



PLACEMENT PROFILE

SECTION 1 – BASIC INFORMATION

- 1.1 Placement Name(s): Minister of the Word
- 1.2 Please list congregations/agencies names below
- Uniting Church Gospel Hall Melbourne
 - _____
 - _____
 - _____
- 1.3 Profile approved by Church Council/Governing Body 18 / 08 / 2019
- 1.4 Primary purpose of placement:
- To minister the congregation of Gospel Hall Melbourne, primarily the 1.45pm Chinese afternoon service.
- To care & nurture the Mandarin and Cantonese-speaking church members; focusing on the afternoon service's overseas students, working holiday young adults, new migrants and single mums.
- To work with team members to reach out to the wider Chinese community within the Melbourne CBD in sharing the love of Christ.
- 1.5 Suitable for (bold all that apply): **Minister of the Word** / Deacon / **Ordinand** / Pastor
- 1.6 Time fraction: 50 %
- 1.7 Term:
- | | |
|---------------------------------------------|--------------|
| Undefined up to 10 years (See Reg 2.7.3(a)) | <u>X</u> |
| Fixed Term: | <u>Years</u> |
| Initial Term reviewed in: | <u>Years</u> |

This profile should be prepared by the Congregation(s)/ agency in consultation with Presbytery. It is specifically designed to assist in the placement process but it can also be used as a record of mission planning.

Contents

Section 1: Basic Information

Section 2: Mission Direction

Section 3: Context

Section 4: People and Activities – to be completed by each congregation in the placement.

Section 5: Joint Congregations – to be completed if more than one congregation in the placement.

Section 6: Working Relationships

Section 7: New Minister – this section contains a list of mission and pastoral activities which are also listed on Minister's Personal profiles

Section 9: Presbytery – to be completed by Presbytery Pastoral Relations Committee.

Section 10: Terms of Placement

ENCLOSURES

Please mark all the documents attached to the profile:

- Floor plan of residence
- Financial information including a copy of last year's Financial Statement and financial projections
- Position descriptions of relevant ministers
- Others : 4.1 Activities

SECTION 2 – MISSION DIRECTION

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

Gospel Hall's vision is to be a place of worship of the Lord God in Chinatown of Melbourne CBD for the Chinese-speaking community. Our mission is to share the gospel of Jesus Christ to the wider community in the CBD, to be faithful Christ's followers sharing the life and love of Christ with others, and to nurture and equip its members for the plentiful harvest field. Our 4 mission priorities are: Loving care, Inspiring fellowship, Nurturing leadership, Reaching out.

(愛心關懷, 激勵團契, 培育領袖, 參與外展)

2.2 Date adopted Since 2016

2.3 Provide a short description of the placement/congregation(s)

Gospel Hall Melbourne or 'Fook Yum Tong' (福音堂) started off as a Methodist Mission under the Wesley Central Mission for Chinese migrant during the gold rush era. It is the first Chinese church in Victoria. On 14th July 1872, worship service was conducted in Chinatown and has been blessed to serve the Lord in Melbourne Chinatown for 147 years now. In 1979, an additional worship place had begun in Wesley Church Melbourne in Lonsdale St.

Our congregation is made up of migrants and travellers from overseas; namely, China, Hong Kong, Taiwan, Malaysia and Singapore, with a handful of Australian-born-Chinese. The regular weekly overall attendance is about 180 people. The ratio of overseas students to families to senior members is almost equal. However, more than 2/3 of our members are female.

Gospel Hall serves 9.15am Chinese morning service, 11am English service and 1.45pm Chinese afternoon service. Besides the 3 worship services, we have 6 fellowship groups, 4 small groups, weekly Bible study and prayer meetings, and English & Floral arrangement classes. Sunday school is at 9.30am. Every year we organise various special outreach events.

We also have a small library at our chapel called Gospel Point, which opens on Mon, Wed, Fri, Sat, 11-4pm for anyone to come in for a rest or have a chat with us or just to borrow Christian books at no cost.

2.4 How has the placement/congregation(s) changed over the last 5 years?

On 8 Oct 2017, Gospel Hall started the 1.45pm Chinese afternoon service. It has attracted many Chinese-speaking young adults, mainly from mainland China and Hong Kong. The average attendance currently is 50 people. The afternoon service is an outreach ministry and some worshippers have been baptised and serving as leaders now.

Our English class is twice per week. It has been popular with new Chinese migrants. They learn conversational day-to-day English and learn how to integrate into the Australia life and culture. Our monthly floral arrangement class has been popular too. Many students of these two classes also joined our church services after becoming friends with us.

2.5 What are the congregation(s)/placement's goals?

Gospel Hall Melbourne hopes to be able to cater for and serve double the number of its current afternoon service members, providing them with not only a place of worship but also feeding their spiritual needs and development, as well as bringing alive the pleasing aroma of Christ in the CBD Chinatown area and its wider community. We faithfully hope that both levels of our chapel in Chinatown may be fully filled with sweet praises and thanksgiving to God in the near future and that Gospel Hall may become a safe and welcoming space for all at all times.

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

Basing on the census data (2006-2016 195.9%: (31,919) Chinese & 38.4% Melbourne CBD residents identify their ancestry as Chinese); we anticipate another influx of Chinese-speaking people in the CBD, especially Chinese students and migrants, in the coming years.

- We have recently installed additional flat screen TVs and AV system, for the purpose of providing live streaming, on the upper level of the chapel to create more spaces for people to worship together.
- Besides our current minister, Gospel Hall hopes to call another Minister of the Word to oversee the afternoon service in terms of liturgies, evangelism and pastoral care of the growing congregation. In addition, the current afternoon service leaders need to be trained more systematically to be better equipped with the many opportunities of outreach to the local community.

SECTION 3 - CONTEXT

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

- CBD Area: "The CBD is one enormous Chinatown" (ABS Census 2016)
- 38.4% Melbourne CBD residents identify their ancestry as Chinese
- Some 14.5% of the people living in the CBD were born in Australia, whereas 24.95% were born in mainland China.
- Second-generation immigrants, whose parents were born overseas, make up 76.7% of the entire CBD population.
- CBD residents are also highly educated, with 57.8% holding a diploma from a university or a tertiary institution.
- While the number of families has increased from 3706 to 5804 and family households are now making up 34.6% of all CBD homes, CBD residents are largely single, as 74.3% of them have never married.
- Mandarin is the top language spoken at home, with 30.7% of residents speaking Mandarin at home, 21.9% of residents speaking only English, and 4.9% Cantonese.
- With a median age of 26 and 67.5% of the local population aged between 20 and 34, CBD residents are likely to be the youngest group in Victoria.

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

Gospel Hall Melbourne's congregations are all Chinese by race with Mandarin & Cantonese as the predominant languages. Our second and third generation Australia-born speak mostly English and little Chinese, hence, they attend the 11am English service.

Our congregation age ranges from infant to over 90. While most families and elderly members attend the Chinese morning service, most young adults and students attend the Chinese afternoon service.

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

While there are many opportunities in the CBD with massive number of people in the CBD; there are insufficient Chinese ministry & mission inside CBD to cater to the growing number of Chinese living in the city. The movement of people is fluid. Many of our new friends are visitors and their stay in CBD are often short.

Overseas students will stay for 3-4 years, while working holidays adults can remain in Australia for no more than 2 years.

Business visa migrants move between their home country and Melbourne quite often.

In addition, people living in CBD would move to the suburbs after a few years or after they are married.

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

- Our English classes welcome anyone who wish to learn English and Australia culture. We also organise floral arrangement course monthly for anyone to join. Both classes are very popular to the new Chinese migrants.
- Our Gospel Point library welcomes anyone into the chapel for rest amidst the bustling business of Chinatown, and for a friendly chat.
- Gospel Hall organises outreach events in line with some of the lunar calendar's festivals, like the mid-Autumn festival, Chinese New Year, etc. These have been very popular not only to the Chinese people but the Caucasians have as much enjoyment and interest in our events as well.
- In winter, we serve the Chinese Hot-Pot which is open to members as well as new friends for a hot fellowship meal.
- In Spring every year, we organise outdoor BBQ on Cup Day for new friends and members for an outdoor fellowship with food, games and chats.
- Yearly Christmas Eve Carolling in the CBD. We attracted many people in the streets singing carols joyfully with us! It is a huge blessing to be able to sing and praise God together with the local community & public!
- Very recently, we had a Dumpling Making Outreach on Saturday, where new friends and members made over 600+ dumplings. Together we made, cooked, ate dumplings over songs and sharing. The following day, some new friends joined our worship service.
- We thank and praise God for His provisions and grace.

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

University of Melbourne, RMIT, and many small vocational institutes and agencies.