



A Placement Profile

A1 Presbytery	Yarra Yarra Presbytery		
A2 Name of Placement	Nillumbik Network		
A3 Placement city/suburb/town	Eltham, Montmorency, Diamond Creek, Hurstbridge		
A4 Church/Office location(s)	Eltham Montmorency Church		
A5 Congregations and agencies associated with this placement	Eltham Montmorency, Diamond Creek, Hurstbridge		
A6 Ministry leadership being sought	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"/>		
A7 Specific details	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:	1/07/2024	
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 <input type="text"/>
A9 To be completed by Presbytery, with reasons given on page	<i>Error! Bookmark not defined.:</i>		
	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"/>	
A10 Website	https://diamondvalley.unitingchurch.org.au/ http://www.elthammontmorencyuca.org/		
A11 social media	Facebook page: both Diamond Valley and Eltham Montmorency		
A12 Google map link	On each website		

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.

Who are Nillumbik Network?

We are a newly formed network of three church congregations who are in proximity and share a part of Melbourne characterised by beautiful natural surrounds.

Hurstbridge and Diamond Creek have shared a relationship including a single Church Council for some time, while Eltham and Montmorency Churches amalgamated in 1996. The individual churches will maintain their own identity and governance within the network. The Montmorency site closed in 2016 and later was sold. This assisted in the recent refurbishment of the Eltham Montmorency Church which offers new multi-purpose spaces and brand-new amenities like the kitchen, already becoming the hub of hospitality and friendship. The fully fitted-out Op shop within the church recently opened its doors to the community.

Within the network there is a common love for God and a desire to follow Jesus in the way we care for each other and reach out to community. We share a love of our natural environment, and we are committed to its care and conservation. We look forward to deepening our relationship with God and with each other. We share the Gospel message in many varied ways, including regular worship and singing, group activities and fellowship. We seek to be welcoming and inclusive, to share hospitality in our congregations and to find connections with the community.

Sharing Hospitality



Christmas lunch

Sharing Joy



Music concerts

Community Support



Free Food Program

Community Connection



Op Shop

We need a new Minister to provide us with long-term leadership, spiritual oversight and pastoral care. Diamond Valley has been without a Minister's leadership for over a year, and their Elders and leaders within the Church have done an amazing job in providing faithful and engaging worship. Eltham Montmorency has been fortunate to have several supply Ministers during this time. This was a great support during their displacement while building renovations were made.

This will be an exciting placement with the versatile refurbished church at Eltham Montmorency offering new beginnings, and the potential for many Nillumbik network community connections and hospitality ventures. We have big dreams!

The new Nillumbik Network will open creative ways to work together and support each other. A challenging aspect for a new minister will be to find ways forward, respecting traditions and our aging community, while being new and relevant, enabling us to grow our respective churches

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

Building relationships within the newly formed Nillumbik Network will be a priority, and from these discovering opportunities for community engagement. We are looking to support each other's existing community outreach ventures, such as the Op shop at Eltham Montmorency and the community Christmas Lunch held at Diamond Creek.

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?

No significant ethnic and language groups.

B5 What languages are spoken in the life of your:

Congregation, by	Eltham & Hurstbridge	Community, by	
Individuals	German, Mandarin and Indonesian Chinese	Individuals	Diverse cultures & languages
Groups		Groups	

B6 What languages are spoken by the congregation in worship?

English is the language spoken by all congregations. We are open to the idea of including small elements of worship in a different language, such as a song, a prayer or passing the peace.

B7 Describe any involvement your congregation has in covenanting with First Nations people.

Plaques of recognition
Acknowledgement of Country at the discretion of the worship leader.
Eltham Montmorency is planning new landscaping of gardens around the new building and is open to the idea of creating indigenous outdoor spaces for storytelling (yarning)

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

Not currently



C Mission

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

Diamond Valley support local schools with funds for them to allocate as they see fit. Support of Food drives for Eltham Refugees & support of C.A.V.E. (Community and Volunteers of Eltham) are events that provide financial support to families and adolescents.

Community connection through music, and Diamond Valley put on monthly concerts. There is also a good ecumenical connection in Diamond Creek and Hurstbridge that shares special occasions of worship such as the quiet Christmas service for those who find Christmas time difficult. There is a " Food is Free" cupboard outside the manse.

The OP shop provides Community outreach and service. It is in the Eltham Montmorency church building. It is run by UCA and Anglican volunteers, as well as volunteers from the wider community.

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

Hospitality: The new Op Shop area and new multipurpose spaces at Eltham Montmorency create many opportunities for connection with the wider community, potentially spaces for playgroups to use, possible Coffee and Tea for Op shop visitors, including children's story times. We have a small community library box on site with multi-age resources.

Community Outreach and Creativity: At Eltham Montmorency we would like to explore the many Music and Artist connections in the community, and we have submitted plans for the potential lease of a "Heritage Bank Building" on site, as an artist studio. We could explore ways to express our faith through Art and various means of visual expression.

Environmental Care: All congregations have a strong commitment to care for the beautiful natural environment in which we live. We will look at measures that help emissions reduction and support environmental sustainability.

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

Over the last 2 years Diamond Valley has experienced some decrease in numbers through loss of older members. Eltham has maintained similar numbers, where a few left and a few new members have joined.

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

The formation of the Nillumbik Network is a new development. We anticipate that we will build strong connections and share in hospitality.

We aim to grow and nurture the spiritual life of our congregations and foster intergenerational worship. We also aim to grow our singing group to enrich regular worship services

Now church renovations are completed, the new multipurpose spaces will open up many opportunities for different uses. The congregation and Church council will discuss and explore this in the near future.

D The Community

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

Nillumbik is renowned as the Green Wedge Shire, located 25 kms north-east of Melbourne. Key centres include Eltham and Diamond Creek, as well as rural townships including Hurstbridge and St Andrews

The people of the shire enjoy a healthy, safe, family-friendly lifestyle within close knit communities. Our townships offer residents and visitors distinctive village-style shopping, access to professional services and public transport and places to meet and socialise.

A unique and diverse landscape Nillumbik is also an arts-rich environment. The creative life of the community is highly-valued and large numbers of artists live and work here in the quiet beauty of our landscape.



D2 What makes this an enjoyable place to live?

The semi-rural areas of the Green Belt planning zone and low population density. Easy access to education centres, shopping facilities, medical facilities, closeness to Austin Hospital and good public transport networks. It has many cafes and community gathering spaces. It has a wide range of local churches and faith communities, sporting clubs and community groups, and access to bike and walking tracks in nature reserves. Annual family friendly community events include the Eltham Rotary Festival, Hurstbridge Wattle Festival, Diamond Creek Rotary Town Fair

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

Nillumbik has similar stress factors in the community as surrounding areas. The cost-of-living pressures causing food insecurity and financial hardship in schools. It is not immune to family and relationship difficulties and problems with addiction.

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

Congregations are older than the community average. Despite the family demographic, we have little contact with children, adolescents and families. This provides potential for outreach and growth.

D5 What community facilities are present in the local area?

This is a vibrant community, with many schools, libraries, medical and allied medical services. It has great restaurants, sporting facilities and associated clubs, shopping facilities and community activities. There are many parks and nature reserves for bike riding and walking trails, dog parks and community gathering spaces There is increased housing and growth, including development of new childcare facilities