

Home (<https://nod.powerappsportals.com/>) > **Community Life Survey**

# Community Life Survey 2022

Every year the Synod of Victoria and Tasmania invites congregations to share information on their experience as a congregation (Community Life Survey) and their financial situation (Financial Return). We use this information to help Synod and Presbytery committees and staff understand and respond to what's happening on the ground.

This year we're asking congregations to respond to the Community Life Survey, either online or in print, by **Sunday, May 14, 2023**

What difference does this Community Life Survey make? Whether your congregation is large or small, rural, regional or urban, we together represent the diversity of the Uniting Church. We're stronger together when we're aware of both the challenges we're facing, and the encouraging stories of creativity, perseverance and incredible grace.

From the information you share on the Return, we can together identify some of the resources needed to help support your leaders and members. We will also be able to celebrate the many ways we're following Christ, walking together as first and second peoples, seeking community, compassion and justice for all creation.

We know that sometimes the questions may not have exact answers, or it may be difficult to describe the full scope of an event or activity in words. Nevertheless, the greater the response, in both numbers and detail, the better the picture of our Church across Victoria and Tasmania will be.

I encourage you to take the time to complete this Community Life Return.

## Some details regarding completing the Return

To complete the return you will need information on the following:

- Ministers or others in placement
- Number and type of paid staff
- What expressions of mission the congregation does and number of people involved
- Membership details– including ages, female/male estimates
- Average number of people attending
- Church Council Chair and members
- Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) Risk actions
- Safety and vulnerable people actions

You might consider printing the return and discussing the questions with other people in your congregation before completing.

The forms can be printed before completion (by clicking here (<https://powerapps-portal-api-prod.azurewebsites.net/Documents/Community%20Life%20Return.docx?v=1>)) and once

completed by clicking on the "print" button.

As always, we appreciate any feedback regarding the Return and its completion.

### Helpful Hints

For additional information please download our FAQ from here (<https://powerapps-portal-api-prod.azurewebsites.net/Documents/2019/Community%20Life%20FAQ.pdf>). The Training manual for the returns is also available here. (<https://vimeo.com/426105459/b81c0d72ff>)

- Where the question indicates to click a button to create an entry – click the button and "enter" information for a particular person/activity and then click the "enter" button to record that entry. To create further entries click the create button again and enter the next line. The create button can be clicked as many times as necessary.
- Where the question asks for a percentage – enter the number only (for example 10% is entered as 10). Where a question asks for a number – enter the number as 10, not ten.
- Generally all questions require an answer.
- If you need to check your records at any point during the return, you can save your progress before continuing.

If you have any questions or need help in filling in the form please contact your Presbytery Office.

Adelaide Morse has taken on the role of administrator for the Community Life Return. Adelaide can be contacted on [adelaide.morse@victas.uca.org.au](mailto:adelaide.morse@victas.uca.org.au) (<mailto:adelaide.morse@victas.uca.org.au>)

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## We look forward to receiving your Return no later than

Kind Regards



### Duncan Macleod

Executive Officer

eLM (Equipping Leaders for Mission)

Synod of Victoria and Tasmania

Print Return (<https://powerapps-portal-api-prod.azurewebsites.net/api/print/survey?id=&type=communitylife>)

Print Return (<https://powerapps-portal-api-prod.azurewebsites.net/api/print/survey?id=7e26bf8-d7bb-ed11-9886-002248181925&type=communitylife>)

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|---|---|---|
| a | About You                                     | ✓ |
| b | Ministry & Leadership                         | ✓ |
| c | Mission                                       | ✓ |
| d | Governance & Members                          | ✓ |
| e | Community Worship & Faith Development         | ✓ |
| f | Risk Management, Occupational Health & Safety | ✓ |
| g | Safe Church Policies                          | ✓ |
| h | Feedback                                      | ✓ |
| i | Submit  |   |

For any changes or enquires please email [directory@victas.uca.org.au](mailto:directory@victas.uca.org.au)  
(<mailto:directory@victas.uca.org.au?subject=UCA%20Directory>)

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