



Mount Waverley Uniting Church

Congregational Minister

A Placement in **PORT PHILIP EAST PRESBYTERY**

Profile approved by MW Church Council: [Click or tap to enter a date.](#)

Profile approved by PRC: 1/02/2023

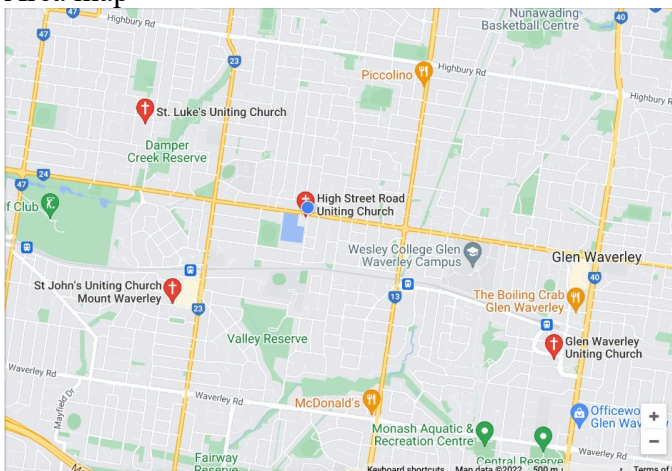
Table of Contents

Placement Details	2
The Congregation	3
Our congregation	3
Mission	5
Multiple Congregations	6
The Community	7
The Minister	9
Ministry priorities	10

Placement Details

Synod	Victoria and Tasmania	
Presbytery	Port Phillip East	
Name of Placement	Mount Waverley Uniting Church	
Placement site Address(es)	Mount Waverley	
Office location(s)	37 Virginia Street and 482 High Street Road, Mount Waverley	
Congregations/agencies associated with this placement		
Ministry leadership being sought <i>(please tick as many as you wish)</i>	Specific ministry role:	
	Minister of the Word <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Deacon <input type="checkbox"/> Ministry of Pastor <input type="checkbox"/>
Specific details	Additional placement <input type="checkbox"/>	Replacement placement <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Full Time <input type="checkbox"/> Part Time <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	0.5 EFT
	Earliest Start Date	1/03/2023
Permission sought to advertise	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Reason (Presbytery)		
Is Priority Placement recommended by Presbytery?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	
Reason (Presbytery)		
Website	https://mountwaverleyunitingchurch.org.au/	
Social Media		
Google map link	https://goo.gl/maps/116hervbnLGSDb8dA	

Area map



The Congregation

The Mount Waverley Uniting Church was formed in 2021 as an amalgamation of the former High Street Road Uniting and St John's Uniting Churches. Our proud history dates from 1887 through the growth of vibrant Methodist and Presbyterian urban congregations.

Our Vision:

Following Christ, walking together as First and Second Peoples, empowered through prayer by the Holy Spirit, seeking community, compassion and justice for all creation. Refer to our more detailed Vision and Values Statement appended to this profile.

Our Mission:

To empower individuals to grow in faith and commitment so that they can share in the Good News of Jesus Christ and together as a vibrant Christian community, embody and enact our Vision, thus enabling God's Mission to be fulfilled.

Our Mission Priorities:

- To continue our work in building an intercultural/intergenerational community church, open seven days a week and offering generous and inclusive hospitality to all. Hospitality will be at the heart of our mission with a particular outreach to all newcomers and people of diverse cultural backgrounds.
- To continue to work with the other Uniting Churches in the Mt Waverley – Chadstone area in order that we can better serve our community and provide in the long term, a strong, vibrant Uniting Church presence, under God.
- To discern how as a new congregation we might best serve God's Mission in our area and beyond, working with other Uniting Churches and Agencies in our area, the wider church and community partners, particularly with young people as we further explore the possibility of a shop front church in the Mt Waverley Village. We will also further our work in the area of homelessness and people with dementia and their carers.
- Spiritual nurture.
- Fellowship and pastoral care, particularly focussed on the many older members of our congregation.

Our congregation

- Welcoming, inclusive, forward thinking older congregation with committed and experienced leadership. It includes people from many different Christian backgrounds.
- On 13 September 2020 High Street Road (HSR) and St John's Mount Waverley congregations agreed to amalgamate. This was approved by our Presbytery Standing Committee on 13 October 2020. The new congregation took effect on 1 January 2021 and is now known as the Mount Waverley Uniting Church.
- We cooperate extensively with our neighbouring Uniting Churches, St Luke's Mt Waverley, and the Melbourne Fijian Uniting Church (MFUC), which we have referred to as our 'cluster churches' since 2010. We have cross-cluster committees for Adult Growth & Development, Social Justice & Mission, thereby enhancing our ability to service the needs of congregational members and the wider community.
- Broad Uniting Church theology and philosophy – modern, traditional and everything in between.
- We respect and continually seek greater understanding of non-European perspectives.
- We seek to proclaim the Gospel in engaging relevant language and theology.
- We have appeal beyond our current membership base through online worship
- We view social justice as a very important part of the Gospel and its life.

- We are a caring community providing and sharing a high level of pastoral care.
- Age distribution reflects that of the wider Uniting Church, with most over 60.
- Fellowship and community groups make regular use of our buildings.

If there are multiple congregations (or worshipping groups) in the placement, describe how they are related.

--

What ethnic and language groups are represented in the congregation?

What proportion of the congregation does each represent?

Mostly Caucasian with a few from Sri Lanka and Tonga.

What languages are spoken in the life of your:

Congregation, by		Community, by	
Individuals	English	Individuals	Multilingual community
Groups		Groups	

What languages are spoken by the congregation in worship?

English

Describe any involvement your congregation has in covenanting activities.

We invite aboriginal people to meet with us. We visited Narana Aboriginal Cultural Centre in March, 2019.

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

Uniting VicTas, 321 Ferntree Gully Road, Mount Waverley Uniting Emergency Relief, 220 Burwood Highway, East Burwood Yernga, Uniting AgeWell, 32-42 Larch Crescent, Mount Waverley St Marks, Uniting AgeWell, Burton Street, Chadstone Wesley College, High Street Road, Glen Waverley

Mission

What are three missional activities that your congregations does best?

- Local activities including Kids Hope, Community Christmas lunch, Cafe ministry, Shawl ministry
- Support for Synod, Assembly and other activities through Mission Liaison Group, Pancakes in the Village, Frontier Services BBQ, Christmas Bowl, Easter biscuits for Prison Fellowship
- Interchurch ministry with the Mount Waverley/Chadstone ICC including Good Friday Way of the Cross, Food for Friends, Carols in the Village
- Community engagement through seminars and other events

What are three missional activities your congregation would like to do better?

- Shop front ministry
- Support disadvantaged, homeless and lonely people in the community
- Christian Education, particularly for faith formation

How has the congregation changed in the past two years?

- HSR and St John's have amalgamated to become the Mount Waverley Uniting Church. We continue to work closely with our cluster churches, St Luke's, and MFUC and remain open to them joining us in the future. At present 25% of Rev Semisi Tauali'i's time is engaged in ministry with the MFUC. This will cease in February 2023.
- We are part of joint cluster groups, the Adult Growth & Development Committee and the Social Justice and Mission Committee, both of which hold a range of activities, including public community forums and also work with the City of Monash, Uniting Agencies and other organisations working in the area of homelessness and aged care and dementia.
- The number of children has gradually declined with only occasional attendance at face to face services. However anecdotal evidence indicates that children and families are watching our online services regularly.
- The placement/congregation changed dramatically with the advent of the coronavirus pandemic, particularly with the need to develop online worship. Numbers returning to face to face worship are now increasing.

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

The congregation(s)/placement's goals

- To engage with new people through online worship and new people with different cultural backgrounds.
- To engage with young people, such as, by exploring a shop front church in Mt Waverley Village and engaging with the MFUC and the Bethel Korean Presbyterian Church who have been tenants in our Virginia suite of buildings since 2007.
- To continue to increase collaboration with St Luke's Mt Waverley, and MFUC and together increase connection to the wider community, through shared mission and community forums.
- To share in the mission of community agencies and church agencies in the areas of homelessness and dementia support with our cluster churches.
- To conduct worship services in a manner that will address the broad needs of the congregation and develop worship styles with appeal beyond our current membership base including online worship.
- To support Christian education and faith formation at all levels and provide creative approaches to teaching to reach a broad range of people within and beyond the

congregation. This is seen as particularly important as we engage with people experiencing the simultaneous challenges of change with both coronavirus and lockdown and with the forming of our new congregation.

- To provide pastoral care ministry within the congregation and the wider community and particularly addressing the concerns of members facing the multitude of changes in our society and our churches.

The next Strategic Steps to achieving our goals

- Sale of the HSR property to release funds to develop and refurbish the Virginia St property – currently working with Synod property team.
- Implementation of designs for the provision of new toilet, laundry and showering facilities at Virginia St which will enable the congregation to support the homeless and join with other churches in winter shelter programmes.
- Strengthening our ties with MFUC, Bethel Korean Presbyterian Church and other intercultural congregations.
- Church services and activities will be more inclusive and intercultural. This may mean additional services or services at different times.
- We will continue to explore the possibilities of shop front ministry, and activities supporting the community such as dementia and the homeless.
- Further developing and expanding our online presence, and use of social media. We are currently upgrading our technology – hardware, software and skills in order that our worship and engagement with the wider community can reach the widest audience in the most contemporary ways.
- Further investigate a shop front church in Mt Waverley Village to engage with young people and develop relationships with possible church and community partners.
- Continue to engage with St Luke's and MFUC in ways that leaves the door open for them to consider formally joining us on the journey to oneness.
- In partnership with our cluster churches develop creative and engaging approaches to Christian education and faith formation and continue to hold public forums that address issues of concern within the wider community.
- We have recently appointed a Chaplain to the Ministers and Congregation to strengthen our provision of pastoral care to both the ministers and members of the congregation, particularly in these times of immense change both within our own congregation and the wider community.

Multiple Congregations

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

List the names of congregations relevant to the placement:

This placement is with the Mount Waverley Uniting Church. We cooperate with St Luke's Uniting Church Mount Waverley, the Melbourne Fijian Uniting Church and the Bethel Korean Presbyterian Church of Melbourne.

What are the unique characteristics of the various congregations?

We are an active congregation with significant skills and capacity.

Describe the existing or potential relationships between the congregations. How do they interact, or do any groups interact?

Since 2010, we have operated as an informal cluster with St Luke's Uniting Church Mount Waverley and the Fijian Uniting Church of Melbourne. We hold joint services to celebrate the birthday of the Uniting Church and on Christmas Eve and New Year and cooperate in a number of activities including Social Justice and Adult Growth and Development groups.

With our cluster churches – St Luke’s and Melbourne Fijian:

- Joint Adult Growth & Development Committee.
- Joint Social Justice & Mission Committee.
- Way of the Cross at Easter.
- Annual combined worship service celebrating the UCA Anniversary.
- We have held joint Lenten and Advent studies.
- Islander night with Melbourne Fijian and Tongan friends.
- We worship with St Luke’s on Christmas Eve and New Year’s Eve

With Bethel Korean Presbyterian Congregation who rent Virginia St facilities:

- Shared meal and fellowship twice yearly.
- Prayer service on Friday nights.
- Youth Service three times a year.
- Bethel representative on our Property Committee.
- Bethel representatives attend Church Council meetings by invitation

How long have the congregations been working together?

There has been an informal cluster of St Luke’s, St Mark’s, Melbourne Fijian Church with High Street Road and St John’s since 2010. This led to the amalgamation of HSR and St John’s. The Korean Bethel Presbyterian Church have rented the Virginia Street facilities since 2007.

Are there others beside the minister who work with more than one congregation?

Yes. Committees of Adult Growth and Development, and Social Justice and Mission in Society are joint groups with St Luke’s. Congregation members participate in the activities.

Is ministerial time or activity expected to be divided in a particular way?

This is a team ministry with Rev Semisi Tauali’i (FT) and Cathryn Peppiatt (Pastor) (0.4 EFT). Details will be worked out with the team and will depend on the complimentary skills and interests.

The Community

Describe the community context of your ministry?

- Established joint cluster committees for Social Justice & Mission and Homelessness, Pancake Day in Mt Waverley Village, Frontier Services BBQ, Pingpongathon team, and produced a video celebrating the 75th Anniversary of the United Nations.
- Café ministry.
- Men’s lunch.
- Christmas Day Lunch.
- Provide backpacks with school supplies for Mission Liaison that go to Polynesian countries.
- Provide Pamper Handbags for women (Uniting Harrison)
- Playgroups at Virginia St.
- Table Tennis at HSR, Indoor Bowls at Virginia St, Tennis Club, Saturday Club at HSR. A number of fellowship groups across both congregations. Both congregations also connect with our many tenants.

- Holding of public forums with our cluster churches that address issues of concern within the wider community, Homelessness, Dementia, End of Life Issues, Meet the Candidates for Federal and State Elections, Meeting the Challenge of Declining Social Trust and Climate Change, Domestic Violence.
- Mentoring for Kids Hope program at Mt Waverley Primary School.
- Support for breakfast program at Mt Waverly Secondary College
- Active participation in Waverley-Chadstone Inter Church Council – Lenten Studies, Way of the Cross, Ecumenical Visiting Sunday, Food for Friends, Ecumenical Hymn Singing.
- Prayer Shawl Ministry – local, national and international distribution.
- Easter biscuits for Prison Fellowship
- Fundraising and outreach support including – Hilltop Market, Mission Projects, Outer Eastern Asylum Seekers Support Network, Monash Waverley Community Information & Support emergency relief, Possible Dreams International in Eswatini (Swaziland), Cottage by the Sea, significant Mission and Service contribution.
- Active participation in Monash Interfaith Gathering.

What makes this an enjoyable place to live?

- Our neighbours make Mount Waverley the best place to live.
- An education hub with government and private schools, located between Monash and Deakin Universities.
- Many parks and facilities for community and sporting activities.
- A well-developed public transport system with train and bus services, and road network including the Monash Freeway.

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

- Increasing homelessness both of young people and seniors - particularly older women.
- Increasing numbers of people suffering from dementia, living at home with their carers.
- Increasing incidence of mental unwellness across the wider community and within our own congregation.
- Development of the Mount Waverley Village Shopping Centre and high-rise buildings are points of concern.

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

Poorly.

Our congregation is mostly Caucasian and elderly.

Based on the 2021 Census for Mount Waverley 3149,

- Population of Mt Waverley 35,340, an increase of 3.0% since 2016 (4.8% for Victoria)
- Of these, 1048 or 3.0% nominate Uniting (2.6% for Victoria)
- Substantial migrants with 47.7% born overseas (31.6% for Victoria)
- 47.0% speak English at home (67.2% for Victoria)
- 12.0% have little or no English
- 3.0% nominate Uniting compared with 4.2% at the 2016 census (a fall of 25.4%)

What community facilities are present in the local area?

Mount Waverley is well serviced by Monash City Council and community groups. There is a library and community centre adjacent to the railway station. The suburb has many excellent parks and recreational facilities. There are clubs for all sports in Mount Waverley and adjacent suburbs.

Community institutions include Monash Waverley Community Information and Support and Uniting and Uniting Agewell services.
Education facilities include Mt Waverley North Primary, Mt Waverley Primary, Syndal South Primary, Mt Waverley Secondary College, Wesley College, Holy Family School, Avilla College, Huntingtower School.
Medical facilities include Monash Medical Centre, Box Hill Hospital and Waverley Private Hospital.

The Minister

What are the primary responsibilities expected of the role?

- Work in team ministry with Rev Semisi and Cathryn and with lay leaders to further the primary goal of our mission with a strong commitment to the current congregational “Mission and Vision Statement” building an intercultural/intergenerational community church.
- Engage with congregations of other cultures in the City of Monash, particularly the MFUC and the Bethel Korean Presbyterian Church with a view to strengthening our ties.
- Engage with young people, particularly in an intercultural context.
- Work with Rev Semisi and Church Council in exploring the development of a shop front church in Mt Waverley village.
- Conduct worship services in a manner that will service the broad needs of the congregation and develop worship styles which will appeal to an intercultural/intergenerational church.
- Work with Elders and our Chaplain to provide pastoral care ministry of the congregation both within the congregation and the wider community.

What qualities are important in a new minister in this placement?

- Able to inspire, encourage and support the congregation in developing their vision for mission
- Able to engage with and develop new Christians
- Able to work in a team ministry and collaboratively with other churches and ministers
- Strong understanding and experience in intercultural ministry and how to bring different cultures together harmoniously
- Able to work with the congregation to serve the local community, partner with agencies and connect with people of various ages and backgrounds
- Able to pastorally care for people experiencing times of extreme change
- Strong technology skills desirable

Name up to five areas which would be expected to be a high priority for the Minister, and explain why these are included.

- Leadership of worship and proclamation of the gospel is the key responsibility. An online congregation has been developed during the Covid period.
- Nurturing people in their faith, spiritual development, and capacity to share faith with others
- Assisting congregation in vision for mission. This is seen as essential for a 21st century intercultural Uniting Church in Mount Waverley.
- Developing cross cultural understanding, relationships and ministry. We live in a multicultural community, and have the opportunity to fully engage with ethnic groups who meet locally.
- Establishing new worship communities (including online and shop front). Following the recent amalgamation, despite the fact that we are all aging, the congregation is keen to support new ventures.

Explain any language requirements or preferences for the placement.

Empathy with Korean and/or Fijian could be an advantage.

Is this placement part of a team ministry?

Yes

No

If so, list other placements (including name, designation and placement date) associated with the congregation(s).

- Rev Semisi Tauali'i, Minister of the Word, from 2018
- Cathryn Peppiatt (Pastor), Chaplain to the Ministers and Congregation, from 2022

Describe any other leadership team arrangements with which the Minister will work in the placement.

- Rev James Douglas, Minister of the Word, St Luke's Mount Waverley.
- Other ministers in the Mount Waverley/Chadstone Inter-church Council

What housing arrangements are available to the minister?

(Note that it is a responsibility of the placement to provide housing for the Minister unless the Minister chooses to live in her/his own home).

- The congregation does not have a manse available for this settlement. Our second manse is rented and will be sold as part of the sale of the High Street Road property.
- We will pay a manse allowance as determined by Synod if the minister lives in their own home. Otherwise, the congregation will rent a suitable home.
- A Minister's office and a church office are located in the church building at each of our two sites.

Ministry priorities

As your placement/congregation(s) contemplate future ministry, please consider the priorities that have been adopted by the congregation(s) and the gifts and skills you will be seeking.

List up to five priority areas that you have identified as important for the Minister in this placement.

- Work in team ministry and with lay leaders to further the primary goal of our mission - to continue our work in building an intercultural/intergenerational community church
- Engage with congregations of other cultures in the City of Monash, particularly the MFUC and Bethel Korean Presbyterian Church with a view to strengthening our ties.
- Engage with young people, particularly in an intercultural context.
- Work with Rev Semisi and Church Council in exploring the development of a shop front church in Mt Waverley village.
- Conduct worship services in a manner that will service the broad needs of the congregation and develop worship styles which will appeal to an intercultural/intergenerational church.
- Work with Elders and our Chaplain to provide pastoral care ministry of the congregation both within the congregation and the wider community.