art. LFC host community groups including, a thriving calisthenics group, Narcotics Anonymous, Drink Driving Education, a playgroup.

There are services available for people who are in need, such as Diamond Valley Community Support (DVCS) with walk-in facilities located in the Greensborough Shopping Plaza and Foodshare which provides food support to people referred from DVCS. Local initiatives have grown organically in the community including the Greenhills Pantry, Bridges of Hurstbridge Fresh food, and the Monty Hub Food Grow and Swap.

The strong sense of community fosters positive attitudes and local supports. Volunteer groups such as Rotary and Lions clubs are active (albeit with small memberships) in the local areas and support activities such as the Eltham Town Fair.

Community events are run by the local councils such as, Carols by Candlelight, Hurstbridge Wattle festival and Were St are well attended as are the local farmer's markets in Eltham and the Sunday morning community market at Latrobe University run by DVCS.

Local cafes, restaurants and shopping centres such as Greensborough Plazas are informal hubs where people gather for coffee and food. Some of the strip shopping centres in the local area are thriving with very low vacancy rates (e.g. Montmorency and Macleod), where others have shops vacant e.g. Lower Plenty, Greensborough Main Street

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

The Chaplain/Student Wellbeing Person at Greensborough Primary School (GPS) is a member of Living Faith Church and has supplied the following information:

The points of stress and pain in the wider community regarding GPS are not unlike the general community. Specific ones include:

- Lack of parenting skills. Parents are asking for help with their children e.g., behaviour support, difficulties in assisting with homework
- Financial stress - parents are struggling to provide healthy options due to cost of basic items such as fruit, vegetables, dairy. GPS is currently exploring the option of a community pantry at the school, to which parents/carers may both contribute and select from as need arises.
- Financial stress in paying for camps excursions/incursions, uniforms - fortunately the Inter Church Council, Bundoora Rotary and the Inner wheel of Bundoora have supported our families over the last 2-3 years so no child misses out.
- Costs of external sporting clubs, scouts and other community activities for children prohibits the children in our community developing healthy/active lifestyles and social relationships.
- Loneliness - Increasingly mothers, especially single mothers, are seeking activities to join which won't impact their financial situation.
- All forms of social media, including chat rooms on gaming platforms, are impacting student behaviour and social skills.
- Financial stress is seriously impacting families' ability to access professional services.
- Family breakdown, especially family violence is increasing, resulting in emotional outbursts and school refusal. For a few families, breakdown is the result of drug and alcohol dependence or of a parent being in prison.
- Students who have a family member with a disability, in particular autism, are struggling. Parents are seeking support to help the students cope with their siblings who have a disability which disrupts sibling relationships and family activities. This in turn affects their emotions as well. This is becoming more prevalent.

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

The congregation of Living Faith Church is older than the local community, with a greater proportion of retired people, and a greater proportion of women than the local community. There are a lower proportion of children and young people in the congregation compared with that in the local community.

Many of the members of the church (employed or retired) are from a professional background such as teachers, managers, accountants or medical professionals. A few have a trade or construction background. The congregation has a number of people who were either born overseas or whose parents were born



overseas. This is roughly consistent with people living in the suburb of Greensborough and surrounding suburbs, but not consistent with the figures for the wider Banyule area.

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

Preschools, Primary schools and Secondary schools  
Ready access to nearby tertiary institutions, e.g. Latrobe University, NMIT  
Frequent bus and train services  
Residential Aged care and in-home services  
NDIS providers  
Yarra Plenty Regional Library with a branch in Diamond Valley (Apollo Parkways)  
Watermarc Aquatic and Fitness Centre  
Greensborough Plaza Shopping Centre  
Sporting facilities  
Health services such as Austin (including the Olivia Newton John Cancer centre) and Mercy Hospital for Women, Latrobe Private, Warringal Private, Banyule Community Health, HealthAbility, Community Health and many private providers of health services