



A Placement Profile

A1	Presbytery	Western Victoria Presbytery	
A2	Name of Placement	Nhill Kaniva	
A3	Placement city/suburb/town	Nhill and Kaniva	
A4	Church/Office location(s)	Victoria St Nhill & 108 Commercial St Kaniva	
A5	Congregations and agencies associated with this placement	Nhill Uniting Church, Kaniva Community Church	
A6	Ministry leadership being sought	Specific ministry role: Minister of the Word ☒ Ordinand ☒ Deacon ☒ Pastor ☒	
A7	Specific details	Additional placement ☐ Replacement placement ☒ Full Time ☒ Part Time ☐ Time fraction Earliest Start Date: Immediate ☒ OR Click here to enter a date.	
A8	Placement term	Undefined ☒ 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 Error! Bookmark not defined.:		
	Is permission sought to advertise?	Yes ☒ No ☐	
	Is a Priority Placement recommended?	Yes ☐ No ☐	
A10	Website	lowan.unitingchurch.org.au	
A11	Social Media	Facebook – Kaniva Community Church	
A12	Google map link		
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.



The Nhill congregation has an average regular attendance of between 60 and 70 worshippers, and see themselves as an intergenerational church that welcomes anyone from the community. They are a welcoming and embracing congregation, open to different styles of innovative and creative worship, with capable lay leaders. A small number of children of different ages come with their families, and a number of adults attend a monthly mid-week discussion group over a meal. A Ladies Fellowship meets monthly, along with the Church Council that gives good oversight for the congregation.

The Nhill congregation has close links to the Karen Baptist congregation which until mid 2026 met in the Uniting Church building for their own services but now has their own building. At various times combined Karen/English services are held, while a variety of ecumenical services have also been held throughout the year.

The Nhill church building has modern facilities with church and hall connected, allowing ample space for a growing congregation. It has an excellent sound system with all words for songs and visuals shown on large television screens.

The congregation has been without a placement for some time and is need of a leader to take us in new directions offering teaching and pastoral care. Any person in placement will be immediately recognised and welcomed as a leader by the whole community.



Kaniva Community Church (KCC) is a dedicated Christian congregation shaped by people from a range of denominational backgrounds and long-standing faith journeys. We are committed to offering Bible-based worship, fellowship, and community outreach that welcomes and serves people of all ages.

The Kaniva district presents a ministry context that is relational, community-oriented, and grounded in everyday life.

Key opportunities include:

- **Relational ministry:** Building strong pastoral connections within a close-knit community where relationships are highly valued
- **Community presence:** The existing strength of community networks provides a rich foundation for ministry that is both collaborative and outward-looking.. Eg. Strong association with LINK Neighbourhood House who assist with administration of the Food Bank finances and The Community Welfare Fund. LINK also assists with volunteer compliance and administration of the Op



Shop. Association with community members to organize the Community Carol service. Ongoing, regular leading of worship services at the Kaniva Nursing Home.

- **Pastoral care:** Supporting individuals and families across a wide geographic area, including those experiencing isolation or hardship – providing practical support in terms of food, household goods and information for other community services that are available in the area via the Food Bank. Facility and catering support for funerals. Our small church family care for each other in practical and emotional ways.
- **Missional engagement:** Identifying natural points of connection between church and community life, particularly through shared activities and service. The Op Shop provides an opportunity to connect with non-church community members through volunteer workers and customers. A new outreach has emerged through a monthly Music group which is building positive relationships throughout the community. The Leadership Team are also planning to offer opportunities to engage with various age-groups through Alpha courses and intentional, informal conversations relating to relevant matters of concern.
- **Leadership and encouragement:** Nurturing lay leadership and supporting existing volunteers within the congregation and wider community. Our Leadership endeavors to encourage Lay participation in our weekly worship services and fellowship following the services. The Leadership team are exploring opportunities to foster congregational training and development into the future.

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

Kaniva

1. Bible Study and Spiritual Growth

The congregation has identified a need to strengthen opportunities for Bible study. At present, there are no active small or growth groups within the church. A key priority over the coming years is to encourage and foster regular Bible study groups that support spiritual growth and deeper engagement with Scripture.

2. Engagement with Young Families

Currently, the church is attended by one young family on an irregular basis. A priority moving forward is to connect more intentionally with young families in the community, seeking to understand their spiritual needs and exploring ways the church can offer meaningful support and inclusion.

3. Pastoral Care

Pastoral care remains a central commitment of the church. The congregation aims to continue supporting members practically, emotionally, and spiritually, responding in appropriate ways wherever needs are identified within the church family.

4. Missional Outreach and Community Engagement

The church seeks to expand its missional presence in the local community. This includes increasing activities through the Food Bank and Op Shop, such as food preparation and other forms of practical assistance. Another outreach priority is raising awareness of opportunities to participate in *Know Your Bible (KYB)*, inviting broader community involvement.

5. Seniors Ministry

The congregation is committed to sustaining and strengthening its ministry to seniors. Priorities include continuing fortnightly worship services at the Nursing Home, providing transport to and from worship and other activities, improving the physical worship space, and encouraging the ongoing participation and vitality of the Ladies Fellowship group.

Nhill

Ministry to the aged, along with more interaction with young people, and intergenerational worship.

Development of lay people in leadership, and discovering different styles of worship.

Expanding our approach to hospitality through broader engagement with the community.

Chaplaincy to the community is also an untapped avenue of service being pursued.

The Nhill congregation will be looking at continuing its relationship with the Karen Baptist congregation as well as pursuing ecumenical activities with other denominations.

B3 Does this placement relate to more than one congregation?

Yes ☒

No ☐

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

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

Kaniva – Anglo
Nhill - Zimbabwean, Fijian, Filipino, Pacific Islanders - all English speaking
Combined services are held at times with the Karen Baptist congregation where both languages are used.

B5 What languages are spoken in the life of your:

Congregation, by		Community, by	
Individuals	English (Both)	Individuals	At Nhill - Karen, Indian, Asian & numerous other languages, although most understand english.
Groups	English (Both)	Groups	Nhill – as above

B6 What languages are spoken by the congregation in worship?

Kaniva – English
Nhill – English at all services, and translated into Karen when combined services are held.

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

Nhill – None
Kaniva - Our congregation supports First Nations communities primarily through outreach efforts such as The Food Bank and Op shop, serving a transient population.

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

Kaniva - Uniting Vic Tas, Wimmera Regional Council, CCVT, Orange Door,
Nhill - We have had limited relationship with Uniting Wimmera in the past, but look forward to greater engagement in the future, especially through the Wimmera Regional Council.



C Mission

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

Nhill

Engaging our community through activities such as funerals and supporting families in grief.
Informal visiting and pastoral caring between church congregation and community, along with services at the Aged Care homes.
Welcoming all within our community to our 'Community Worship' Sunday services.
Supporting all sections of our community by offering the use of our buildings.

Kaniva

1. Kaniva Community Op Shop/Food Bank – Support to low socio-economic, homeless, victims of Domestic Violence and unemployed members of the community.
2. Financial support for wider missional outreach. Eg. Flood & Fire Appeals, Bible Society, Global Mission Partners (Child Sponsorship), Frontier Services.
3. Congregation members are involved in wider community groups – particularly in leadership roles

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

Nhill

ALPHA and other small group activities that will connect with young people and those outside the church. Develop more intergenerational and inclusive styles of worship.
Interdenominational interaction.
Chaplaincy to the community through sporting clubs and other organisations.

Kaniva

The Kaniva Community Church Vision is to:

Bring hope through meaningful relationships, helping people to encounter Jesus through

1. CONNECTION (Op Shop/Food Bank, Hospitality & Worship)
2. BELONGING (serving one another as we develop skills and gifts)
3. GROWING (as we commit to following Jesus and making disciples by discerning meaningful and relevant ways for our community to encounter Jesus)

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

Nhill

Different styles of worship have developed because of lay leaders taking services, bringing their own gifts and creativity
We have been joined by a number of families and individuals from various church backgrounds We have more involvement with other denominations in combined events.
Small groups, such as the Beta group, have started and continue to be an encouragement.

Kaniva

1. Congregation has become less 'denominational' – in adopting the name "Kaniva Community Church" we are striving to be more inviting to other Christians in the community as well as those seeking a relationship with God.
2. We have become more cohesive – a small but committed group of regular worshippers
3. Moved worship into one building (Op Shop now utilizes the UCA Hall)

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

Nhill

More interdenominational interaction, building on the success of recent events such as worship services, carol singing, and 'stations of the cross'.
Greater development of lay worship teams
We are looking to increase the Placement hours from .5 to .8 and sharing a minister with Kaniva.

Kaniva

1. To build on the foundation of the new Kaniva Community Church as the main church offering community support and engagement welcoming all people.
2. To improve the physical worship space by providing easier access for all ages.
3. Entering into a shared ministerial placement with the Nhill Uniting Church on a 0.2 basis

D The Community

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

Kaniva

The Kaniva district is a rural community located in the West Wimmera region of western Victoria, positioned on the Western Highway between Melbourne and Adelaide. The township of Kaniva serves as a central hub for a dispersed farming population across surrounding localities including Mlram, Serviceton, Lillimur and Telopea Downs.

With a population of approximately 891 people in the township and 319 in a wider district community beyond, Kaniva reflects the characteristics of a small rural centre: strong interpersonal connections, a high degree of self-reliance, and a deep sense of place shaped by agricultural life.

The district is widely recognised for its strong community participation, with a significant proportion of residents actively engaged in volunteer organisations, local events, and service groups. This culture of involvement contributes to a resilient and relational community environment.

Nhill

The Nhill district is primarily a farming community focusing on grain crops and livestock. The towns are a mixed community of retirees and young families, increasingly multicultural especially in Nhill with up to 30 different cultural group backgrounds being a significant presence in the community. 10% of the population is Karen.

Nhill has a number of well attended churches. Currently there are seven denominations other than the Uniting Church: Lutheran, Anglican, Roman Catholic, Presbyterian, The Hub (a campus of the Horsham AOG Harvest Church), Seventh Day Adventist and the Karen Baptist church. The Hub is the only church with a resident pastor in the town. Nhill is a major service centre for the surrounding area: poultry industry, manufacturing, and public services including Hindmarsh Shire offices, three schools, hospital, dentist and aged-care facilities. Retail shops include an IGA, 2 X Mitre 10 hardware stores, cafes, 3 X Asian food outlets, two hotels, motels, clothing and gift shops and numerous other options.

Sport is a major focus for the community across the district.

There are some significant disparities in wealth and social need within our community of Nhill. We have low levels of unemployment and fluctuations in rural economics.

Demographic information from 2021 census:

Nhill population 2,401, median age 47, 627 families. 153 primary aged children, 132 secondary

The Parish includes the township of Jeparit which has a population of 476 people

D2 What makes this an enjoyable place to live?

Kaniva

Kaniva is a community marked by:

- High levels of volunteerism and civic participation
- Strong intergenerational connections
- A collaborative approach to sustaining local services and initiatives
- A welcoming and inclusive ethos toward newcomers
- Generally regarded as a safe community.

Over 50 community groups operate within the district, including sporting clubs, arts groups, service organisations, emergency services, and special interest groups. These provide both social connection and practical support across the community.

The presence of a Neighbourhood House and Community Hub contributes significantly to local wellbeing, offering regular programs, social activities, and opportunities for engagement across all age groups.

Nhill

Community spirit, a strong volunteer ethic and small-town convenience. A safe place to live.

Most services are available in the town, and other facilities are available within an hour's drive of

Horsham Active community offering various events throughout the year.
Many sporting and service groups are active in our town.
Buses and train services are easily accessible to major centres.

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

Nhill

Fluctuations of agricultural markets and climate variability are significant stresses for our farming community. Grief in loss of loved ones as well as domestic violence, and marriage breakdowns

Prominent families moving away to larger towns

Volunteers are ageing making it a struggle for some organisations to keep functioning efficiently as in past years. Distances involved in commuting to medical appointments can be stressful especially for the older people.

Kaniva

1. Seasonal fluctuations that directly influence the profitability of the farming community with the flow on effect to small businesses in town
2. Government policies that do not reflect or support life in rural locations
3. Dealing with grief
4. Cost of living pressures
5. Lack of regular Public Transport

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

Nhill

The congregation has a higher percentage of older people and people from European backgrounds.

Kaniva

Our congregation reflects local demographics in terms of age by about 50%. However, it does not represent the cultural diversity of the surrounding community.

D5 What community facilities are present in the local area?

Kaniva

Kaniva provides a range of essential services for the district, including:

- West Wimmera Health Service provides Primary health care and visiting allied health services
- Early childhood education, Day care services and a P12 College.
- Community and recreation facilities, including the Kaniva Community Hub, Golf, Tennis, Bowls, Football/Netball, Hockey, Cricket, Basketball and Swimming Pool. Gun Club., Lions Club, A&P Society and Senior Citizens Club.
- Various Special Interest groups including: Patchwork, Yoga, Walking, Men's Shed, Landcare etc
- Active emergency services (CFA, SES, and volunteer support networks)
- The community is under the local government area of the West Wimmera Shire which has offices in both Kaniva and Edenhope.

These services are complemented by a wide network of informal care and neighbourly support that is characteristic of rural communities.

Nhill

Schools: Nhill: Nhill College P-12, Nhill Lutheran School P-6, St Patricks College, P-6
Buses also take children to Lutheran and Catholic schools in Horsham
Taxi service to Special School in Horsham

Health: Nhill: West Wimmera Health Services including Nhill Hospital, Dental services,
Currently 5 doctors through Rural Doctors Group, with visiting health specialists
Iona –Digby Harris Aged Care Centre, Avonlea Aged Care

Hindmarsh Shire Council with offices in Nhill.
Community services such as a library, swimming pool, Nhill Learning Centre



Sporting Clubs including football, hockey, netball, golf, bowls, tennis, squash, badminton, Park Run and more! Service and Community Groups including Lions, Rotary, Probus, Senior Citizens, CWA, A&P Society, Nhill Men's Shed, Vintage Club, Nhill Aviation Heritage Centre, Nhill Silo Heritage Project, Sing Australia, Fire Brigades , SES, Piggery Lane Players Drama group and many more
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