



SECTION 1 – BASIC INFORMATION

Placement Name(s): Ocean Grove – Barwon Heads
Uniting Church

1. Please list congregations/agencies names below

Ocean Grove Uniting Church (This Profile)

Barwon Heads Uniting Church

3. Profile approved by Church Council/Governing Body 28 / 09 /2020

4. Primary purpose of placement:

We seek a Minister who will lead us and inspire us to fulfil our mission to be witnesses to Christ's presence in our Community. For this we need to be spiritually strengthened through our worship and our communal activities. Strategic insight will assist us as we embark on a process of renewal. The provision of Pastoral Care will also be an important component of the Minister's tasks.

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

6. Time fraction: _____ 60 _____%

7. Term:

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

Fixed Term: _____ Years

Initial Term reviewed in: _____

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.

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SECTION 2 – MISSION DIRECTION

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

Our mission is to be faithful to the way of Jesus Christ in his call to proclaim the gospel, and so to be witnesses to Christ's presence in Ocean Grove. We worship, celebrate and bear witness to God's love in the world, enabling people to discover new life through the journey of the Spirit. We wish to be a caring community, seeking to respect the diversity of values and gifts of all people. We are committed to issues of social justice and social concern, working together with other churches and institutions.

2. Date adopted 24/02 /2020

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

A well-established and committed Congregation with excellent facilities. There is a focus on regular Sunday worship, but also many other activities both among the members and providing outreach. The church's location close to the centre of the burgeoning sea-side township is a great asset, as evidenced in a thriving opportunity shop, church hall rental and a food pantry. The active membership of the Congregation is ageing with an average age well over 70 years. The quest for renewal and further outreach will be central to the life of the Congregation in the coming years. The Congregation is comfortable to explore a range of music styles – we have a group of musicians who form a band – they play monthly and introduce us to new hymns and tunes. We also are flexible and are embracing the use of multi-media to enhance our worship and learning. In 2018 after a in depth discussion, the Congregation decided that it would approve same-sex marriages being celebrated in its church building. This was an indication of its willingness to respect the diversity and values of all people as stated in its mission above.

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

The period of The Reverend Doctor Jong Soo Park's ministry was a time of spiritual deepening, with excellent outreach in the areas of social justice and community participation. But the renewal aimed for was only partly successful and needs to be revisited, with the aim of being more focussed on understanding the needs of the community and developing relationships with people. The membership of the Congregation has declined by 25% during this period.

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

The following goals were adopted at the Congregational Meeting held 24/2/2020.

1. Continue to provide meaningful Sunday worship, meeting the needs of our members, but also developing new forms through word and music.
2. Nurture the sharing of faith and life experience, particularly through small group activities within the membership.
3. Continue to develop ministry to young families, nurturing young children in the stories of Jesus Christ and the Bible.
4. Continue to engage in social action in community and beyond.
5. Support and foster mission and development in the wider church.
6. Further develop our Pastoral Care Program.
7. Engage with other Congregations and denominations in our area and beyond.

6. What are the next Strategic Steps to achieving those goals?

Much strategic work has already been done through input from an ad hoc Strategy Group and a Congregational assets mapping exercise.

The first steps will be to induct the newly appointed Minister into the situation of the Congregation and then on the basis of the work already done to develop a plan for the future of the church and its Ministry. Such a plan must involve investigation of the possibilities of a role as a community hub, allowing a range of activities: worship with new initiatives, sharing and fellowship; intensification of our pastoral program; continuation of our very successful social program; engagement with other Congregations and denominations; hosting of Community and cultural activities.

SECTION 3 - CONTEXT

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

The bustling commercial and popular holiday centre of Ocean Grove is situated on the southern coast of the Bellarine Peninsula, separated from Barwon Heads by the Barwon River. In contrast to its humble origins as a Methodist camp, and then as a sleepy seaside village, Ocean Grove has become over the last ten years, a designated major growth area for the region with new housing developments and two new shopping centres. The most recent statistics (2016) Census indicates the permanent population is approximately 15,000, the average age of 42 years and the median household weekly income is \$1,432 (close to that for Australia as a whole). Many residents commute for work to Geelong and Melbourne. Over the summer holiday season the population nearly doubles as people from both Melbourne and country Victoria take advantage of the safe beaches and natural beauty of the area. The township of Ocean Grove is quite diverse in terms of age and socio-economic status, but predominantly white Anglo- Celtic in its ethnic composition. There are relatively few recent immigrants and Indigenous numbers are low.

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

The predominately Anglo-Saxon composition of the Congregation reflects the dominant ethnicity of wider community. In contrast to the wider community, over the last ten years, the Congregation on a Sunday morning has been (a) diminishing in number and (b) ageing with the median age now in the high seventies. We are acutely aware of this challenge/opportunity. Our strategy group has identified that we do have contacts with a younger demographic who use our hall (Playgroup, exercise groups etc.) For example, over the past 3 years, we have been holding a successful annual Christmas Carol Singing event with the Playgroup community in the church featuring the church band and choir. Pre covid-19 the band was actively developing plans for a monthly singing session with the Playgroup.

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

Because of its situation and history, employment in the township is centres around small businesses (many tradespeople) and the hospitality industry. In the past decade the township has enjoyed a strong growth phase. New housing estates are attracting many newcomers, both young families and retirees. Though the township gives a generally prosperous impression, local employment opportunities are limited and one must suspect that there is quite a lot of hidden poverty. This may come to the fore as the community recovers from the covid-19 crisis in the coming time. Rental costs are high and public transport giving access to Geelong and beyond is limited. Medical facilities are good, except that there is no hospital closer than Geelong

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

Loaves and Fishes Pantry

The Dove Opportunity Shop

Monthly Recycled Treasure Sales (fundraising)

Good relationships with hall hirers

Involvement with the Carols in the Park Christmas event.

5. What schools/agencies/institutions are in your local communities?

Ocean Grove, Surfside, Our Lady of the Sea, and Wallington Primary School. Bellarine Secondary College campus, Ocean Grove Senior Citizens Centre, Bellarine Training and Community Hub, Police, CFA, Surf Live Saving Club, Ambulance Station, Ocean Grove Park and Pavilion (Outdoor stage), Men's Shed, and Public Library.



PLACEMENT PROFILE

SECTION 1 – BASIC INFORMATION

1.1 **Placement Name(s):** Ocean Grove and Barwon Heads Uniting Church

1.2 **Please list congregations/agencies names below**

- Barwon Heads Uniting Church (This Profile)
- _____
- _____
- _____

1.3 **Profile approved by Church Council/Governing Body** 8 / 10 / 2020

1.4 **Primary purpose of placement:**

To provide leadership to the Barwon Heads congregation, re-energise our members who have been isolated by the COVID-19 pandemic, provide pastoral care in conjunction with our pastoral care team and engage with the community in order to attract new members.

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

1.6 **Time fraction:** 40 %

1.7 **Term:**

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

Fixed Term: _____ Years

Initial Term reviewed in: _____ Years

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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

SECTION 2 – MISSION DIRECTION

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

Our priorities are to remain a strong faith presence in Barwon Heads and to be an active congregation worshipping God, caring for each other, our community and our beautiful natural environment.

In challenging times we seek to survive the COVID-19 pandemic, then resume our normal routine and thrive as a welcoming place and congregation.

2.2 Date adopted 8 / 10 / 2020

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

Barwon Heads Uniting Church is small in number but big in heart, faith and optimism. We help each other and work together in worship and in community outreach.

Our members share their gifts and talents in many ways: through leadership, participation in worship, music, administration, property maintenance, community service, fundraising, etc.

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

The congregation has changed through the normal course of life with some people joining as they retire to Barwon Heads and others leaving for various reasons (ie. missing their old friends at their previous church, making a “tree change”, moving into care). Several children have grown up and moved to Melbourne for study and/or work which has diminished our once-strong family involvement. Decreasing numbers and aging members create challenges for undertaking some tasks but we still manage to get things done.

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

Our goals are very much aligned with the response to 2.1 above.

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

While we have no formal strategic steps in place our aim is to work closely with a new Minister to take our Church forward in a positive and productive manner.

SECTION 3 - CONTEXT

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

Barwon Heads is a seaside village viewed by many as a retirement, holiday or weekend getaway destination but it has been changing noticeably over the past two decades. The population at the 2016 Census was 3875 (up by 335 from 2011). Interestingly, 221 people identified as Uniting Church as their religious denomination, only slightly down from 240 in 2011.

Young families have continued to make their homes in Barwon Heads as evidenced by the primary school enrolment now being 511. This leads to a great inter-connectedness between people in the town. Further links are forged by involvement in a range of community, sporting, cultural, environmental and social activities.

There is a strong sense of Barwon Heads being a special place and people respecting its uniqueness.

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

Our congregation is a reflection of community togetherness and is respected as a part of the township. In age terms, we are certainly a reflection of the older demographic and at variance from the growing numbers of young people attending the primary school. Our ethnic mix is reflective of the town as 85% of the population was born in Australia against a State figure of 65%.

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

Opportunities clearly exist through the primary school and the young families in town although almost half the population identified as “no religion” at the 2016 Census. Further opportunities will develop in the Armstrong Creek growth area to the west of Barwon Heads where Fresh Expressions ministry is being initiated.

Points of stress and pain are more difficult to identify but they could become more evident as the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic emerge revealing potential mental health, unemployment and financial issues.

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

- Op shop
- Fete and other fundraising efforts
- Community Carols Service (includes the Barwon Heads Chorale)
- Providing our hall for use of various community groups (eg. SUFM, Guides, yoga, etc)

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

Barwon Heads Primary School

Kindergarten

Senior Citizens

Library

CFA

Scouts and Girl Guides

Sporting (eg. football, netball, cricket, soccer, tennis, golf, athletics, cycling clubs)

Cultural (fine music, film, arts)

Community (garden, residents, coastal, planning groups)

Craft Groups (Quilting)

Book Club
