

PLACEMENT PROFILE

SECTION 1 – BASIC INFORMATION

1.1 Placement Name(s): Footscray Community Uniting Church

1.2 Please list congregations/agencies names below

- Footscray Community Uniting Church

1.3 Profile approved by Church Council/Governing Body 20/11/2018

1.4 Primary purpose of placement:

This placement is for a full time position that offers leadership of worship for, in particular the Anglo/Pacific Islander worship group within the single congregation of Footscray Community Uniting Church.

The placement is to provide leadership for the whole congregation and the other ministry agents, who are or will be, .5 non placement pastors, who provide worship leadership and pastoral care for the Dinka and Vietnamese worship groups.

It is expected there will be significant redevelopment of property based on strong mission principles during the term of this placement and leadership will also be provided, in conjunction with Synod officers, during this process.

1.5 Suitable for (bold all that apply): Minister of the Word

1.6 Time fraction: _____ 100 %

1.7 Term:

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

Fixed Term: _____ Years

Initial Term reviewed in: _____ Years

SECTION 2 – MISSION DIRECTION

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

Our vision is to be a community in Footscray that symbolises and lives out unity in diversity - a light to Footscray and the Western suburbs of Melbourne. The congregation sees itself as a single united congregation comprising of three worship groups who hold worship services in Dinka, Vietnamese and English

A shared vision is to grow in numbers, to nurture discipleship and learning for ourselves, for new Christians, for our young people. Also to grow in leadership, in music and worship, and in our mission to those in need in our community.

2.2 Date adopted 20/11/2018

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

This placement is for a full time position that offers leadership of worship for, in particular the Anglo/Pacific Islander worship group within the single congregation of Footscray Community Uniting Church.

The placement is also to provide leadership for the whole congregation and the other ministry agents who provide worship leadership and pastoral care for the Dinka and Vietnamese worship groups.

It is expected there will be significant redevelopment of property based on strong mission principles during the term of this placement and leadership will also be provided, in conjunction with Synod officers, during this process.

Sunday worship services

10.00am English language

11.30am Vietnamese language

2.30pm Dinka language

On Wednesday evenings at 7.30pm there is a Tongan language service

The congregation has a quarterly combined Holy Communion service, usually in English.

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

The congregation has seen significant changes that reflect some of the changes occurring in the Footscray area. From an elderly Anglo congregation there has been a major change as other ethnic groups have found a home in Uniting Church at Footscray. In 2014 the Vietnamese congregation in West Footscray moved to the Barkly St site and the name of the congregation was changed to the Footscray Community Uniting Church. This change was a reflection of the changes occurring in the area and of the desire of the congregation to truly reflect the make up of the area and a desire to reach out and welcome all. The Dinka group has had a relationship with the congregation for around 15 years and in 2015 became a Faith Community. In 2017 part of the Dinka group separated and moved to the local Anglican church.

There were discussions held about 5 years ago regarding the development of the site in Barkly St and some preliminary concept sketches drawn up but the proposal stalled.

Numbers at all worship services are seeing some growth. The Wednesday 7.30pm Tongan service was commenced a couple of years ago by the previous minister.

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

Overall

To reach out to the multicultural area of Footscray and surrounding suburbs and to in particular provide care for newly arrived communities and individuals.

To grow in numbers

To nurture our children and youth

Find culturally appropriate minister for each of the three communities so that each can deepen and grow

Vietnamese

By 2020 -100 church members who faithful and regularly attending church every Sunday; have a discipleship group who is willing to and engages in serving the Lord; Evangelistic services

for non-Christians; have a strong choir, have the church's office open most of the time and minister available for spiritual counselling.

Dinka - A congregation that spreads the word of God and embraces growth by investing in the future of our kids, youth and community participation activities such as educational training. To address the needs of the Dinka women and disengaged youth. To provide discipleship training for leaders of small groups.

Anglo/Pacific Islander - to become a church that is prosperous... prosperous in numbers (people), delivering the message of God, financially stable in a costly location. To become a church that has a minister to help us serve the needy, poor and ill, to lead us in worship, lead us in learning and teaching the word of God and lead by example.

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

To develop more effective communication channels between the three groups

To develop the musical ministry of the worship groups

To understand more about how the Uniting Church operates

To redevelop the site

To gain more income from property

To get more assistance from Presbytery and Synod

SECTION 3 - CONTEXT

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

Traditionally Footscray has been seen as a battling, working class manufacturing suburb. The suburb has become very multi-cultural with some of the major groups including Vietnamese, Horn of Africa, Chinese, Indian. Just 7 km from the CBD it is increasingly seen as a desirable place to live and the process of gentrification is underway with younger professional people, students and increasingly the artistic and music community finding a home here. Small businesses are growing, Victoria University attracts many overseas students and the famous Footscray market is popular. As a result there has been a flurry of activity in townhouse and apartment construction, upgrade of the railway line and station. Property prices have risen significantly but the suburb retains a huge mix of nationalities and there are definite pockets of poverty and disadvantage. According to the 2016 census figures Footscray has a population of 16,345.

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

The congregation shares the ethnic mix of the local area with worship groups from the Sudanese, Vietnamese, Anglo/Pacific Islander groups.

The Dinka and Vietnamese groups in particular have a wide spread of ages and are notable for a younger age group with children and younger families. There is still a group of older Anglo worshippers who in more recent years have been joined by a growing group of Pacific Islanders - mainly Tongan.

While the congregation does reflect the make-up of the local area it should also be noted that some members are travelling a fair distance to attend services and activities at Footscray.

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

Some of needs in the local community include newer arrived communities finding their place in Australian society. Factors such as cultural familiarity, English language and literacy, employment opportunities, (especially following the completion of a training course or program) dealing with disengaged youth and keeping them connected to culture, family, faith, language, social isolation especially for women who often remain in the home with children.

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

- Wesley Mission (now part of Uniting) has a major presence on the site with exclusive use of a portion of the site where they deliver a range of community programs.
Congregation operates Opportunity Shop
The Vietnamese worship group has a visitation program to an aged care facility, invites people to church on special occasions such as Christmas, Easter, Mother's

- Day and Father's Day and sends out invitation cards,
The Dinka group reaches out to the community through mission and evangelical work, helping the needy through small church contributions, helping with education in English language and musical instruments.
The Anglo/Islander group has a member who manages the Opportunity Shop (which is a project of the whole congregation) and sees this as a major opportunity to make links with the wider community.

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

Uniting - Uniting Church Welfare agency, shares site with congregation
Victoria University

Footscray city College (closing in 2020 and merging with Gilmour College for Girls)

St Monica's Primary

Footscray Primary

Gilmour College for Girls

Footscray Nth Primary

Uniting Age Well nursing home in Kingsville

Westhaven Aged Care

The congregation is 25 years into a 50 groundlease with Office of Housing, who have units on a site for which the congregation only receives peppercorn rent.