



A Placement Profile

A1 Presbytery	Gippsland Presbytery		
A2 Name of Placement	High Country FS Bush Chaplain		
A3 Placement city/suburb/town	Swifts Creek- Frontier Services High Country Remote Area Ministry		
A4 Church/Office location(s)	Swifts Creek		
A5 Congregations and agencies associated with this placement	Swifts Creek & Frontier Services		
A6 Ministry leadership being sought	Specific ministry role:	<input type="text"/>	
	Minister of the Word	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Ordinand <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Deacon <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pastor <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
A7 Specific details	Additional placement	<input type="checkbox"/>	Replacement placement <input type="checkbox"/>
	Full Time	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Part Time <input type="checkbox"/> Time fraction <input type="text"/>
	Earliest Start Date:	Immediate <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	OR Click here to enter a date.
A8 Placement term	Undefined	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Up to 10 years (see Reg 2.7.3(a))
	Fixed Term	<input type="checkbox"/>	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 Error! Bookmark not defined.:	Is permission sought to advertise?		
	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		No <input type="checkbox"/>
	Is a Priority Placement recommended?		
	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>		No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
A10 Website	<input type="text"/>		
A11 Social Media	<input type="text"/>		
A12 Google map link	https://www.google.com/maps/@-37.2491449,147.4673134,9z?entry=tту&g_ep=EgoyMDI1MDUwNy4wIKXMDS0ASAFAQAw%3D%3D		
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.

This is a Frontier Services Remote Area bush chaplaincy to the High Country in Victoria including the towns of Omeo, Ensay, Benambra, Dargo, the alpine area of Mt Hotham and Dinner Plain and the town and congregation of Swifts Creek. A few small villages dot the area, but many farmers live in the region, in isolated valleys or perched on high mountain slopes. This is a beautiful, rugged area, that experiences extremes in weather, but relationships that are built are loyal and trustworthy. Our previous chaplain moved in November 2024 to Tasmania, Marian established great relationships with the community services and locals across the region. This is an area where becoming a listening ear and a referral for people can hold you in great stead. We are looking for a ministry agent who will be one of the constants (presence and reliability) in a region largely devoid of services and support people, also to support the local congregation at Swifts Creek

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

To assist people and groups to work through difficult issues relating to isolation, nurturing people in their faith, working on issues of social justice and advocacy, to be willing to work in a team with locals, with other churches and faiths and community groups. To care for people and offer practical and pastoral assistance.

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?

Mainly Anglo-Saxon people but with some other ethnic groups in small numbers relating to their work in the area.

B5 What languages are spoken in the life of your:

Congregation, by		Community, by	
Individuals	english	Individuals	english
Groups	english	Groups	english

B6 What languages are spoken by the congregation in worship?

English

B7 Describe any involvement your congregation has in covenanting with first nations people.

Very little at this stage, but our previous chaplain had created a working relationship with the local indigenous groups of community support.

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

Uniting VT was using the Swifts Creek church hall, but now has their own building on the school grounds.

C Mission

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

To offer care, connection and comfort in the context of challenge and isolation to the people of the high Country.
To offer care, and community support through relationships., community networks, a ministry of presence and pastoral care
To continue to nourish people in faith through the Swifts Creek congregation, mindful of the need of younger families and children in the district.

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

To strengthen and grow connections with community groups including the Bush Nursing Centres, hospital, police, schools and Neighbourhoods house.
Grow trust and confidence in the bush chaplaincy.

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

The area and church has been affected by the stopping of old growth forestry, this has decimated employment and many younger families have left the area and the church.

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

The area is trying to re-find its feet after the ending of the old growth forestry, new business are developing and people are struggling with employment and further isolation.

D The Community

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

Isolation is an issue as many farmers live in places with one road in/out. Families often cannot afford fuel to travel. Many services have been withdrawn in recent years and providers do not have the resources necessary. Long periods of drought and natural disasters continue to be felt even during better times.
Significant relationships and connection to local agencies and organisations including Bush Nursing Centre, Bowls club and hospital. There is a small Anglican and Catholic presence with capacity for increased cooperation. Material and pastoral support through the Mountains Project and Food Bank Primary and High Schools, Bush Nursing Centre, Regional hospital, Police & Ambulance, SES, CFA. Bairnsdale UCA offers practical support as needed.

D2 What makes this an enjoyable place to live?

The majesty of God's creation surrounds you, every part of the area you drive into the scenery changes and the people are authentic.

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

Stresses include: Isolation, drought, flood, fire, poverty, lack of services and support.

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

The congregation has some older members and also a couple of active younger families; the area has endured a long drought and then was impacted by bushfire and most recently the global COVID pandemic. In response to drought, a support fund 'the Mountain's Project' has offered material and relational support to local farmers and community families. The congregation is a strong and faithful small group of diverse ages including retirees, young parents, children and farmers. It is a fairly good representation of the local community.

D5 What community facilities are present in the local area?

Bush Nursing Centres, Skiing, 4wding, Schools.