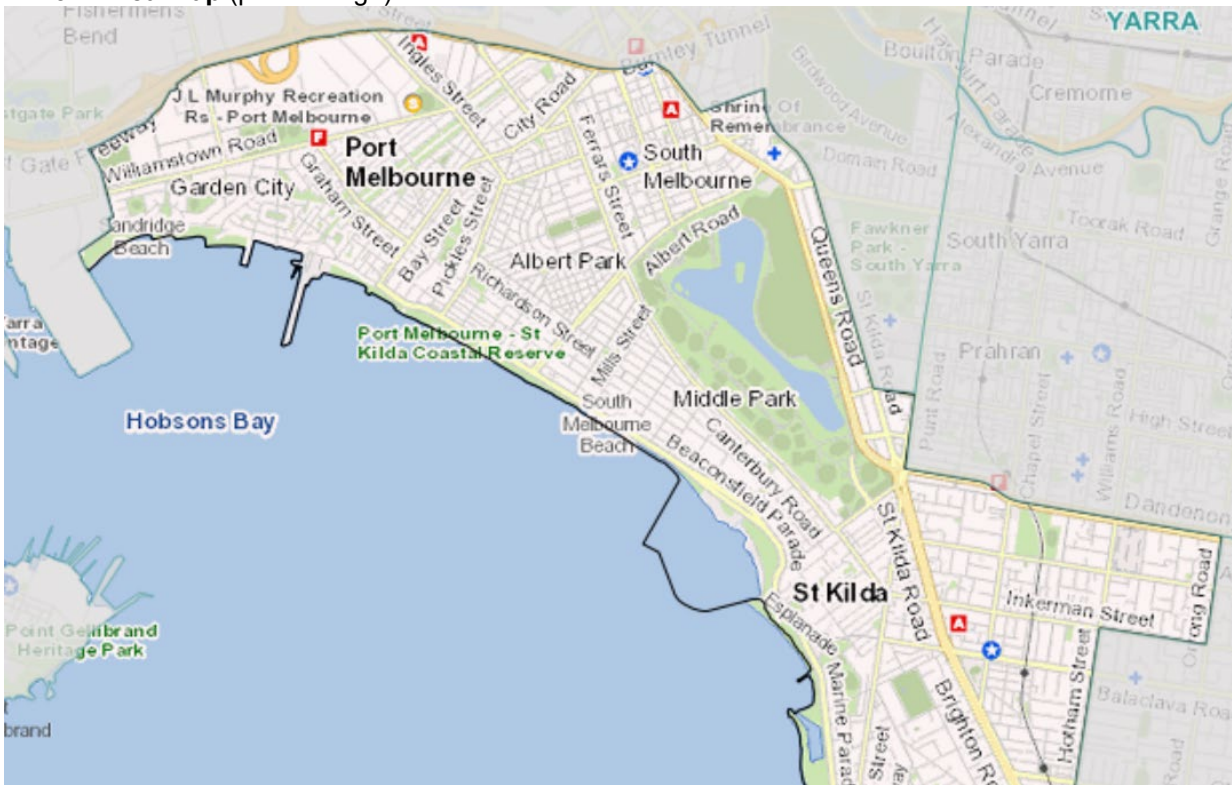




## A Placement Profile

<b>A1 Presbytery</b>	Port Phillip East		
<b>A2 Name of Placement</b>	St Kilda South Port Uniting Church (SKSP)		
<b>A3 Placement city/suburb/town</b>	Port Phillip (extending from Port Melbourne to St Kilda East)		
<b>A4 Church/Office location(s)</b>	South Melbourne		
<b>A5 Congregations and agencies associated with this placement</b>	Uniting at the Engagement Hub and ER Program		
<b>A6 Ministry leadership being sought</b>	Specific ministry role:	WORD/DEACON	
	Minister of the Word <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Ordinand <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Deacon <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pastor <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: Post Easter 2026	Immediate <input type="checkbox"/> OR	<a href="#">Click here to enter a date.</a>
<b>A8 Placement term</b>	Undefined <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Up to 10 years (see Reg 2.7.3(a)) YES	
	Fixed Term <input type="checkbox"/>	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 :</b>	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"/>		
<b>A10 Website</b>	St Kilda South Port Uniting Church <a href="https://stkildasouthportunitingchurch.org.au">https://stkildasouthportunitingchurch.org.au</a>		
<b>A11 Social Media</b>	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/groups/stkildasouthportunitingchurch">https://www.facebook.com/groups/stkildasouthportunitingchurch</a>		
<b>A12 Google map link</b>	<a href="https://www.google.com/maps/place/South+Port+Uniting+Church+Parish+Mission/@-37.83453,144.9538367,17z/data=!3m1!4b1!4m6!3m5!1s0x6ad667fc1a001597:0x559f3ea9cf63c20d!8m2!3d-37.83453!4d144.9564116!16s%2Fg%2F11gcqx1_bn?entry=tту&amp;g_ep=EgoyMDI0MTEyNC4xIKXMDSoASAFQAw%3D%3D">https://www.google.com/maps/place/South+Port+Uniting+Church+Parish+Mission/@-37.83453,144.9538367,17z/data=!3m1!4b1!4m6!3m5!1s0x6ad667fc1a001597:0x559f3ea9cf63c20d!8m2!3d-37.83453!4d144.9564116!16s%2Fg%2F11gcqx1_bn?entry=tту&amp;g_ep=EgoyMDI0MTEyNC4xIKXMDSoASAFQAw%3D%3D</a>		

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.**

In 2023, the congregations of St Kilda, South Melbourne, and Port Melbourne came together to form a new regional faith community for the Port Phillip region. Drawing on more than 150 years of shared mission in this place, we felt a deep call to continue this tradition—co-creating light, love, and hope for our neighbourhood and the wider world. Together we are in a stronger position to renew our discipleship and respond to the life and needs of our local community.


At the heart of our community is a simple commitment: to do what is just, to love constantly, and to walk humbly with God. We gather around the Jesus story, breaking bread together, nurturing those who are vulnerable, and courageously challenging the status quo. As we have come together, we've identified four mission pillars: Worship, Justice, Sacred Earth and Arts/spirituality. These are embedded, explicitly or implicitly, in all that we do.

We are committed to offering theology that speaks meaningfully into a predominantly pluralistic Australian context. Our worship embraces contextual theology, mystical practice, and somatic exploration, creating space for honest questions and deep encounter. Our worship community numbers about 70, averaging around 30 per Sunday — and is richly diverse including members of the Mission Meal community and others who travel from across the city to participate in a progressive Christian expression of faith. Since becoming a new congregation we have gained new members but we are conscious that to support our vision as a regional community of faith and mission, we need to be a viable congregation into the future. This will be an ongoing project for our congregation and ministry team.

When we began our journey together, one of the first questions we asked was, "Who is our neighbour?" The answer quickly became clear. Our neighbours include not only the wealthy and well-educated residents of the City of Port Phillip, but also the broken-hearted, bewildered, boisterous, bold, and beautiful people experiencing homelessness, rough sleeping, and life in transitional or public housing. In response, we chose to do what Christians have done for over 2,000 years: invite our neighbours to the table.

Our Mission Meal now runs weekly and feeds between 80 and 90 people every week. It is supported by a dedicated group of volunteers from both the church and the wider community. All food is donated, and the atmosphere is one of joy, dignity, kindness, and radical welcome. Week after week, this shared meal continues to move and transform us all. As an extension of this, in 2026 we will also move into a permanent phase of our Emergency Relief program, which was piloted in 2025. This program provides dignified, practical support through donated food and partnerships with key food access organisations. A part-time worker supports this ministry, ensuring it is grounded in kindness, care, and respect. As we listened carefully to our community, it became clear that beyond hunger for food and connection, the most urgent need is housing. We are blessed with a large site and significant resources, and we have begun serious conversations to explore the feasibility of developing housing with a particular focus on women fleeing domestic violence. These discussions, which include Uniting Housing and the Synod, are well underway, and we are hopeful and excited about what may unfold in 2026 and beyond. We are also excited that this development could enable us to activate a fit for purpose and more welcoming community space.

We have a long-standing partnership with Uniting Vic Tas at the 101 Engagement Hub in St Kilda. Guided by an MOU, the Hub is an ongoing mission of SKSP in partnership with Uniting, which holds responsibility for governance and management of the service. The Hub provides an open and welcoming space for people living with severe mental illness, where participants can find connection and community. Formal and informal support is provided to participants as well as a range of structured therapeutic activities to contribute to healing and growth. The congregation provides funding, chaplaincy, solidarity and support.



We care for the earth, learn and share knowledge and skills through the Simply Living Project which includes community and pollinator gardens and weekly Make & Mend sessions, facilitated by a part time worker and accessed by a cross-section of the local community.

We recognise that to whom much is given, much is required. As custodians of several extraordinary pieces of land on Boonerung and Wurundjeri Country, we are committed to treaty, truth-telling, and exploring what it might mean to participate in land back—or at the very least, the redistribution of wealth—in partnership with First Peoples, particularly Traditional Owners.

We have made our spaces open to supporting the Arts. Our worship is enhanced by our music team and input from creatives in our congregation. We support a community choir. Community theatre groups and musicians are welcomed in to use the church space for rehearsals and performances.

We are an active, dreaming, hopeful community. Our South Melbourne campus already includes a vibrant network of partners: a headspace centre, a Men's Shed, a studio hall supporting artists at peppercorn rent, a local secondary college, and collaborations with Jewish and ecumenical partners to provide food, witness, and shared celebration. At St Kilda, as well as our partnership with Uniting at the 101 Engagement Hub, our campus includes the Greeves St Op Shop operated by St Kilda Gateway to St Kilda Community Housing manages two of our properties to provide a dignified home for those with the greatest housing challenges. At Port Melbourne we have the Uniting kindergarten which has been associated with our church for over 100 years.

We share our spaces with two other faith communities of the Uniting Church—Korean and Zimbabwean congregations - and we are deeply committed to growing alongside them in mutual respect and solidarity. We recognise and honour the unique gifts they bring, including strong multigenerational life, joyful and embodied witness, and the deep faithfulness of their members.

We believe we are already living into the kind of Faithful Future the Uniting Church hopes to see—and we are ready to take the next step toward becoming a fully integrated, mission-shaped, sacred community space for all. As we move forward, we hope to deepen our relationships and expand opportunities for shared life, learning, and collaboration, so that together we may become one community with many expressions, faithfully serving the people of the Port Phillip region.

We are now seeking a minister who will partner with Rev Alex Sangster and this community to help incarnate these dreams into reality. Our new Minister needs to be brave, strong and energetic. This work is not for the faint hearted!

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

During 2023 and 2024 the SKSP congregation worked together to develop our vision for the new church. Our completed Mission Plan identified 4 strategic pillars. These are :

Worship  
Social Justice  
Sacred Earth  
Arts & Spirituality

Through each of them we:

- worship God
- address loneliness
- build community
- support the vulnerable, and
- nurture the Earth

Our current priorities are

- Establishing the feasibility of actualizing our Housing Project
- Growing our worshipping community: as well as expanding our understanding of who/what our community is
- Ensuring that the missional activities we have initiated (Mission Meals and Emergency Relief) grow deep roots and are embedded as part of our church mission.

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

Yes  No

If so, provide details on page .

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

Sunday morning: mainly Anglo-Celtic, but includes individuals from a diversity of ethnicities Sister Communities: Korean, and Zimbabwean

Our missional activities include a wide diversity of ethnicities and faith backgrounds

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

Congregation, by		Community, by	
Individuals	English	Individuals	Wide range – none dominant
Groups		Groups	Wide range – none dominant

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

English

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

Over the past three years, our congregation has taken intentional steps toward deeper relationship and covenanting with First Nations peoples. At the beginning of this journey, we invited a local Wurundjeri Elder to welcome us to Country. We participated in a Smoking Ceremony and listened to stories of the Original Custodians of this land, which profoundly shaped our understanding and commitment.

We publicly affirm this commitment by displaying the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander flags both inside and outside our church, and by beginning all gatherings and activities with an Acknowledgment of Country. These practices remind us that respect, listening, and truth-telling are ongoing responsibilities.

Looking ahead, we are hopeful and committed to learning more about how we can actively support and honour the work of Treaty. As a congregation, we are also open to exploring pathways such as “land back” and the possible transfer of property to Congress, as acts of justice, reconciliation, and shared future.

This commitment is reflected in the lived relationships of our members. One of our members, Rev Rob Hoskin, is actively involved with the Mowanjum Community in Western Australia, and Alex has visited and worked alongside Robert with the blessing of SKSP. These relationships encourage us to continue walking together with humility, courage, and hope as we seek a more just and reconciled future. A number of our congregation are active members of local reconciliation groups.

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

Uniting- Engagement Hub MOU and Licence Agreement  
Uniting Kindergarten, Port Melbourne' Licence agreement  
Uniting Housing – MOU to explore feasibility of housing project

## C Mission

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

Mission Meals/ER: Community Meal and emergency relief for vulnerable people  
Engagement Hub: working with people with mental health vulnerabilities  
Simply Living – community gardens and practical sustainability for the inner city

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

We are already super happy with what we are achieving and are mindful of the rich resources we have inherited that enable us to continue to be bold, to grow and to strengthen our mission. To do this well and sustainably we need the support and active involvement of a Minister of the Word or Deacon in this critical period of our Mission's growth.  
Our next big missional project is pursuing and fulfilling our hospitality housing dreams

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

In the past 3 years - 3 became one!  
In the past 2 years - we have become braver more generous and expansive and ready to be part of incarnational change for our local community and beyond

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

See C2

## D The Community

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

Our South Melbourne campus includes: Headspace, Albert Park College, Men's Shed and Studio Hall (low cost artist studios).  
We are a block from the South Melbourne Markets and have ongoing relationships with a number of local traders who supply fresh food to our Mission Meals.  
In our immediate backyard we have Crawford Court (managed by Uniting Housing, accommodation for over 55s who have been on public housing wait list).  
Directly behind us is Park Towers - a Public Housing tower.

More widely we are located in a diverse community with wide variance in socio-economic status. Each community within the City of Port Phillip has its own character, shaped by its proximity to the city, the Port, the Bay and by waves of immigration.

City of Port Phillip demographics data (<https://www.portphillip.vic.gov.au/people-and-community/who-lives-in-our-city/demographics>) shows:

*We have a diverse resident community with an estimated of 103,836 people. Almost half (48.1 per cent) our residents are between 25 and 49 years of age. A high proportion rent their home (48.8 per cent) and one third were born overseas (33.1 per cent).*

Other data from the 2021 Census:

- 70.7% of residents aged 15+ were in the workforce and 4.5% were unemployed (seeking work)
- Median weekly household income was \$2201, compared to Greater Melbourne median of \$1866
- There were 5887 low income households; Overall, 9.9% of people in low income households were aged between 0 and 15, and 35.2% were aged 65 years and over, compared with 18.9% and 32.9% respectively for Greater Melbourne.
- It was estimated that 1067 people were homeless
- 41% of households were lone person and 24.7% couples without children
- 91% live in medium and high density housing (Greater Melbourne 34%)

Religion:

- 31.7% of the City of Port Phillip population was Christian while 50.6% had no religion and 7.8% didn't respond.
- 1.2% (1235 people) ticked Uniting Church

- Of the other major religions, 3.3% were Jewish, 2.1% Hindu, 1.7% Buddhist and 1.3% Muslim

Each community is served by public transport to and from the city but travel between the communities is less direct.

The new precincts of Southbank/Montague/Fishermen's Bend are under development, with a projected 80,000 new residents and workers to be located here in the coming decade. Most of this housing will be high rise apartments. As yet, the Uniting Church has not explored developing ministry in this area.

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

The Sea! The sky! The wide, beautiful streets! The diverse eclectic community! St Kilda Botanic Gardens!  
Easy access to the city centre and the surf coast!  
Easy walking and cycling and a network of public transport options.  
Proximity to the city and sporting venues.

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

The local community of St Kilda, South Melbourne, and Port Melbourne is marked by significant contrasts and pressures. These areas are places of extremes—of both great wealth and deep poverty—which creates complex social and emotional stresses for many residents. This is an inner-city community, shaped by diversity, constant activity, and a fast pace of life.

The City of Port Phillip has a broad and diverse demographic, including a significant Jewish community, a strong LGBTQTI+ presence, many single-person households, and a high proportion of millennials. The area also attracts many itinerant residents, including backpackers and others who choose to live here temporarily. This constant movement makes it challenging to form lasting relationships and sustain a strong sense of community belonging.

Across the region, the cost of housing—like elsewhere in Melbourne—is extremely high and is a significant source of stress. Key points of pain include housing unaffordability, extreme poverty, homelessness, and drug addiction. These pressures are often accompanied by a profound sense of disconnection and isolation, even in such densely populated areas. Together, these factors contribute to ongoing strain within the local community and shape the pastoral and missional challenges faced in this context.

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

Our congregation reflects the demographics quite closely:  
Predominantly educated and middle/upper class.  
Small crew of low income/homeless/mentally unwell/ vulnerable

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

Kindergartens/Primary/Secondary Schools.  
Melbourne Aquatic Centre  
Gasworks Arts Park