

PLACEMENT PROFILE

SECTION 1 – BASIC INFORMATION

1.1 Placement Name(s): Chadstone - St. Mark's and Melbourne
Fijian Uniting Churches

1.2 Please list congregations/agencies names below

● St. Marks Uniting Church

● Melbourne Fijian Uniting Church (MFUC)

●

●

1.3 Profile approved by Church Council/Governing Body 14 / 01 / 2019

1.4 Primary purpose of placement:

To offer pastoral ministry and visionary leadership to two culturally distinct congregations as they respond to the call of God to walk together, serving one another and reaching out to their community with the love and grace of God.

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

1.6 Time fraction: 0.7%

1.7 Term:

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

Fixed Term:

Initial Term reviewed in:

5 Years

2 Years

SECTION 2 – MISSION DIRECTION

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

Journeying Together – two congregations led by the Holy Spirit to maintain distinct identities yet share resources, ministries, mission and ministry leadership together. In so doing, we bear clearer witness to God's reconciling gifts to all peoples.

2.2 Date adopted 14 / 01 / 2019

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

St. Marks and Melbourne Fijian congregations share together ministries, mission, service, property and finance whilst maintaining our own distinct cultural identities and ministries. We have a desire to embody the gospel of Jesus Christ and serve the surrounding community in partnership with Uniting Program (Uniting Vic/Tas Ltd). Both congregations are part of a cluster with other Uniting Churches in the area and have ecumenical links with other churches and denominations.

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

Both congregations were distinct communities of faith differentiated around age, language, culture, identity, and sense of call. At the same time, both congregations have grown in their knowledge of one another over the past 12 years and are growing in our common identity as we look to the future. Each congregation has taught the other about diverse viewpoints on life, faith, worship, culture, ministry and mission.

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

To model how ethnically diverse congregations can walk forward together. We are committed to working together in everything that we can, and only doing separately those things that are specific to worship, witness and service in the vision, and purpose of each congregation.

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

- The two congregations are committed to an Interdependent model of congregational life to be more missionally effective, and to bear clearer witness to God's reconciling gifts to all peoples.
- St Mark's and MFUC commit to undertaking our mission and resource planning through One Church Council.
- There will be advisory committees that will have responsibility for those ministries and activities which cannot be undertaken jointly.

SECTION 3 – CONTEXT

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

Chadstone is a suburb in Melbourne southeast. It is a primarily middle-class area with a number of local primary and high schools. The area is increasingly becoming multicultural with one of Australia's largest shopping centres nearby.

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

St Marks is an aging anglo congregation with a number of members from different ethnic backgrounds. MFUC is a monocultural and intergenerational congregation whose members live regionally.

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

Homelessness in the Monash/ Waverley area. The Social Justice committee from the Cluster Churches (5 UC congregations in the area) are meeting regularly to see what they can do to help address this problem. Congregations seek to invite these people to shared meals.

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

- Members of the congregation assist the minister with the weekly worship services held three times a month for the clients of the Uniting Program who use our premises 5-6 days per week. Clients are frail elderly people.
- Non-perishable Food is collected each month for a) Monash/Waverley Community Information Support Centre and b) Asylum Seekers Centre (Dandenong).
- The Mt. Waverley Lion's Op Shop is manned for one week twice per year. Proceeds (after expenses have been deducted) are divided between the MW Lion's club and the charity staffing the shop.

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

Roman Catholic Schools – St. Mary Magdalene, Holy Redeemer, Holy Family Primary schools, Avila College and Salesian Brothers Secondary.

State Primary Schools – Mt. Waverley, Parkhill, Essex Heights and Sussex Heights,

Secondary Schools – Mt. Waverley, Ashwood Colleges.

Holmesglen TAFE.

Elizabeth Gardens and Scotchman's Creek Nursing Homes.