

## GROWTH OPPORTUNITY PLAN FOR GUNGAHLIN UNITING CHURCH

Dimension	Current <i>What is the current state? This is descriptive. It should include data</i>	Transformation <i>What is the direction of change? How will change be achieved? What will it cost? What will be started? What will be stopped?</i>	Future <i>What is the aspiration for the future state? When? Should include targets.</i>
<b>Opportunity/Context/Impact</b>	<p>Gungahlin comprises a number of suburbs in the north of Canberra. This district is one of the original 18 districts of the Australian Capital Territory and it is subdivided into 18 suburbs. The name is derived from the Aboriginal word meaning “little rocky hill”.</p> <p>Gungahlin is Canberra’s northern most town centre. It is located 10 km north of Canberra city centre. This is one of six satellites of Canberra including Civic, Woden, Tuggeranong, Molonglo and Belconnen.</p> <p>Gungahlin was part of the original 1957 plan for the future development of the ACT and in 1991 was officially launched as Canberra’s fourth ‘town’ with a population of 389 residents. The 2016 census indicated a population of 71,142, The population grew to 87,682 at the time of in 2021 census.</p> <p>Gungahlin is following the Canberra pattern and has become home to predominantly young families. 23,748 families live in Gungahlin with an average of 1.8 children per family.</p> <p>In the 2021 ABS Census, the median age of Gungahlin residents is 32. This is younger than the ACT median age of 35 and the national median age of 39. Gungahlin has a higher percentage of young people than other town centres in the ACT.</p> <p>Age breakdowns          6832 0-4 years old, 7.8% of population *          7314 5-9 years old 8.3% of population *          6,081 10-14 years old, 6.9% of population *          4,957 15-19 years old, 5.7% of population.          * higher than ACT and National figures</p> <p>The most common occupations in Gungahlin include</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 28.6% professionals,</li> <li>• 17.5% clerical and administrative workers,</li> <li>• 15.4% managers,</li> <li>• 11.1% community and personal service workers,</li> <li>• 10.3% technicians and trade workers.</li> </ul> <p>It is one of the most multicultural areas in Canberra with more than 40% of the residents born overseas. This multiculturalism is reflected in the food and retail offerings throughout the area. 1.3% of the Gungahlin population has identified as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander people.</p> <p>Gungahlin Uniting Church and Community Centre building was opened in 2010. It is the only Uniting Church in Gungahlin. It is</p>	<p>There is an established pattern for growth in Canberra regions. We can expect the Gungahlin area to continue to grow in population and there to be further infill with medium and high-density housing. Belconnen is an example of what the future might look like. It has a university, two hospitals, good infrastructure and many attractive facilities.</p> <p>Within the first 10 years, GUC purposefully moved in the direction of becoming a regional congregation for the whole of Gungahlin.</p> <p>The playgroup, garden and food pantry provide a regular point of contact with the local community. The church building is 12 years old, quite visible and functions as a community centre.</p> <p>The congregation are committed to the health, spiritual vitality, and growth of the church.</p> <p>There has been discussion on how to build on existing programs such as</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Mustard Seed Food Pantry</li> <li>• The Food Pantry Garden</li> <li>• Home Groups</li> <li>• Pastoral Care</li> <li>• Children and Youth programs</li> </ul> <p>The congregation is rebuilding after a period of decline. Several people who had left the congregation have since returned. There is a small group of committed volunteers in the congregation who have stepped up to assume demanding roles in the interim time between ministers and placement. There has been a noticeable increase in attendance during 2022, with new people joining the congregation.</p>	<p>We aim to illustrate the presence of Christ in our community in ways that will help members to connect their faith to their everyday lives.</p> <p>We aim to continue to develop and increase the number of ways we engage with our community (e.g., through our website, our Mustard Seed Food Pantry, our food pantry garden, our Girls’ and Boys’ Brigades, our playgroup).</p> <p>GUC hopes to continue to be a diverse community. This includes our multi-age worship style, being welcoming of all.</p> <p>GUC hopes to expand our children’s programs, both within the church and as an outreach. This will mean we will need to grow the number of young families attending worship and to develop worship and study that meaningfully connects with them and their children and helps them explore their faith as individuals and as families.</p> <p>GUC is exploring ways to support vulnerable people better in the Gungahlin community through for example; expansion of the food pantry café to include increased food availability eg soup and services offered through food pantry</p>

	<p>positioned close to the town centre of Gungahlin with over 100 stores, clubs, golf course, hotel, college, library, indoor pool, and enclosed sports oval. There are many restaurants with diverse options in dining. Canberra has a light rail network and Gungahlin Town Centre is the beginning or the end. The commute from Gungahlin to the city is approximately 25 minutes.</p> <p>Gungahlin offers both an urban lifestyle as well as easy access to Australia's natural beauty. There is easy access to the scenic Yerrabi Pond park lands, Mulanggari Grasslands Nature Reserve and Mulligan's Flat Woodland Sanctuary.</p> <p>Gungahlin Uniting Church and Community Centre building was funded from the congregation and Presbytery. The facility was completed in October 2010. Many people who helped to build the church are still in attendance and contribute in significant ways to the life of the church.</p> <p>GUC has celebrated its 25-year anniversary and it is well established. The Gungahlin area is large and people who attend worship, in the main, live relatively close to the church.</p> <p>Ministers have fostered close links with our neighbouring churches including the Salvation Army and Gungahlin Mosque located 350m from the church. The church is also neighboured by the ACT Government Common Ground unit complex. Common Ground provides affordable and stable accommodation with half the units providing homes to those who are experiencing homelessness and the remaining half are offered at affordable rents.</p>		
<p><b>The People</b> <i>Who is participating in this faith community?</i></p>	<p>Currently there are about 60 to 70 people in regular attendance at Sunday worship, mostly face-to-face but also via Zoom. It is reasonably balanced in ages with</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 35% in the 0-30 age group</li> <li>• 45% in the 30 to 59 age group</li> <li>• 20% over 60.</li> </ul> <p>Almost all attendees live locally. The congregation comprises people of many different ethnic groups. This is reflected in the additional language reading of Scripture in worship services. The congregation is active with almost everyone, even the elderly, contributing to aspects of the church's functions.</p> <p>Playgroup is held once a week with an average of 10-15 families attending. The playgroup coordinator had been leading the playgroup for many years. Playgroup is advertised though the ACT Playground Association and Church Bulletin.</p> <p>Girls' Brigade (32 girls and five leaders held at the adjacent Salvation Army church) and Boys' Brigade (35 boys and 8 leaders held at GUC) are on once a week. Attendees come from GUC, other churches or have no church affiliation. Boys' and Girls' Brigades are GUC's major youth outreach programs.</p>	<p>Children are engaged in worship services with an "all age story", a designated area for children's activities, and Oasis and Billabong (children's programs).</p> <p>Young adults meet most weeks for coffee after the church service.</p> <p>In terms of planning for mission, it is proposed that a subcommittee of Council, possibly drawing on additional members of the congregation, be formed in the near future.</p> <p>There has been discussion about the further involvement of children in a range of craft and other activities to expand on the theme of the week or Scripture readings.</p> <p>We would like to encourage congregational growth by increasing the number of active families with young children by 2025. It will be important to develop active programs meeting the faith and support needs of these families. As new members become familiar and confident in their participation, it is hoped that some will begin to take an active part with leadership roles as appropriate. In particular, we would like to see children become active participants in our service, and contribute their perspectives.</p>	<p>GUC would like to see a regular congregational attendance above 100, whilst retaining our family church feeling, using our pastoral care structures by 2027.</p> <p>Similarly, we would like our active families with young children to grow to around 30 families by 2027, with active programs meeting the faith and support needs of these families. As members become familiar and confident in their participation, we would like to see members from these groups taking an active part in the congregation including leadership roles where appropriate.</p> <p>We would like to see active efforts to ensure children and families feel welcome during worship as well as working with children and families on types of children's programs.</p>

		<p>We also have the goal of developing the GUC website and internet presence in the community through social media.</p> <p>Coffee and tea after church is resuming after a COVID break.</p>	
<p><b>Leadership</b> <i>(Ordained and Lay)</i></p>	<p>GUC is presently seeking a new minister in placement. In this interim period a supply minister is serving in a part time capacity (2.5 days a week).</p> <p>Church Council may have up to ten members. It has an executive consisting of the Chairperson, Treasurer and Secretary. Currently there are seven members on Church Council, serving either one- or two-year terms.</p> <p>A strong Lay Leadership has emerged in the congregation with about twenty people able to lead public prayers, and many of these can lead services, design liturgies, offer public prayers and preach. Additionally, many lead home groups of various kinds.</p> <p>A Pastoral Care Team assists new members, coordinates spiritual, physical, social, emotional, and mental health support for GUC members and coordinates Home Groups. Home Groups are facilitated by appointed leaders.</p> <p>Mustard Seed Food Pantry has a management committee of four people. The operations of the Pantry are supported by volunteers from the church community and broader community. Volunteers also operate the Food Pantry Café during the Pantry's day time operational hours.</p> <p>The Food Pantry Garden is coordinated by one GUC volunteer who arranges a monthly garden get together.</p> <p><b>Youth Ministries</b> Playgroup is coordinated by a member of the congregation.</p> <p>Girls' Brigade is led by the Girls Brigade Captain (a member of the congregation) with designated leaders for Cadets, Juniors, Seniors and Pioneers units. Two leaders attend Gungahlin Uniting on a regular basis, one attends Gungahlin Uniting when time allows. Two leaders and one leader-in- training attend other churches.</p> <p>Boys' Brigade is led by the Boys' Brigade Captain (a member of the congregation) with designated leaders for Anchors, Juniors, and Seniors sections. Boys' Brigade has their own Secretary and Treasurer. Two leaders attend Gungahlin Uniting on a regular basis, for the last three years the minister has taken on the role of Boys' Brigade Chaplain.</p> <p>Oasis (Sunday K-Year 5 program) is led by a volunteer from within the congregation on a term-by-term basis, with a roster of parents and carers coming to help and supervise.</p> <p>Billabong (fortnightly Sundays Yr5 - Yr7) is coordinated by two volunteers from within the congregation.</p>	<p>None of the people associated with GUC participate in the leadership of Presbytery, Synod or General Assembly. Church Council has appointed three members of the congregation to be our Presbytery representatives</p> <p>There has been discussion about how to develop a mentoring program for young people.</p> <p>We have several people from different cultural backgrounds in attendance at worship services. The diversity of the congregation is not well represented in leadership positions. This is a high priority for future development.</p> <p>In order to avoid volunteer burn out, strategies are being considered for expanding the volunteer base for both the food pantry and café. The GUC annual volunteer recruitment drive will assist with this particularly as the Covid situation eases.</p> <p>The newly established Billabong group have expressed interest in helping with the food garden and plans to establish their own garden bed has commenced.</p> <p>Playgroup will be exploring ways to grow participation and enhance support through a grandparent helper program. This program existed pre covid with older aged members of the congregation supporting morning tea and social interaction with parents.</p> <p>At Girls' Brigade, girls of all ages are given leadership opportunities that are age appropriate, with formal training opportunities starting when the girls are in Year 8 and continuing until the girls either leave Brigade or choose to move into adult leadership roles. We have had one leader commissioned in 2019 after being a girl in Brigade since Kindergarten in 2006. Mental Health First Aid and First Aid training opportunities are offered to all leaders when they become available. Girls' Brigade ACT also has annual training days for all leaders, as well as Child Safe Training that all leaders must complete.</p> <p>Boys' Brigade sends Senior boys to Queensland to attend the Boys' Brigade Queensland Leadership course. Boys' Brigade ACT also conducts yearly leadership training for existing leaders including Safe Environments, Leadership Styles, Program Preparation and Dealing with special needs children. Boys' Brigade leaders are trained in First Aid and Mental Health First Aid to support adventurous activities and support young people with special needs. Boys' Brigade</p>	<p>During our time without a full-time minister, we have had some talented and gifted leaders step up and share their faith and gifts in preaching, leading worship, music, singing and prayers. It is important this continues (taking into account burnout) as it encourages a feeling of belonging and commitment.</p> <p>We envisage the new Minister will work alongside the congregation and the Church Council to identify areas of growth and mission in the Church and the in the Gungahlin region. They will encourage and equip members to assist with God's work in Gungahlin.</p> <p>The Mustard Seed Food Pantry management team will be exploring opportunities to improve economic sustainability and expand service provision to the broader community. Strengthening of the volunteer base will also enable potential expansion of pantry and café operations.</p> <p>Playgroup will be exploring ways to grow leadership within the group to enable transition to a new coordinator over time. Opportunities for expansion of the playgroup to include a further day would enable greater community connection. This would require engagement of a new coordinator to operate.</p> <p>Regarding the growth of our young families, the vision is to equip confident leaders who can build relationships with the families currently attending our church, and to also reach out to the families of our community through baptisms, our food pantry and through targeted events such as Easter, Christmas and New Year. The vision is to continue to grow the number of young families and young adults in our church.</p> <p>Over the next 5 years, Girls' Brigade aims is to have more leaders from within the congregation as well as from other churches, so to keep those links within the wider Christian Community. We aim to have all leaders trained in either First Aid or Mental Health First Aid. We will continue to look to skills the leaders have to build on the GB program, as well as looking to other training opportunities as they arise.</p> <p>The Object of The Boys' Brigade is: "The advancement of Christ's Kingdom among Members and the promotion of habits of obedience, reverence, discipline, self-respect and all that tend towards a true Christian Character." Boys Brigade aims to continue developing its leadership base both from within the group, within the congregation, and other churches growing our existing team to 15. The aim is to have a leadership a dedicated Captain, Section Leaders, Chaplain, Treasurer, Secretary, admin and uniform officer. Our Boys' Brigade aims to have leaders trained in Canoeing (guide), Bushwalking skills, Outdoor education and lifesaving bronze medallion within the next five years.</p> <p>The Billabong Group aims to continually grow participation through the program noting that future developments will need to consider the age range involved in the activities. It may be necessary to create a second</p>

	<p>Young Adults (18yo +) operates as a self-led, self-managed collective.</p> <p><b>Church Staff</b> GUC employs an Office Administrator responsible for church administration, building management, church bookings and oversight of the Mustard Seed Food Pantry.</p> <p>GUC also employs a bookkeeper (4 hours a week) and Gardener (4 hours a week)</p> <p><b>Support Ministries</b> The Worship Team plans and coordinates worship services a GUC.</p> <p>The Tech Team operates the church computer, sound and lighting and provides, prepares church audio-visuals and provides IT support.</p> <p>The Music Team plans, in consultation with worship leaders, the music for worship and other services.</p> <p>Th Property Team deals matters relating to property management and maintenance of the building and grounds of the GUCCC facility and the Manse.</p> <p><b>Social Groups</b> Members of the congregation coordinate various social groups within the congregation including Spice Kids (monthly seniors' lunch), Pub Group (shared meal), and Tea and Talk (monthly member catchup), ad hoc women's and men's breakfasts, and monthly pot luck dinner (currently in COVID hiatus).</p>	<p>takes advantage of specialist skills within the congregation to support leaders. Boys' Brigade is largely self-funded and conducts its own fund-raising activities and applies for Government and Community Grants for specialist equipment and training.</p> <p>The Billabong Group is building on input from the young people to plan a program which is both biblically and socially based to grow their faith and connections with each other.</p>	<p>group to cater to the differing needs of tweenagers versus older teenagers.</p>
<p><b>The congregation's Life and Witness</b> <i>Worship, mission, programs</i></p>	<p>Sunday worship service at 9:30 am. It is relaxed but liturgical with responsive prayers, Bible readings (both in English and in another language), public prayers, children's story, and sermon. The congregation connects with excellent Bible teaching that they can use in everyday life. The second language scripture reading has included: Arabic, Urdu, French, German, Welsh, Sinhala, Korean, Mandarin, Cantonese and Indonesian. There is a music group which includes piano, clarinet, guitar, drums and bass, with singers helping to lead singing. The style of music is a combination of contemporary and traditional hymns. Music videos are incorporated into worship services. Worship is usually led by a member of the congregation and Holy Communion is celebrated on the second Sunday of the month. Children go out from the service to Oasis and Billabong after the 'all age message'. Sometimes there is a child related song and there is a basket of percussion instruments for children to use. Offering provisions include a basket provided each Sunday for donation of food related items for Food Pantry. Traditionally GUC has been a welcoming church of all. Recently some people with young children have felt their children are not welcome and we are looking at ways we can address this.</p>	<p>The appointment of the new minister in placement will have a significant impact on congregational worship and mission activities. Worship is now planned well in advance with a three-month schedule. At present there is a priority on maintaining worship, pastoral care, present programs and providing strong leadership through Church Council. Naturally this draws heavily on present resources and these need to be managed with self-care principles in mind. Sometimes it is important to 'step back in order to move forward'. Thus, the following:</p> <p>The GUC congregation is also looking outward to our community. It is strongly committed to the following goals:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To seek information on homelessness in Gungahlin including contacting Safe Shelter and to find ways in which the church might be of assistance. A mission team will be formed and ideas brought to Council.</li> <li>• The operation of the GUC café associated with Mustard Seed Food Pantry will recommence at the end of June 2022. The hours will align with food pantry opening hours.</li> </ul>	<p>With the hope that GUC's congregation size will increase, it is hoped that this will also bring about a re-energising of people to use their gifts as volunteers, increase their commitment to GUC and lead people to take on leadership roles.</p> <p>Members of the congregation enjoy the intergenerational worship style and members mix greatly across the age groups in worship and socially.</p> <p>A greater focus on our young people/families, from children to young adults through messy church, and a night time service/bonfire reflection may assist these members to have a greater connection to the community.</p> <p>Expanding the Food Pantry and the Food Pantry Garden to include greater community connections.</p> <p>Increasing our connection with Gungahlin's vulnerable people.</p> <p>In the future we dream of an open worship space at the back of the building which is inviting to all members of the community at all times.</p> <p>A dream to increase our connection with the community by expanding Playgroup to provide another group each week</p>

	<p>There is no formal church membership of GUC. The 2021 contact directory lists 72 households. Currently we do not have any in attendance who identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander. The congregation includes some who identify as LGBTIQA+ and some have served in positions of leadership including Church Council. The congregation welcomes diversity and has voted to be a place where same sex couples can be married.</p> <p>There is a creative worship team that has contributed to services on a regular basis. In COVID the congregation ran Zoom services and these continue to be an option for those who would like to worship at home or have a contagious illness. Prior to COVID there was coffee after services and this practice is slowly returning.</p> <p>Regular groups in the congregation:  <b>Playgroup</b> for young children and carers.  <b>Community meal</b> hosted by various families. On hold due to COVID.  <b>Boy's Brigade</b> at GUC.  <b>Girl's Brigade</b> at Salvation Army.  <b>Tea and Talk</b> at Gungahlin Lakes Club Coffee Shop  <b>Pub Dinner group.</b>  <b>Spice Kids meal</b>  <b>Home groups</b> formed as part of the pastoral care program.  <b>Evening devotional group</b> by emails with spiritual encouragement and mutual care including praying for needs in the congregation. 30 members. (Daily)  <b>Study groups</b> led by the supply minister. In 2022 this included a face-to-face study on Dream Interpretation and a Zoom study on the Book of Job. In July he will offer a two-hour seminar on "Psychopathy and the problem of evil".</p> <p><b>Note</b> that COVID has impacted the ability of groups to meet face-to-face but the above groups are in the process all returning to normal.</p> <p>There are annual special services such as: Blue Christmas (December each year), Ash Wednesday to Easter services, Food Pantry recognition service, Boys and Girls Brigade annual services, and GUC Volunteer Welcome Service</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Strengthen community partnerships to serve those in need. We have a close working relationship with the Salvation Army (who have a facility next door), and some cooperation with Kippax and Melba UCA congregations. There is a connection with Gungahlin Mosque. There is a relationship with two community gardens in Gungahlin who have supported the ministry of the Mustard Seed Food Pantry. The Mustard Seed Food Pantry in addition, has a strong relationship with Canberra City Care and is also supported by OzHarvest and Second Bite.</li> </ul> <p>Playgroup provides community connection. Most families participating are from the community and not GUC members.</p> <p>Oasis currently runs as part of Sunday Worship. Currently children who come to church with the families attend Oasis. Specific training could be provided by tapping into local training resources such as Children's Ministry Network – ACT Region, for those who feel it would be helpful. The church could also look at reusing resources already onsite, updating them if necessary, or investing in new resources such as Faith 4 Families' "FaithBox", Logosdor's Max 7, or other suitable resources.</p> <p>Girls' Brigade is attended by girls with a mix of cultural backgrounds and religious beliefs. Our numbers have grown over the five years it has been a part of Gungahlin Uniting Church. Some girls attend for a year or two, while others attend over many years. It's a privilege to spend so many years with the girls and to watch them grow, physically and spiritually. Girls' Brigade takes a wholistic approach to the girls through their programs. Everything the girls do, Educational, Physical, and Social, has Christ at the centre. Many families with no church or religious affiliation send their girls because they appreciate the ethos of the organisation. Being part of an international organisation, girls have the opportunity to compete for the Queen's Award, a challenging 3-year leadership, spiritual and personal development program.</p> <p>Boys Brigade is a long-term mission for young people. Numbers have steadily increased over the years and is now a vibrant and fun youth ministry. Boys' Brigade has a proven track record for reaching out to the local community providing balanced 4-sided developmental programs (Physical, Spiritual, Educational and Social) for young people of all backgrounds, abilities and interests, BB broadens their horizons and skills with local, national and international recognition for their achievements. Boys have the opportunity to work towards internationally recognised Duke of Edinburgh and Queens Badge awards.</p>	<p>As GUC grows, there will be more children who will be able to attend Oasis. We aim to have 20-30 children participating in Oasis by 2027. There will need to split the children into smaller groups based on age or abilities, so that more age-appropriate activities can be done. To do this, more volunteers will be needed to lead and help the group. More space will be required, by dividing the multipurpose room into two smaller spaces, as well as moving into other areas of the building if necessary. We aim to explore opportunities to do activities in parts of the town centres, such as the Town Park.</p> <p>Girls' Brigade aims to grow to a membership of 40 girls with 10 leaders within three years. We are working to have more girls from Gungahlin Uniting also attending Girls' Brigade but to also continue reaching into other local churches who don't have other links to Girls' Brigade to provide an opportunity for girls to spend time together in a local, but also worldwide organisation. We also want to continue to reach girls and their families who have no church connections. This can be done through notices in school newsletters, if allowed, local online directories such as My Gungahlin. We aim to "help girls become followers of the Lord Jesus Christ and through self-control, reverence and a sense of responsibility to find true enrichment of life" (Girls' Brigade's Aim). Girls' Brigade aspires to have two girls obtain their Queen's Award in the next two years.</p> <p>Boys' Brigade aims to grow to a membership of 50 boys with 15 leaders within three years. We also aim to establish another group in another Gungahlin Church if those numbers are exceeded. Boys' Brigade aims to increase that number of Queen's Badge recipients from 3 to 6 in the next five years.</p>
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<p><b>Governance – Local</b></p>	<p>GUC has its AGM in November each year when the new Church Council members are elected.</p> <p>There is also an annual congregational meeting to approve the budget.</p> <p>Church Council meets monthly and undertakes business in a confident and thoughtful way. There is a regular discussion of mission and growth. There is an executive of the two co-chairs, the treasurer and secretary who manage any urgent church council matters between meetings.</p> <p>There was a recent congregational meeting with members of presbytery PRC which was well attended. There is also a worship committee which meets every 4-6 weeks.</p>	<p>Leadership and mission growth as mentioned above.</p> <p>It has been identified that Church Council membership requires growth in numbers and diversity. This is a priority for the forthcoming annual general meeting in November. Current church council is promoting the need to increase membership and diversity with the congregation. In addition, people will be directly approached to encourage them accepting nomination.</p>	<p>As the congregation grows in membership, leadership roles will be appropriately reconsidered. Based on personal gifts and capacity of new members, there will be pathways to leadership roles within the church council and congregation.</p> <p>We will actively work to ensure that leadership positions will better reflect the diversity of the congregation in terms of cultural background, age and gender.</p>
<p><b>Governance – Presbytery</b></p>	<p>Three members of the congregation are the Presbytery representatives from our congregation and attend full presbytery meetings.</p>		<p>GUC will work closely with Rev Andrew Smith in a mission development process.</p>
<p><b>Finance</b> <i>Budgets, strength of giving, sources of income, expenses</i></p>	<p>Income is generated through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Congregational offerings – almost all who attend church contribute by direct giving and this has helped to establish the regularity of church income</li> <li>• rental of church facilities</li> <li>• Manse rental.</li> </ul>	<p>Efforts will continue to maximise the hire of the auditorium, multi-purpose room and other facilities. Hall hire is a significant income source for the church.</p>	<p>GUC continues to welcome back old and new members after moving away, and locking down due to COVID. We have had many deaths in recent years, which has been very abnormal for this community. We are anticipating continued growth as we come out of COVID and members reconnect with each other. It is hoped that our increase in congregation members will be reflected through our plate giving .</p> <p>There is an intent to increase giving by 4% each year and our contribution to wider mission activities by 5% each year.</p> <p>Property expenses are likely to increase due to the age of the building and facilities.</p>
<p><b>Property</b> <i>Used and income generating, fit for purpose.</i></p>	<p>Gungahlin Uniting Church was built as a multipurpose facility with a good-sized auditorium for worship which can seat around 150-200 people. This space is comfortable, with good lighting, very flexible and can be used for different activities including concerts, dinners and fundraising events. There are individual chairs which are flexible, comfortable and welcoming. There is a very good sound system and projectors (x2 screens) which encourages flexibility in worship. There are storerooms, a large office, meeting rooms, male, female and disabled toilets. There is disabled access to the church.</p> <p>There is a large kitchen serving the foyer and a large community room. The church has off-street asphalt parking which can accommodate 37 car spaces (including two disabled spaces). At the rear of the church is the food pantry and garden. The property is in good condition and well maintained. It has a number of environmental features including 20+ solar panels and three water tanks. The church has a manse to accommodate the Minister in placement.</p>	<p>Council will take advice as to opportunities to further use the property for income generating to fund mission opportunities.</p>	<p>Throughout 2022 we expect our worship and multipurpose space to return to almost full rental.</p> <p>We have been exploring ways to make our worship space be more welcoming through the reintroduction of a children’s area, a couch and activities for younger children.</p> <p>We envisage another expansion of the Food Pantry and a greater link to the Food Pantry Garden.</p>

	Outside of worship, the property is utilised by regular hirers, which generates income, as well as GUC group users (non-income generating).		
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