

PLACEMENT PROFILE

SECTION 1 – BASIC INFORMATION

1.1 Placement Name(s): Seymour/Avenel/Nagambie Cluster

1.2 Please list congregations/agencies names below

● Seymour

● Avenel/Nagambie

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1.3 Profile approved by Church Council 4 / 11 / 2018

1.4 Primary purpose of placement:

A full time minister to offer spiritual leadership to the two worshipping congregations.

As the primary focus of the Community Outreach Worker is on helping the congregations to connect with their communities, the primary focus of the minister is to help the congregations to grow their gifts in order to live as a community of disciples serving in mission with Christ.

1.5 Suitable for (bold all that apply): **Minister of the Word** / Deacon / Ordinand/ Pastor

1.6 Time fraction: 100% (negotiable to 0.8)

1.7 Term:

Undefined up to 10 years (See Reg 2.7.3(a))

Fixed Term:

5 Years

Initial Term reviewed in:

4 Years

SECTION 2 – MISSION DIRECTION

2.1 What is the Vision statement and or Mission priorities of the placement (or of the individual congregations)

To meet, deepen and serve.

To be a place where people meet Jesus and can deepen their relationship with him and serve him by caring for each other and our communities.

We the people of faith called to this place and time, declare our unity through our belief in one Body one Spirit one hope one Lord one Baptism and one God, Father of us all.

2.2 Date adopted 16/9/2018

2.3 Provide a short description of the congregations

Seymour – a congregation of older people with a passion to share the risen Christ with the community.

Avenel/Nagambie – a congregation which places unity and cohesiveness at its heart, where hospitality is not just a gift but a loving response to the Gospel.

2.4 How have the congregations changed over the last 5 years?

We have recently called a Community Outreach Worker to work specifically in the community working with younger families and youth.

Avenel/Nagambie has seen some significant growth.

Seymour commenced a drop-in café ministry 3 years ago.

2.5 What are the congregations' goals?

Continue to grow closer to the God who calls us.

Continue to develop our outreach into the community.

Develop our drop-in café ministry.

Develop our lay leaders in worship leadership.

Grow our worship to be more inclusive of all ages.

2.6 What are the next Strategic Steps to achieving those goals?

For the new minister to work alongside the Community Outreach Worker and the Church Council as a team. Prayer and listening for the Spirit is an important part of our ongoing discernment of life and ministry.

MoW and COW working together with us to help live as faithful disciples and to develop/implement our outreach strategy – (see appendix for full Strategy Document)

- homelessness
- family gathering space
- online presence
- life skills/ESL conversation

Seymour property re-development for missional use of buildings and financial viability.

SECTION 3 - CONTEXT

3.1 Describe the communities in which this placement is located (Mission context).

Avenel: (pop: 1,048) is a community with a largely rural background. Most employment opportunities are within the agriculture/viticulture industries. A large proportion of the population work outside of the township, (Seymour, Puckapunyal, Shepparton). It is a desirable place to live. Many young families see it is a safe environment in which to raise their families.

Avenel pre-school & primary school provide a solid learning environment with great opportunities for families to become an integral part of the community.

Avenel has a strong sporting community: Tennis, cricket, golf, bowls, netball, football and clay target shooting. It also has several community groups providing social fellowship and community service, RSL, community house, senior citizens etc.

The nature of the Avenel community is slowly changing from a small rural community to a busier, more complex mix of older, established families, retirees, and new families wanting a great place to raise their families. Several new housing estates have commenced construction with the expansion of the town set to continue.

The Avenel community is a very cohesive and supportive community.

Nagambie: (pop: 1,886) Located on the shores of Lake Nagambie the township is currently the 2nd most popular location for retirement in Victoria. It has a large influx of holiday makers during the summer. The lake and Goulburn River are great for fishing and water based activities. The Lake also contains one of Australia's premier rowing regatta centres and which features local, state, national and international regattas. There is a vibrant sporting community here, as well as an active Men's Shed, RSL, Lions Club and community house. It is a friendly close-knit community situated on the Melbourne-Shepparton rail-line.

Nagambie and the surrounding areas have a vibrant agricultural industry. The majority of employment is within the rural sector as well as retail and service industries.

Seymour: (pop: 5,844) is the largest town within the cluster. It is linked very closely with the Puckapunyal Military Base (pop. approx. 3,000). A large proportion of the community work on the base, both military and non-military personnel. Seymour has a large agricultural industry especially in the equine industry. Seymour is still a major railway town. Other major sources of employment are the meat abattoirs, the Service sector as well as many people travelling daily to Melbourne by train for employment.

Seymour is a very diverse community with divides caused by employment, economic circumstances and length of time in the community. Seymour has a very transient population due to both the Military base and people moving into the public housing and staying until they end up returning to Melbourne in search of better employment opportunities. For some people Seymour can be a difficult community in which to find acceptance and have a feeling of belonging.

Seymour has a vast range of sporting, community and social groups with just about every activity catered for.

3.2 How does your congregation reflect or vary from the age, and ethnic mix of your local community?

Avenel/Nagambie congregation worships in Avenel and consists of mostly elderly members with some middle aged members, while the community has a significant number of young families. The congregation has grown over the past 5 years and with the new

developments it envisages that growth will continue. The township of Avenel is predominantly of Anglo-Saxon Heritage and so is the congregation.

The influx of retirees into Nagambie make it the second largest growing area of retirees in Victoria. There are also a growing number of younger families moving into the area. It is a growth area for inland holiday homes and weekenders. The majority of the community is of Anglo Saxon heritage and this is reflected in the congregation.

Seymour has a small ageing congregation that has recently started to regrow. Whilst Seymour itself is slowly becoming more multi-cultural this is yet to filter into the congregation.

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

Avenel: With increasing pressure on rural families due to issues outside their control such as the drought they have an increasing need for pastoral care, support and prayer. New families are moving into the township providing opportunities for congregational growth as well as working with families to settle into the community. Drug and alcohol abuse is a growing concern in the community.

Nagambie: With an ageing population there is a great need for pastoral care as well as outreach into the aged care facilities. With increasing pressure on rural families due to issues outside of their control such as the drought they have an increasing need for pastoral care, support and prayer. Drug and alcohol abuse is a growing concern in the community.

Seymour: Seymour is a town with a large group of people who fall into the lower socio-economic sector, often with multi-generational unemployment. There is a large section of public housing. There are also major issues with alcohol and drug abuse, gambling addiction, mental health issues and an invisible homeless element (couch surfing).

All three communities have a considerable number of people commuting into Melbourne or Shepparton for work and high school via rail and bus.

3.4 List ways in which you connect with, serve, or partner with people in your wider community?

- Drop-in café every second Wednesday at Seymour – 30-35 attend.
- Children's after school programme for Christmas and Easter in Avenel – 8-12 attend.
- Monthly services are held in aged care facilities in Seymour and Nagambie.
- Seymour currently garages the Community Accessibility vehicle.
- UCAF raises funds which it disperses into the local community.
- Monthly men's film and conversation group at Nagambie – 6-8 attend.
- Ecumenical Christmas dinner for residents of Nagambie.
- Annual Carols and Easter dawn services in Avenel.
- Community Shrove Tuesday pancake night at Avenel – 25-30 attend.

- Monthly ladies breakfast at Seymour – 12-15 attend.

3.5 What schools/agencies/institutions are in your local communities?

Seymour College (P-12)
St Mary's College Seymour (P-10)
Puckapunyal Primary School
Avenel Primary School
Nagambie Primary School
St Joseph's Primary School Nagambie
Tallarook Primary School
Go-TAFE – Seymour
Assumption College Kilmore
Kilmore International School
Avenel pre-school
Nagambie pre-school
Pollard St pre-school (Semyour)
Victoria St. pre-school (Seymour)
Neighbourhood/community houses in each town
Seymour Hospital
Nagambie Health (high-dependency and hostel)
Karingal aged care (Seymour)
Barrabill high dependency care (Seymour)