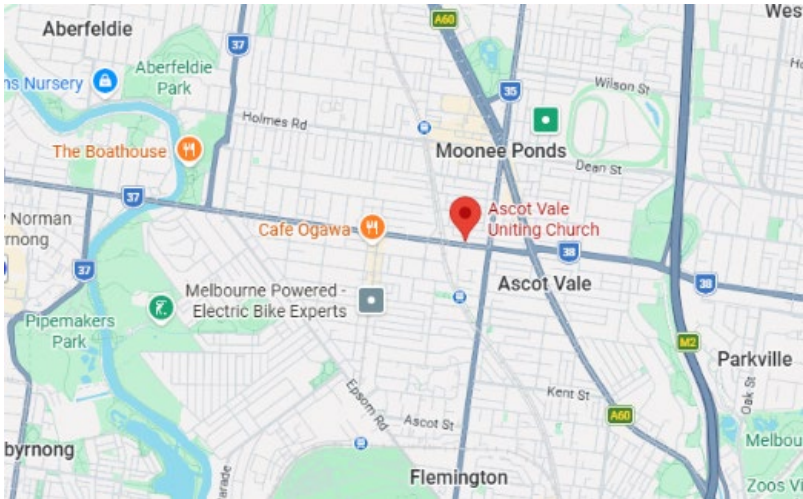




A Placement Profile

A1 Presbytery	Port Phillip West Presbytery		
A2 Name of Placement	Ascot Vale Uniting Church		
A3 Placement city/suburb/town	Ascot Vale		
A4 Church/Office location(s)	60 Maribyrnong Rd., Moonee Ponds.		
A5 Congregations and agencies associated with this placement	Mental Health Chaplaincy, Sunshine Hospital		
A6 Ministry leadership being sought	Specific ministry role: Minister of the Word ☒ Ordinand ☐ Deacon ☒ Pastor ☒		
A7 Specific details	Additional placement ☐ Replacement placement ☒ Full Time ☐ Part Time ☒ Time fraction .5 Earliest Start Date: Immediate ☒ OR Click here to enter a date.		
A8 Placement term	Undefined ☐ Up to 10 years (see Reg 2.7.3(a)) Fixed Term ☒ Required for non-congregational placements (see Reg 2.7.3(b)) Years 5		
A9 To be completed by Presbytery, with reasons given on page 11:	Is permission sought to advertise? Yes ☐ No ☒ Is a Priority Placement recommended? Yes ☐ No ☒		
A10 Website			
A11 Social Media	Instagram: Ascot Vale Uniting Church. Facebook: Uniting Church Ascot Vale. Blogger : thegardenchurch.blogspot.com		
A12 Google map link	https://maps.app.goo.gl/toUsAyhH51R6wdSWA		
A13 Area map (paste image)			

B The Congregation

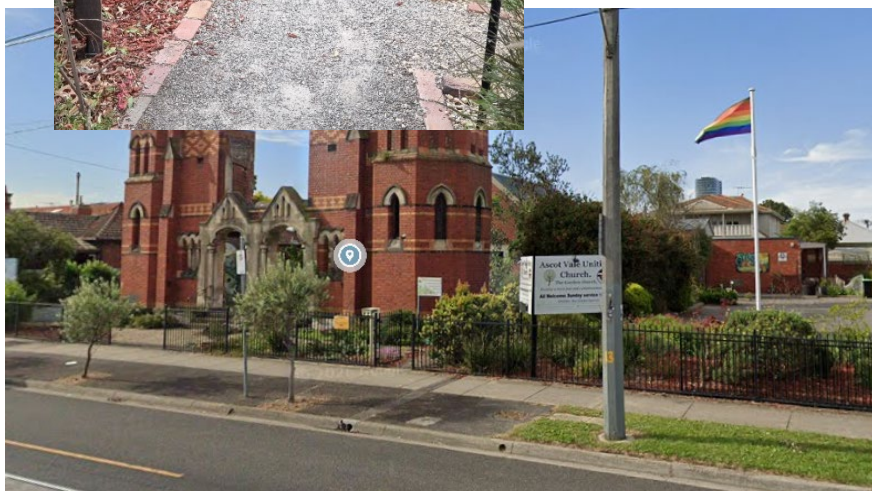
B1 Tell a potential minister about this placement and yourselves, in your own words and pictures, in no more than one page. Share something of your congregation's values, beliefs and ways in which you live out and share the gospel message.

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 congregation is committed and diverse in terms of age, gender, race. The congregation has worked hard to create a Peace Garden next to the church building. This includes a small labyrinth and seating for reflection. It shares the space with the community by offering public and private lots for gardening, that are accessible for all abilities. There is a pole inscribed with the word 'peace' in Spanish, Wurundjeri, Farsi, English. Planting has occurred around the old heritage listed frontage that remains after fire. The Church also has a flagpole which flies an LGBTQA+ /indigenous flag. (60 flags have been stolen and replaced.)



We believe :
in the power of the Christian faith to transform people's lives and our world, and that we need to be actively working to bring change in the world, and in our community, and to care for our environment. That all people are made in the image of God, and so all people should be treated with kindness and respect.

We value:

Active engagement during the service with readings and other parts of worship, and the opportunity to discuss honestly faith and doubt, ensuring that all voices are heard without judgement. Being a truly welcoming and generous Christian Community and embracing diversity. We welcome people of every age, gender, sexual orientation, secularity, ability, race and religion and explicitly reject any form of prejudice or discrimination.

Thoughts about new ways that God can be served are written about in the missional priorities.

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

- To further explore how we can cooperate with First Nations people to promote reconciliation
- Discussion nights around refugee issues, led by refugees.
- Expand the community garden
- Offer the building and garden for community events - poetry readings, choirs, sip and paint
- Increase use of Social Media to connect with people
- Extend our connection with Corandirk House, just a few doors down from the church which offers assisted housing for those with lower incomes or who may need disability support. Some staff and residents of the House attend Church worship and much interaction, visiting, worship and activities have been offered there.

B3 Does this placement relate to more than one congregation?

Yes ☐

No ☒

If so, provide details on page 8.

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

This question is partly answered at B5. The common language in the congregation is English and services are conducted in English. Approximately 50% of the congregation has a different background from an Anglo one.

B5 What languages are spoken in the life of your:

Congregation, by		Community, by	
Individuals	English, Farsi, Vietnamese, Cantonese, Turkish, Italian, Greek, Dinka.	Individuals	
Groups	English	Groups	

B6 What languages are spoken by the congregation in worship?

English

B7 Describe any involvement your congregation has in covenanting with first nations people.

We are starting the process by inviting a speaker on reconciliation.
The congregation already has a significant commitment to this, evidenced by the flying of the Rainbow/Indigenous flag, the garden peace pole featuring the Wurrungeri language and an edible native/indigenous garden. A smoking ceremony has occurred to open a public event at the church.

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

C Mission

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



- The peace garden/community garden
- Open to all, and all abilities (raised beds) including the childcare facility across the road
- The opportunity to offer peace and quiet to a stressed world. It is well used with about 200 people/year visiting or using it that we know of.
- The Open Garden Day
- Food sharing, food stalls, plant sales
- Food Pantry
- Craft Group - mainly people beyond the congregation

- Social Justice Night - Quarterly meal-based event
- Refugee Assistance - annual event.
- The flag that signals welcome.
- Regularly sending UC Justice and Mission postcards.

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

- Connection and cooperation with First Nation's peoples.
- Discussion nights around refugee issues, led by refugees.
- Offer the building and garden for community events - poetry readings, choirs, sip and paint
- Extend connection with Corandirk House, just a few doors down from the church which offers assisted housing for those with lower incomes or who may need disability support. Some staff and residents of the House attend Church worship.

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

Several people have joined because of the rainbow flag.
5 younger people (20-30's) have joined us.
Approximately 40% of the congregation have been members for less time than 5 years.

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

We anticipate that our congregation will continue to grow, particularly when there is consistent rather than Supply Ministry and we are able to have greater ministry resource to help us further develop our missional activities.

D The Community

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

A very friendly inner city village-like community, with a majority of Anglo, professionals, younger residents and families. There are plenty of bike paths, parks and walks in the suburb. There are increasing numbers of rental properties, some are more expensive apartments, others offer lower income accommodation. There is good medical and health care available and excellent public transport. There are thriving strip shops, cafes and bakeries, but also 10 minutes from large shopping centres.

Local schools are well regarded and include active local government primary schools, a popular Catholic primary option, and specialized support options. Aged Care is also available.

D2 What makes this an enjoyable place to live?

Ascot Vale is close to the city (7Kms). It has a thriving cafe culture, and plenty of parks, walking and biking tracks along the Maribyrnong River. There is excellent public transport. There are a number of entertainment venues including Showgrounds, restaurants, Clock Tower Centre and Highpoint Shopping Centre. There are good Council facilities, and many attractive heritage homes.

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

There are signs of increasing homelessness in the area, of substance abuse and of mental health needs.

Corandirk House, just a few doors down from the church indicates a need. It offers supportive and assisted housing for those with lower incomes or who may need disability support or have mental health issues. Some staff and residents of the House attend Church worship.

There are increasing rental costs and insufficient rentals available, particularly low cost options for people in the community on lower incomes.

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

Local demographics:

- 44% tertiary educated
- Average age 37
- 41% no religion, 36% Christian, 23% other.
- 69% English language
- 60% employed full time.
- 62% born Australia.

Congregational demographics:

66% tertiary educated

- 50 is average age
- 66% English language
- 30% employed full time
- 66% born in Australia



D5 What community facilities are present in the local area?

2 libraries
Wingate Community Centre
Crown Street Stables Community Centre
Wingate Community Garden
Senior Citizens Centre
Courthouse Museum
Dwell Sustainability hub
Incinerator gallery
Essendon Historical Society
Ascot Vale Neighbourhood Centre
Ascot Vale Leisure Centre