

GUNGAHLIN UNITING CHURCH MISSION PLAN 2019-2022

Our Mission Values, Beliefs and Practices, and Gospel:

The following is articulated in our Church Profile.

We adhere to the Basis of Union of the Uniting Church in Australia. Our activities reflect our values, which are:

- to share the love of Christ with each other and our community
- being inclusive, accepting and welcoming to all people
- being generous and caring for others
- being informal and friendly
- being open to new ideas
- nurturing spiritual growth
- commitment to community outreach and social justice

Consideration of Our Mission Priorities:

Our mission priorities were developed through church conversations held in April 2017 and endorsed in May 2017 by the congregation. These priorities continue to focus our mission.

Our priorities are:

- Sermons, preaching and Bible Teaching
- Style and variety of worship (contemporary, all age, inclusive and participatory)
- Ministry for children and youth
- Wider community ministry (in particular, outreach through the food pantry)
- Multicultural/cross cultural ministry (active encouragement of diversity and intercultural participation)
- Wider community engagement, including expanding the food pantry, and developing greater connections with people using the building and our services, and with the greater community
- A greater focus on children and youth ministry, particularly supporting children moving through adolescence and young adulthood to be part of the church community
- Enhanced opportunities to support families and to foster spiritual growth e.g. through small groups/get-togethers/Bible studies
- Increasing the participation of culturally and linguistically diverse members in the leadership and broader life of the church
- Supporting a continued mutual approach to pastoral care, while ensuring we meet the needs of a growing and diverse congregation
- Need for a growth strategy, given our location in a fast growing community
- Building leadership capacity and broader participation (both paid and unpaid) to support growth challenges

Reworking our Mission Priorities 2019-2022:

The ongoing challenges of sufficiently resourcing mission activities has led Church Council to rework the priorities into more focused and targeted priorities for 2019- 2022. They are:

- Providing a safe and welcoming place for worship and gathering
- Caring for each other
- Caring for our community
- Growing our church community
- Encouraging lifelong Faith Formation

**GUNGAHLIN UNITING CHURCH
FUTURE DIRECTIONS 2019 – 2022**

Our Values	We adhere to the Basis of Union of the Uniting Church in Australia		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - sharing the love of Christ with each other and our community - being informal and friendly - being generous and caring for others 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - being inclusive, accepting and welcoming to all people - being open to new ideas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - commitment to community outreach and social justice - nurturing spiritual growth

Our Mission Priorities	Providing a safe and welcoming place for worship and gathering	Caring for each other	Caring for our community	Growing our Church community	Encouraging lifelong faith formation
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FOCUS AREAS 2019-2022:

PROVIDING A SAFE AND WELCOMING PLACE FOR WORSHIP AND GATHERING	CARING FOR EACH OTHER	CARING FOR OUR COMMUNITY	GROWING OUR CHURCH COMMUNITY	ENCOURAGING LIFELONG FAITH FORMATION
<p>Engaging in Worship</p> <p>Experiment with worship and community possibilities outside the Sunday Morning Service</p> <p>Encourage and resource people to participate in worship especially prayer, music, preaching, art and creativity</p> <p>Intentionally create and experiment with intergenerational worship experiences where the whole community can worship together.</p> <p>Continue to develop and experiment with intergenerational worship</p>	<p>Developing and Supporting youth</p> <p>Develop a community which welcomes, includes and embraces young families and young people.</p> <p>Support and engage with the ministry of OASIS</p> <p>Intentional focus on including young people and families in the life of the GUC community</p> <p>Build/energise high school/young adults group</p> <p>Support Boys' and Girls' Brigade</p> <p>Support for Play Group and families</p>	<p>Building partnerships in Mission</p> <p>Build networks and relationship with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Common Ground - other Gungahlin Christian communities - other UCA communities in the Presbytery/Synod <p>Explore joint activities with Gungahlin Mosque and other local faith communities</p> <p>Explore greater engagement with local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and Elders</p>	<p>Focusing on greatest need</p> <p>Ensure our Church committees, teams and paid worker roles are focused on mission priorities through regular review.</p> <p>Allocate priorities to council members, to focus oversight and provide a key contact point for congregational members</p> <p>Annual reviews to ensure the property meets mission needs and is safe and user/disability friendly</p>	<p>Growing understanding of our Christian faith</p> <p>Provide forums for exploring Christianity, faith issues and intentionally focus on lifelong faith formation for all ages (Bible study groups, short series on specific topics, faith based book clubs etc)</p> <p>Engage families with resources and opportunities to develop lifelong faith formation practices</p>

PROVIDING A SAFE AND WELCOMING PLACE FOR WORSHIP AND GATHERING	CARING FOR EACH OTHER	CARING FOR OUR COMMUNITY	GROWING OUR CHURCH COMMUNITY	ENCOURAGING LIFELONG FAITH FORMATION
<p>Governance</p> <p>Adhere to government and UCA legislative and regulatory requirements, such as Safe Churches, Working With Vulnerable People, OH&S etc</p> <p>Appoint volunteer person with responsibility to ensure these requirements are being met</p>	<p>Pastoral Care</p> <p>Intentional pastoral care approach documented and communicated to church community</p> <p>Train / support community in areas of pastoral support (Pastoral Care, Mental Health First Aid)</p> <p>Targeted pastoral care for the ill, isolated and elderly</p>	<p>Food Pantry and Community Garden</p> <p>Determine future scope of Food Pantry and Community Garden</p> <p>Build a viable staffing/volunteer base, including external volunteer base if required</p> <p>Provide training/ education/ upskilling for volunteers</p>	<p>Fostering community within the church</p> <p>Support self-managed interest based groups or events such as Yarnsters, Novel Views, Spice Kids, Pub Group.</p> <p>Intentional community building activities (walks, meals, outings, camps, retreats, picnics etc)</p>	<p>Exploring passions and gifts</p> <p>Create a permission giving culture where people are encouraged to share and develop their passions and gifts.</p> <p>Name, encourage and empower potential leaders and provide training and mentoring</p>
<p>Supporting parents of young children</p> <p>Continue to develop a warm community which welcomes, includes and embraces young families.</p> <p>Provide intentional spaces and opportunities for parents & carers to discuss/learn about the spirituality of children/young people, parenting, resilience, mutual support, faith formation, mental health</p>	<p>Welcoming newcomers and ongoing support</p> <p>Intentional plan for involving newcomers into GUC community</p> <p>Encouraging the community to be active in welcoming people.</p> <p>Encourage hospitality</p> <p>Provide opportunities for people to gain skills and engage in practices that assist us to be a warm and inclusive community</p>	<p>Social Justice</p> <p>Consider establishing a social justice group to educate the congregation and provide an outlet for people with interest in social justice issues</p> <p>Build networks and engage with like-minded organisations/ groups</p>	<p>Visibility and communication</p> <p>Build greater visibility online through the website, social media, email and other resources</p> <p>Build prominence of activities/missions (signage, bulletin, advertisements, word of mouth)</p> <p>Promote Church in new and developing suburbs</p> <p>Review/develop bulletin and community material</p> <p>Translate community material</p>	<p>Celebrating diversity</p> <p>Encourage leadership that is representative of the broader demographics of the church</p> <p>Foster participation of culturally and linguistically diverse members and younger members in the broader life of the church</p> <p>Provide forums for exploring faith issues from different viewpoints</p>