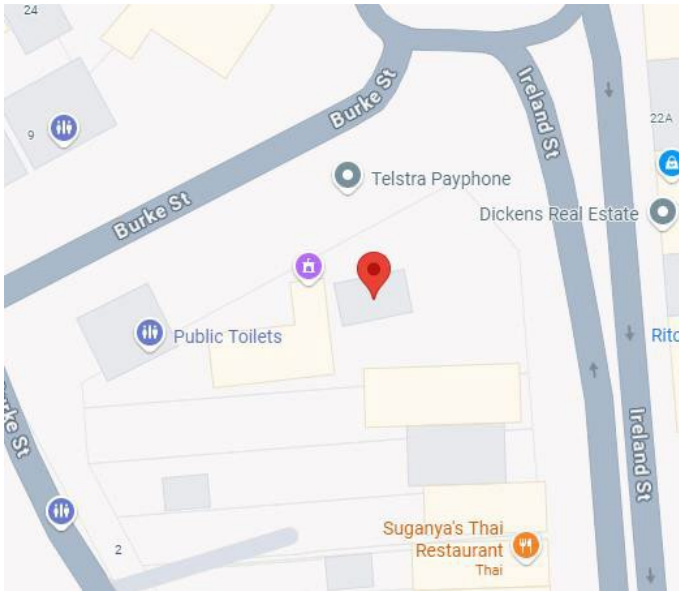




A Placement Profile

A1 Presbytery	North East Victoria Presbytery		
A2 Name of Placement	Bright Alpine Uniting Church		
A3 Placement city/suburb/town	Bright		
A4 Church/Office location(s)	Ireland Street Bright, Vic. 3741		
A5 Congregations and agencies associated with this placement	Bright Alpine		
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 0.5 of EFT 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 5		
A9 To be completed by Presbytery, with reasons given on page 12:	Is permission sought to advertise? Yes ☐ No ☐ Is a Priority Placement recommended? Yes ☐ No ☐		
A10 Website	https://brightunitingchurch.org.au/		
A11 Social Media	n/a		
A12 Google map link	https://maps.app.goo.gl/CXi7V9EzB6EvPuR97		
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.

Bright Alpine Uniting Church (BAUC) is located in the middle of one of the most visited regional towns in Victoria. Our congregation is diverse, combining those who've moved recently with those who've lived their whole life here. Similarly, attendance frequently combines the congregation members with holiday makers, many of whom are inter-generational in their attendance. Our values, beliefs and ways in which we embrace the Christian mission are reflective of the four pronounced seasons in the Alpine Valleys. As the below photos exhibit, we celebrate the autumn shedding of leaves, the winter companionship, the spring renewal and the joy of an Australian summer Christmas. Through the seasons we seek to support our community and visitors alike.

We seeking an inspiring ministry agent and leader who will similarly thrive in the natural beauty of God's creation and support the congregation in our mission. It's a unique dual proposition, of embracing the community, together with making the most of the holiday-maker mindset, who come to unwind and reset. It's an exciting mission.



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

In the next two to five years, BAUC will bring on a new chapter, this includes:

- Faith in Renewal – our congregation has been strong for decades. There are green shoots in members and leaders, it is a priority to nurture all members in Christ, whilst resetting the approach to create broader interest and appeal in the community. We are people open to learning and seeking growth in personal faith and life.
- Mission for the community - we are a caring people engaged with our local community and the wider mission of the whole church. We provide support to the marginalised in the community through food relieve and advocacy. Today, we know more can be done beyond practical care and hospitality.
- Intergenerational tenacity – BAUC has a significant presence and the congregation is committed to ensuring that the next generation of Christians can continue to utilise the facilities for worship and service.

B3 Does this placement relate to more than one congregation?Yes ☐No ☒

If so, provide details on page 9.

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

98% Anglo, 2% Chinese / Malay, Fijian

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.

Positioned south of the Ovens River, BAUC is located on the country that is declared under the Registered Aboriginal Parties to be traditionally owned by the Taungurung First Nations Peoples. Beyond acknowledging the traditional owners at our service, currently there is no direct involvement.

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

n/a

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

The three we do best are:

1. Consistently provide a welcoming place of worship and hospitality for our congregation and visitors. Strong, caring and open relationships, where people feel welcome and supported in their pursuit of a faith in Christ.
2. Provide a place for community to engage and be supported. We currently have a community refrigerator and cabinet that are used to distribute free excess foods to anyone that is looking for food relief. We support the Alpine Leisure Group (an Alpine Health initiative providing social

activities / meals for older and socially isolated community members held within the church community hall). Supporting the local St Vincents, hosting an annual Christmas dinner, and collecting school supplies and preparing backpacks for distance communities in the Pacific Island countries.

3. Undertake compelling outreach to the tens of thousands of annual visitors to Bright. Whether it be the Autumn Festival that includes Easter, the Brighter Days Festival, or summer holidays at Christmas, we take pride in ensuring visitors know there is a strong Christian community in the centre of town. This is done through compelling (and sometimes curious) notice board messages, a strong tradition of food stalls in our front gardens, hosting Christian-based school holiday activities (Blue Moose), and providing a welcoming church service. Occasionally Christmas and Easter services have been conducted out on the front lawn area and we have found this a great way to bring the church out to those not comfortable taking that first step inside a church building.

A couple of photos follow that show this.



Annual Christmas Dinner



Our Brighter Days Festival 2026 message (www.brighterdays.org.au)

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

Building on what we do best (above in C1) three missional activities that we would like to develop are:

1. Build on the central location in the centre of town to develop a stronger connection / focal point in the community to bring the good news to all. With an emphasis on those who live here, we are planning to hold 2-3 "special Sundays" outside of the key calendar events, where the service is very casual and provides an environment to exchange ideas and discuss the challenges of life and our community.
2. Members of our congregation are proactive participants in the Alpine Shire's mental health and well-being initiative, including training in mental health first aid. With some further training and coordination, we could provide a chaplaincy/ community connection role for locals and to holiday-makers alike throughout the year, by running a simple drop-in centre. Perhaps a daily window of 60mins for people to drop in, have a cup of tea and chat about their life. This would be an expansion of our existing Friday open door morning tea. This could also assist in the recent gap that has showed up on the discontinuing of the meals on wheels service in Bright.
3. The outdoor beauty of Bright could be capitalised on through hosting more outdoor worship opportunities on the church grounds coinciding with the larger festival and holiday occasions. E.g hosting an outdoor autumn service as part of an official event at Bright's autumn festival (<https://www.brightautumnfestival.org.au/>).

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

Our minister retired in May 2024 and over the last two years a number of members have stepped up in worship roles, complimented by increased commitment from other members to keep BAUC functioning to a high standard. This increased commitment has coincided with some key members relocating to be closer to family or required health services.

Being mostly self-led, another change that has emerged is a stronger and more faithful bond between congregation members. This has been coupled with a growing openness to new beginnings both in service/worship format and associated congregational activities.

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

Considering the broader community first (see details in D1 below), population growth is expected to be modest, but the demographic change is expected to continue as those with financial means or careers that allow them to relocate, choose to do so.

For our congregation, at a minimum we anticipate continuing incremental interest from the community in utilising our centrally-located facilities. This will likely be coupled with growing collaboration with the other local churches. This we believe will present many opportunities for BAUC.

D The Community

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

Bright is the central town of the Alpine Shire Council in North East Victoria. The Shire covers 4,790 square kilometres. Approximately 92% of that land is public land, including parts of the Alpine National Park and all of Mount Buffalo National Park. According to the Alpine Shire Council 2025-29 Plan, around 4,800 people call Bright and nearby surrounds home. The major employment opportunities exist around the tourism industry, with an emergent remote worker and entrepreneur demographic. Despite a significant regular swell of visitors to town, the underlying community is strong and dedicated to Bright. Around 24% of the community do some kind of volunteering in an organisation or group. According to the 2021 census the median age is 49, the median household income was \$1,343 and the annual population growth was around 1.4%. Aesthetically it is a stunning environment to live (see photos below) and this is a common denominator for all members of the community. People generally make a proactive choice to live in the area due to the natural beauty, and with a smaller population, it is only a short time before new comers are known and greeted in the street.





D2 What makes this an enjoyable place to live?

Owing to the natural beauty of the area, across all four seasons, Bright is a dynamic township with a strong local economy.

Economy

Coworking offices for entrepreneurs, small businesses, significant part-time work opportunities in the tourism and hospitality industry are all available.

Recreation

Outdoor recreation, passive activities taking in the sights, combined with an events schedule for locals to enjoy and visitors to flock to are all regulars on the weekly activities.

Transport and services:

Usefully, larger rural centres such as Wangaratta and Albury/Wodonga are all an easy drive, ensuring that access to services etc does not entail many hours travel to Melbourne. The Vline public transport service has improved considerably since the pandemic, with many options for the commute to Melbourne from either Bright or Wangaratta.

Community

With or without a family, adults find social connection that help them to grow and feel supported. For youngsters, there are many education options, including some 6 secondary schools within a 60 minute drive and 3 primary schools nearby. Traditional sports, outdoor activities and artistic pursuits are all on offer.

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

We think there is likely three points of stress and pain in the wider community, most associated with economics of the region:

1. Accommodation for both seasonal and permanent workers is in short supply due to the large number of holiday lets. This is no different to many tourist towns but does place a strain on businesses and locals alike.
2. In addition, the costs associated with regional living are much higher than in the past. Fuel, food, in addition to housing put families under stress. This is often more pronounced for community members who have not benefited from the real estate or tourist economies.
3. Lastly, the decline in practicing Christian numbers we believe offers an insight to the increased mental health issues in Australian society. The absence of a connected spiritual life reduces the ability for people to manage the demands of life. Bright is no different to anywhere else in this regard.

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

As a classic Uniting Church congregation our demographic is aging although there are some younger members. There is a mix of both old and young in the town and congregation. Considering the median age of 49 in the township, our congregation is weighted towards Gen X and Baby Boomers.

D5 What community facilities are present in the local area?

Bright P – 12 College, State Primary Schools at Wandiligong, Porepunkah and Harrietville Kindergarten and Childcare centre. Alpine Leisure Group, Elderly Citizen's centre, Mens Shed, Community Health Centre, Medical Centre, Hawthorn Village (Low care accommodation), Hospital, Arts Centre, RSL, Lions, Rotary, Probus, U3A, Historical Society, Garden Club, various Sporting and Recreational clubs and groups. A myriad of Annual community events, festivals and markets. The Water Slide by the river, operated by volunteers, is a great attraction at the beginning of the year, together with the Splash Park. Hospitality venues including the Bright Brewery, Remedy Gin Distillery, Sixpence Coffee Roasters and the Sun Cinema. There are a number of rail trails that run from Bright to Harrietville to Wandiligong and all the way to Wangaratta. World class mountain bike tracks and road cycling events that attract cycling enthusiasts to conquer the nearby mountains. Alpine skiing in winter is a popular pastime for families and the more accomplished winter sports lovers.