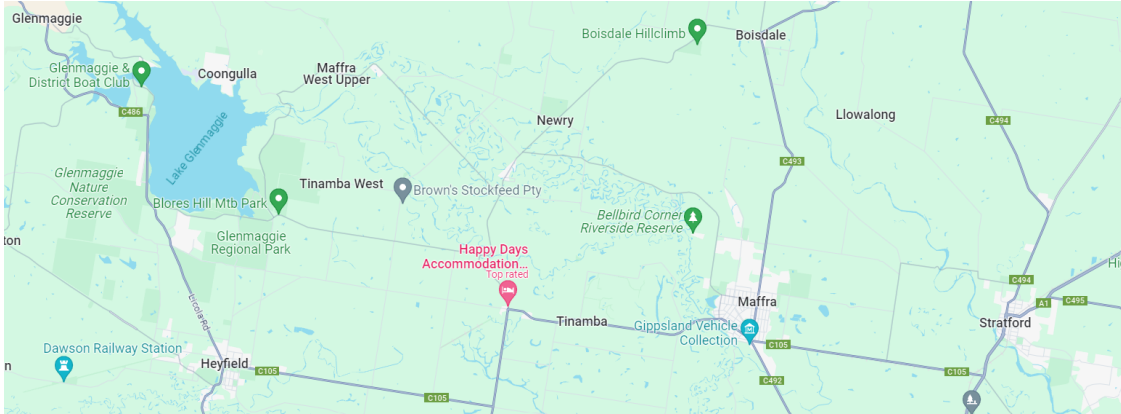
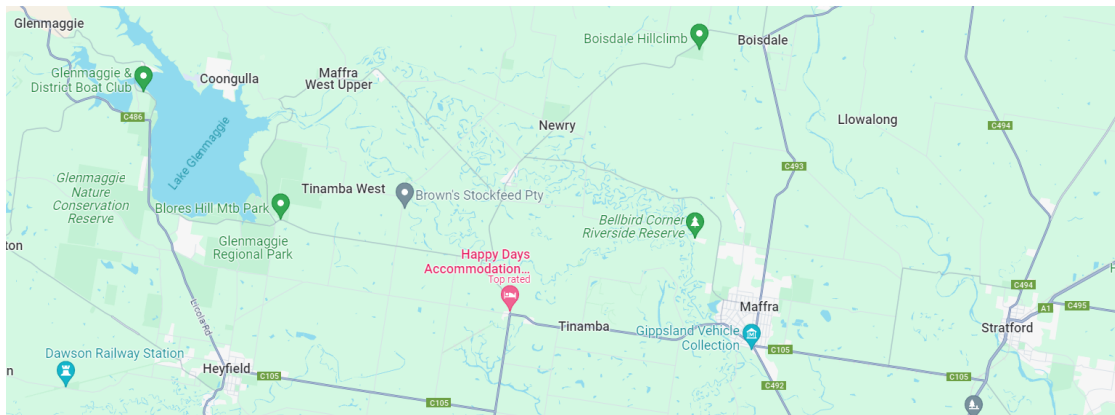


## Placement Profile: MAFFRA

A1	Presbytery	Gippsland Presbytery
A2	Name of Placement	Currawong Team
A3	Placement city/suburb/town	<b>MAFFRA</b>
A4	Church/Office location(s)	9/9A Pearson St Maffra
A5	Congregations and agencies associated with this placement	Maffra, Sale and Stratford
A6	<b>Ministry leadership being sought</b>	Specific ministry role: <input type="text"/>
		Minister of the Word <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Deacon <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ministry of Pastor <input type="checkbox"/>
		Ordinand <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
A7	<b>Specific details</b>	Additional placement <input type="checkbox"/> Replacement placement <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
		Full Time <input type="checkbox"/> Part Time <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Time fraction <input type="text"/>
		Earliest Start Date: 1/01/2024
A8	<b>Placement term</b>	Undefined <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Up to 10 years (see Reg 2.7.3(a))
		Fixed Term <input type="checkbox"/> Required for non-congregational placements (see Reg 2.7.3(b)) Years <input type="text"/>
A9	<b>To be completed by Presbytery, with reasons given on page 9:</b>	
	Is permission sought to advertise?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Is a Priority Placement recommended?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
A10	<b>Website</b>	<a href="http://maffra.ucavictas.org.au">http://maffra.ucavictas.org.au</a>
A11	<b>Social Media</b>	<input type="text"/>
A12	<b>Google map link</b>	<a href="https://maps.app.goo.gl/nKdQQNKCPQYFNMCH8">https://maps.app.goo.gl/nKdQQNKCPQYFNMCH8</a>
A13	<b>Area map (paste image)</b>	



## 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.**

Our Vision is "Christ, Community and Caring."

Our broad goals are "New life, leadership and encouragement with support to embrace some change" Maffra's primary purpose for the placement is Preaching, Teaching and Pastoral oversight.

The vision, goals and purpose were established with broad congregation input throughout.

Our congregation has a majority of members who are very committed, flexible and enthusiastic. Everyone who has the capacity assists with Church services, church-related activities, administration and/or mission.

The main demographic is from 60 to 95 years old. In the congregation we currently we have about 7 who are 90+, 13 who are 80+, 15 who are 70+, 15 who are 60+, 2 who are younger, and 5 grandchildren who attend Sunday activities regularly. The congregation loves the monthly participation of the children in church services.

We wish to evolve with the new minister, (whether Minister, Deacon or Pastor), working together to assess ideas and needs in the community and to work in new ways that we can achieve together.

In the first half of 2023, during congregation meetings and information sessions, we established how the congregation would like to worship in the future, knowing that we would not be financial enough to call a minister on our own at the moment. Congregation members provided lots of different ideas, which were circulated and discussed, culminating in the congregation voting in preference order for the 5 ideas that had received the most traction. Sharing a minister with other Currawong churches, streaming of services, and local members leading services assisted by Fig Tree resources were the top three results.

The congregation feedback led the Church Council Executive to subsequently initiate a meeting with Stratford and subsequently Sale to investigate ways we could possibly share a minister in the future, leading to this shared profile.

Maffra UC has already committed to purchasing and using equipment to stream services both inward and outward which we hope will be operating when our pastor leaves in March. We are also establishing a new website with assistance from Synod and a greater online presence, and will use congregation and community ideas to develop these further.

The Maffra congregation work closely with the Maffra Anglican Church, the Maffra Catholic Church, and the Community Church when they wish to join in, as a group called the Combined Churches. We combine in the Maffra Palm Sunday Walk, World Day of Prayer, Week of Prayer for Christian Unity and Pentecost Lunch, Easter Dawn Service and Advent Lunch as forms of worship to which the whole community is welcome; and in mission via the Christmas Market show bags for children, taking Christmas cards to isolated people, cutting up school lunches, providing hampers to needy families within the community for Christmas, and fundraising for disaster relief fund/local and overseas. We also share in the leading of weekly Aged Care worship services.

We have a quilt group, a fellowship group, a St Vincent de Paul BBQ for mission monthly, collect backpacks and resources for the children of Pacific Islands, donate money to church related appeals and organisations, hire out our hall for local groups and community events, and conduct a very well supported annual cake stall and election day market in our church grounds.

There are public transport facilities within and between Maffra and Sale, and to and from Melbourne. We have regular lay preacher services both from local towns as well as guest speakers from Melbourne and further afield accommodated with congregation provided overnight stays if desired.

All of our church executive are people who have come to live in Maffra from other places and have stayed due to the strong sense of community, the people we have met, the great weather, facilities and environment. We have been very happy with all that the region has to offer and with the local kindergartens and schools where we have sent our children - a testament to Maffra being a great place to live.

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

Our initial priority is to establish our new ways of worshipping after our current pastor leaves in March 2024, whether via a shared minister, streaming to and from other churches, or congregation members/group leading services using Fig tree or other resources. These were identified by the congregation over consultation during winter 2023 as their top preferences for our future worship.

There was a strong desire by many members to involve more families, and hopefully younger families, more in the life of our church. We hope to start this by engaging more online and in social media, sharing our Uniting Church philosophy, life and activities, and are open to other ideas. Hence, we are currently learning how to develop and maintain a website for easy access by our community and beyond, including current church activities, worship services and resources. The ability to live stream church services and activities both inwards and outwards was another priority. We have already talked with technology people about the equipment we need and have committed to purchasing it and doing the required training in its use.

**B3 Does this placement relate to more than one congregation?** Yes  No   
**If so, provide details on page 6.**

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

Our congregation is almost completely Anglo-Saxon.

**B5 What languages are spoken in the life of your:**

Congregation, by		Community, by	
Individuals	English	Individuals	English, mostly
Groups	English	Groups	English, mostly

**B6 What languages are spoken by the congregation in worship?**

English only

**B7 Describe any involvement your congregation has in covenanting activities.**

The congregation acknowledges Country, with context rather than parroting a standard phrase, at the start of each Church Service. We don't have any specific formal congregation arrangements with any of the very few local Koories, whose groups and services are mostly in Sale. A few of the congregation members have done training in yarnning circles and the best ways to inter-relate, as well as working with Koorie educators in the Maffra schools.

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

We have a Uniting Vic Tas in Sale and there are no UCA schools locally with which our Uniting Church has a relationship.

## C Mission

### C1 List three of your missional activities that your congregation does best?

Jack Kelly monthly barbeque at the St Vincent de Paul Saturday morning market in Maffra. It raises about \$3000 - \$3500 per year and all monies raised support mission both locally and further afield. Working with the Mission Liaison Group organising backpacks and school resources for disadvantaged students in the Pacific Islands, typically a car full of about 50 backpacks and resources. Pastoral care for the regular congregation as well as people who are isolated. This was particularly noticeable during the first two Covid years when individual relationships between Elders and their pastoral groups deepened and strengthened. Our congregation give to the Lenten Appeal, TEAR Fund, Uniting, Uniting World, Share, Christmas Bowl, the Leprosy Mission and Frontier Services each year.

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

Involving more families, and hopefully younger families, more in the life of our church. We hope to start this by engaging more online and in social media, sharing our Uniting Church philosophy, life and activities. Develop and maintain a website for easy access by our community and beyond, including current church activities, worship services and resources. Live streaming church services and activities both inwards and outwards.

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

The congregation has reduced in numbers primarily due to deaths or people having to live in aged care facilities. In the last two years there have been two direct transfers in and 4 new people who worship with us on a regular basis. A number of members are becoming increasingly frail and find it hard to physically attend church services while retaining their enthusiasm to be connected and part of our church life.

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

We will have an accessible and functioning website and increased online presence compared to our current situation. We will be streaming church services both into and out from our church. There may be more involvement with some younger people in our community. Congregation members lead church services when needed. A further reduction in numbers due to the age demographic of our congregation.


## D The Community

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

Maffra and the local district have a population of about 6500 people. Maffra is a very active and dynamic community in the Gippsland Region. It has many service clubs and sporting clubs all with outstanding facilities, as well as a wide variety of community and interest groups, probably proportionally more than in other rural communities. It is primarily an agricultural farming and vegetable growing community, with connections to ESSO and the Longford oil base. Several large-scale solar projects are being developed on ground and in the sea locally over the next few years which will provide new employment opportunities. There are quite strong pockets of people strongly concerned about the environment and climate change. Sale has a RAAF base with a significant number of employees and their families. There are Government and Catholic primary schools in Maffra as well as a secondary college in Maffra to which attend along with students from 13 district feeder primary schools. There is a Catholic secondary college, an Independent Primary and Anglican secondary college, and a specialist school, as well as TAFE, in the nearby town of Sale about 20 km away. There are two kindergartens in Maffra and two childcare centres.

### D2 What makes this an enjoyable place to live?

Our physical environment, great weather, facilities, and connected communities make Maffra an enjoyable place to live.



We are within an hour's drive to the beautiful 90-mile beach, mountains, national parks and many large rivers very accessible to many sporting and outdoor activities. The Glenmaggie Weir provides opportunities for water sports as well as the provision of irrigation to dairy farms and agricultural produce. Melbourne is readily accessible by public transport as well as car. Overall, we have strong communities in Maffra and surrounding small local towns who are very supportive and generous of the many charities that we have in our community and are very good at looking after each other in times of need. We even have several places where you can buy good coffee. 😊

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

Financial stress is an issue for some as we are a rural community but, in general, Maffra and district is a relatively prosperous area. Some local issues are drought, floods, and fire as is usual these days in a largely rural area. Also fluctuating milk prices and animal and vegetable produce growth, prices and transport affect some. Alcohol, housing and gambling adversely affect some but in no greater proportion than many other localities and probably less than a lot.

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

Our congregation very much reflects the local community with a cross section of rural and town-based people but has a higher proportion of people over the age of 60.

**D5 What community facilities are present in the local area?**

Sporting pursuits are very big in Maffra with many high-quality facilities for football, netball, basketball, hockey, cricket, cycling, golf, racquetball, a hill-climb and motorbike rooms. There are several halls for dancing, aerobics, tai-chi, yoga etc catering for a wide variety of interest groups. Maffra and local small towns have very high-quality CFAs who are serious about training and often win medals in CFA competitions.

There is a Vehicle Museum with many car enthusiasts showcasing and running many events which attract large crowds from across the country. Supporting the outdoors for more casual times, there are many well-maintained recreational areas and green spaces, often adjoining rivers or lakes.

There are excellent government and non-government schools as well as early childhood facilities.

There is a regional hospital in Sale as well as a smaller hospital in Maffra. We have a lot of medical facilities, pharmacies and doctors in both towns and also Aged Care facilities. We have supermarkets in all three towns

We have well-resourced public libraries in each town, local book clubs, (including a men's book club), garden club, birdwatching group, photography group, bushwalking club, municipal bands in both Maffra and Sale, choral groups and film societies, neighbourhood houses holding various classes, men's and women's sheds. Sale has a Performing Arts Centre and a Sale Art gallery.

## Placement Profile: STRATFORD

<b>A1 Presbytery</b>	Gippsland Presbytery		
<b>A2 Name of Placement</b>	Currawong Team		
<b>A3 Placement city/suburb/town</b>	STRATFORD		
<b>A4 Church/Office location(s)</b>	11 Jones Street Stratford		
<b>A5 Congregations and agencies associated with this placement</b>	STRATFORD VIC 3862		
<b>A6 Ministry leadership being sought</b>	Specific ministry role:	<input type="text"/>	
	Minister of the Word <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Deacon <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Ministry of Pastor <input type="checkbox"/>
	Ordinand <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
<b>A7 Specific details</b>	Additional placement <input type="checkbox"/>	Replacement placement <input type="checkbox"/>	
	Full Time <input type="checkbox"/> Part Time <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Time fraction	<input type="text" value="To be negotiated"/>
	Earliest Start Date:	Click here to enter a date.	
<b>A8 Placement term</b>	Undefined <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Up to 10 years (see Reg 2.7.3(a))	
	Fixed Term	Required for non-congregational placements (see Reg 2.7.3(b))	Years <input type="text"/>
<b>A9 To be completed by Presbytery, with reasons given on page 20:</b>	Is permission sought to advertise? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
	Is a Priority Placement recommended? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
<b>A10 Website</b>	<input type="text" value="www.stratfoducblogspot.com"/>		
<b>A11 Social Media</b>	<input type="text" value="https://www.facebook.com/StratfordUCA"/>		
<b>A12 Google map link</b>	<input type="text" value="Google map St Andrews UC Stratford"/>		
<b>A13 Area map (paste image)</b>			



## 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.**

Our congregation is elderly, supportive and socialise with each other. We understand ourselves as a welcoming and caring congregation, a good team. We have a small group of friends who continue to organise worship each week. We enjoy joyful music and are good singers, with some excellent musicians who provide the music for worship each week. We are open to some changes as we move into the future. Stratford is small and aging, yet they are committed to being a vital Uniting church presence in the community. We have struggled to return to post Covid vitality. Through committed leadership we have managed to maintain a regular worship life together. The church council would value an ordained minister who can lead them forward in Christian life and mission. The leaders of the congregation have recently been involved in conversations with the congregations within the Currawong team (Sale, and Maffra/Heyfield). These conversations have given all the congregations an opportunity to think of the future and how to provide ministry across the team.

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

We have a strong church council and a faithful congregation. The congregation prays that it will continue to work together and support each other in its Outreach and Mission. Along with maintenance and on-going activities, there is new focus and initiatives to continue, in the years ahead, with the successful areas of Ecumenical and Community participation. The support of Missions will be an important part of Stratford's future planning, especially developing ways of strengthening and of conducting more effectively our relationship with the Vanuatu and the Pacific Island Community, both overseas and with those in our midst.

**B3 Does this placement relate to more than one congregation?**

Yes  No

**If so, provide details on page 18.**

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

English

**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 activities.**

The UCA works in official partnership with the Presbyterian Church of Vanuatu and also has a joint contract with the Salvation Army to provide the Australian Government's Community Connections support to Pacific Islander Seasonal Workers in Australia. Members of this congregation partner with the Vanuatu Presbyterian Church (PCVHEALTH) in offering optical, medical and dental services to people in Vanuatu, often in remote communities who otherwise have no such assistance. This includes paying the Indigenous staffs' wages and operational costs. Congregation members are also key people in a food security program, growing potatoes, and act as support for Seasonal Workers in Australia.

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

Uniting Vic. Tas - 10 Over 55 Senior Units on Church Grounds.

## C Mission

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

We as a church have a Mission to reach out to the wider church and community. This is achieved by an involvement in the Ecumenical life of our Community. Each of the three churches in our community support each other's activities such as regular Ecumenical Services, the Anglican -Op-Shop and Annual Community Carols and Family Time.

All members have a strong Mission to support others outside of their own congregation. They feel that keeping God's word alive in our own and neighbouring churches is a Mission in itself, This also is achieved by Services led by the members of the congregation in Local Nursing Home's and Pastoral visits to the elderly and those no longer able to attend Services.

The outreach and Mission to Vanuatu has been a very long standing one and continues with financial, material and ongoing prayer support. Members of our congregation visit Vanuatu regularly and over the years there has been opportunities for a two way reach-out between Vanuatu and our congregation.

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

We would like to strengthen our presence in the community and continue to support our ecumenical ventures. Reintroduce prayer groups and explore Christian meditation.

As a congregation we would like to be able to focus more in the community and less on institutional church structures.

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

The retirement of Rev. Barbara Strickland in July 31 2022 has meant that we are now more dependent upon ourselves.

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

As we have acknowledged the community around us is changing and growing, it is unfortunate that there are no young families coming to our church. We would like to be able to build the congregation up in faith and numbers, however, with the lack of ministry leadership overall makes this difficult. As has been mentioned Covid has made it difficult to return to our pre Covid activities. We would like to be able to offer some support in the schools either scholastically or financially and it is disappointing that R.E. is no longer viable in the state schools. We feel that church leadership is out of touch with average person in the pews and the communication from the church leadership is too much. A question was raised in, what is the focus of our reason for being?

## D The Community

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


Stratford is a growing rural community. This growth is noticed in the number of young families that are relocating into the town. This influx of predominately young families is adding to already diverse demographic and the growth of a new housing development. The town is well serviced and the comment was made that we can be self-sufficient in some areas.

**D2 What makes this an enjoyable place to live?**

Rural atmosphere- Supportive and involved community.

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





It has been a challenge keeping our church community together especially post Covid, however we have survived Covid and are doing the best we can. One of our main challenges is the lack of leadership (ordained) to guide us We would like to strengthen our presence in the community and continue to support our ecumenical ventures. Reintroduce prayer groups and explore Christian meditation. As a congregation we would like to be able to focus more in the community and less on institutional church structures.

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

Not at all as we are an older group and the community demographics younger families.

**D5 What community facilities are present in the local area?**

Although volunteering is down across many groups, there are a variety of groups within the town. E.g. scouts, and sports groups. This drop in volunteering was put down to both parents working. The community continues to expand at a rapid pace, some members would say this expansion is occurring too rapidly. It was noted that the church was a source of leadership in the community and this is no longer the case.  
2 Primary Schools Public and Roman Catholic- Medical Practice- Pharmacy- Butcher- Baker-IGA-  
3 Churches- Tourist shops and Hospitality- Sporting clubs-Hardware Store- Petrol Station

## Placement Profile: SALE

**A1 Presbytery**

Gippsland Presbytery

**A2 Name of Placement**

Currawong Team

**A3 Placement city/suburb/town**

**SALE**

**A4 Church/Office location(s)**

131-171 Raymond St, Sale

**A5 Congregations and agencies associated with this placement**

Sale, Stratford and Maffra congregations

**A6 Ministry leadership being sought**

Specific ministry role:

Minister of the Word  Deacon  Ministry of Pastor

Ordinand

**A7 Specific details**

Additional placement  Replacement placement

Full Time  Part Time  Time fraction

Earliest Start Date: [Click here to enter a date.](#)

**A8 Placement term**

Undefined  Up to 10 years (see Reg 2.7.3(a))

Fixed Term <input type="checkbox"/>	Required for non-congregational placements (see Reg 2.7.3(b))	Years	<input type="text"/>
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**A9 To be completed by Presbytery, with reasons given on page 20:**

Is permission sought to advertise?

Yes  No

Is a Priority Placement recommended?

Yes  No

**A10 Website**

[www.saleunitingchurch.com](http://www.saleunitingchurch.com)

**A11 Social Media**

Facebook - St Columba's Uniting Church, Sale

**A12 Google map link**

[St. Columba's Uniting Church - Google Maps](#)

**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.**

The Sale congregation would like to be a good neighbour, bold and adventurous; an active presence, aware of the needs of others, engaging in conversations about Christianity in the community, expressing an inclusive ministry with youth, refugees, LGBTI folk and First Peoples, and building visibility and brand identity through social media.

The reality is that we are a small and ageing congregation, with dwindling numbers and energy, who enjoy good fellowship and Sunday lunch together. We provide a visitation program to aged care facilities. We're grateful that we have financial viability but realise that we need help to adapt and change. We have ecumenical connections that could be strengthened and we're good at praying for others. Sale is a cathedral city for the Anglicans and Roman Catholics, and home to many other denominations.

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

Engaging in new mission initiatives beyond traditional structures.  
Fostering mission and service in local community.  
Leadership of worship and proclamation of the gospel.  
Pastoral care and visitation.  
Reflecting theologically with the church and unchurched.

- B3 Does this placement relate to more than one congregation?**

Yes  No

**If so, provide details on page 18.**

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

English

- 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 activities.**

N/A

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

Uniting VicTas - Sale Agency



## C Mission

### C1 List three of your missional activities that your congregation does best?

Uniting – the church has an MOU with Sale Uniting. Uniting has the use of the church hall and kitchen to run several programs for its client base (cooking, playgroups, art groups.)  
Sale Men's Shed – the church provided the land for the shed to be built and continues to provide administration support; church members are on the committee of management.  
Wurruk Community House – the church provided the land on which the house is built. Church members support the house with pantry donations; church members are on the committee of management.

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

To develop support and relationships with seasonal agricultural workers.  
To support residents of the aged care facilities with visiting and spiritual support.  
To expand on the MOU with Uniting to provide for the community.

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

Everyone is two years older. We have survived Covid, we are still worshipping, and we have a few new faces.

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

With God's help, we can respond to the leading of the Spirit in creative ways and bring the essence of the gospel to our community.

## D The Community

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

Sale is a changing and growing regional town with a population of 14,300 and is located in Central Gippsland, 250km from Melbourne. New housing estates are being constructed on the outskirts. Alongside generations of locals, there are transient parts of the community through workers in the East Sale RAAF base, Esso and offshore gas production. Agriculture and tourism is important to the regional economy. Sale is the base for the Ramahyuck District Aboriginal Corporation. Although diverse, there is a stable, conservative core and Sale is a welcoming, caring and supportive community.

### D2 What makes this an enjoyable place to live?

Sale is a regional centre with most of the features of city living. Sale has educational, medical, and social facilities just like the city, but with a country lifestyle and charm. The Melbourne CBD is just 2.5 hours away, while the beaches, lakes and mountains are even closer.

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

Points of stress include isolation of older and disabled people, homelessness and lack of rental accommodation, drug and alcohol issues. There are opportunities to develop partnerships with the First Peoples, refugees, outreach programs and young people. The city has some good facilities but there is a need for meeting places for groups and increased advocacy for the marginalised.

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

Our congregation reflects the demographic of a rural Uniting church congregation. We don't have many young people associated with the congregation and most of the congregation are retired. The local community has people from a variety of different ethnic backgrounds, but there is not a community focus on any one particular ethnic group.

### D5 What community facilities are present in the local area?



There are six Primary, three Secondary and one Specialist school in Sale and Sale TAFE, Central Gippsland Health Service and Sale Hospital, and four aged care facilities. The community facilities include an impressive new library and art gallery, large entertainment centre, aquatic centre and multiple sporting venues and associations. The church is a short walk to the Port of Sale and a network of walking and bicycle tracks. Sale hosts a variety of shops, restaurants, hotels and clubs.