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UCA Community Life Return for 2021

Friends,

We have continued our journey as a people of God through another very challenging year. There are many, many stories of faithful, inspiring and innovative ministry and mission during this time; as well as many stories of gentle and steady life within our congregations even in the face of COVID restrictions and concerns.

Of course, many of our activities were significantly affected by COVID which makes information about your local community life as a UCA congregation or faith community important to identify.

From the information you share on the Return, we can discern some of the resources needed and identify and celebrate the trends and innovation in faithful and effective discipleship. It is understood that some responses sought in the Return will be difficult or impossible to answer in another year when meeting and gathering together in person was not always possible. Some missional activities were adapted, some ceased and many new ones initiated. Nevertheless, the greater the response, in both numbers and detail, the better the picture of our Church across Victoria and Tasmania will be.

I would therefore urge you to take the time to complete this Return and help understand and identify the diversity, strength and challenges that we experienced.



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 ([../Areas/UnitingChurch/Documents/Community Life Return.doc](#))) 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 ([../Areas/UnitingChurch/Documents/2019/Community Life FAQ.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>)

We look forward to receiving your Return no later than Sunday, 15 May 2022



Kind Regards

Jenny Byrnes

Executive Officer, equipping Leadership for Mission

Print Return



About You



About You

A| Organisation Name (Congregation, Parish, Cluster, Network or other Name)

Glen Waverley

B| Presbytery Name

Presbytery of Port Phillip East

C| Is the congregation/organisation part of a cluster, network, parish, linked congregation or ecumenical partnership? * No Yes**D| Name of local contact person:**

David Morgan

Are you the person to contact for questions? *

If "No" please complete the following:

 No Yes**F| Data entered by: ***

David Morgan Secretary to Church Council



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Ministry & Leadership**1. Did you have a Minister and/or lay person in Placement last year?** No Yes

To add a Minister or Lay person, please click the 'Create Person in Placement' button located to the right, to add more people click 'Create Person in Placement' again.

Create Person in Placement

Minister or Lay person ↑	Name	Full-time Equivalent (1, 0.5, 0.75 etc.)	Period in placement (e.g. June to Dec)	Comments
Minister	Neil Peters	1.00	All year	▼

2. Did you have other people exercising ministry roles?

No Yes

To add a Ministry Role, please click the 'Create Ministry Role' button located on the right, to add more ministry roles click 'Create Ministry Role' again.

Create Ministry Role

Roles ↑	Paid/Volunteer	Number	Comments (If Other please specify)	Period in role
1. Children & families ministry roles	Paid	1	Alanee Hearnshaw, now a Pastor, but that is not in the list.	All year ▼
9. Pastoral care roles	Paid	1	Di Paterson part time	All year ▼

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Mission



Submission completed successfully.

3. Mission

Do you have a Mission Statement?

No Yes

What is your Mission Statement?

GWUC is a faithful,
Christ-centered
community that
meets God and
shares in that
unconditional love.

**Do you have a Mission Plan?**

No Yes

Mission includes those activities that primarily seek to express and bear witness to the love of God and the Good News of Jesus Christ in word and action with the world.

Faith formation is any activity intended to grow people's belief and trust in God. Please record these at question 27

4. Does your congregation provide any of the following expressions of mission?

To add a Mission Activity, please click the 'Create Mission Activity' button located on the right, to add more Mission Activities click 'Create Mission Activity' again.

COVID meant many things had to change in 2021. Please answer as you can, online services can be included in a further question.

Please note the list of provided is not exhaustive and there will be other expressions of mission that are not included. Please enter these as Other and provide details.



Create Mission Activity

Types ↑	No. Groups	Av. number attending	Frequency	Participants	Comments
Children's programs	2	10	Weekly	Mostly within congregation	
International engagement	1		Other		Partner church with "Riedel" Congregation in Manado, Northern Sulawesi, Indonesia. Largely suspended due to the pandemic.
Men's groups	2	15	Weekly	Mostly within congregation	Monthly men's group largely suspended during the pandemic. Weekly GOMER group has met on line and intermittent in a park for walk and coffee.



Types ↑	No. Groups	Av. number attending	Frequency	Participants	Comments
Music Together	2	35	Weekly	Relatively even	Free Spirit continued, including on line. Uniting voices merged with Free Spirit. Choir of Hope for women who have experienced emotional struggles, domestic violence and isolation and outdoors when required.



5. Describe any relationships or partnerships with another Uniting Church congregations. (This could include areas of mission, administration, compliance, leadership and worship).

[Create Relationship](#)

**Relationship,
Partnership or
Working
Partnership? ↑**

Congregation

**Description of
Relationship**

There are no records to display.

6. What involvement has your congregation had with UCA Church related activities outside the congregation (e.g. Presbytery, Synod eLM, Retreat days, Justice conferences... etc.) in the last 12 months? *

Participation in Presbytery Mission Pilot Project.

7. What new missional activities has your congregation been actively considering or would like to explore? *

A vision update was begun in 2021. <http://wiki.gwuc.org.au/gwuc/FleshingOutTheVision2021>

Have any Missional Activities ceased?

No Yes

Is your Congregation Involved in Expressions?

No Yes

d

Governance & Members



Submission completed successfully.

Church Council information

10. How are you governed? *

1. Church Council

Comments**11. Frequency of governance meeting**

2. Monthly

If Other, please specify:**12. Number of members regularly attending meetings ***

9

13. Number of elders/leaders

Elders or leaders are those appointed by the congregation to assist the minister in spiritual oversight.

10

14. Number of Church Council Members

10



**15. Does your governing body identify itself as culturally diverse?
(Yes/No/NA)**

Yes

Age

No Yes

Gender

No Yes

Ethnicity

No Yes

Comments

Congregation is ethnically diverse, but much more Anglo than the surrounding community.

16. Chairperson is:

Church council member or elder/leader

How long has the chairperson been in this position?

3 - 5 years

Congregation Membership

Membership of the Uniting Church is defined in the UCA regulations as confirmed members, baptised members (not yet confirmed) and members in association. However there are others who attend who are active in the life of the congregation and these can be recorded as Adherents/Active participants

17. How many people are in each of these categories?

Confirmed members *

407

Baptised members *

118

Members in Association *

23

Adherents\Active participants *

70

Average number attending worship *

135

**18. Does your congregation identify itself as culturally diverse?
(Yes/No/NA)**

Yes

Age No Yes**Gender** No Yes**Ethnicity** No Yes**Comments**

Attendances is just for those weeks when in person attendance was possible.

19. How many of the following took place in the last 12 months?

Confirmations or reaffirmations ***Baptism - Children *****Baptism - Adult *****Transfers in *****Transfers out *****Funerals *****Marriages ***

20. Number of your people who participate in activities run by your church?

Frequently ***Occasionally *****Infrequently ***

21. Number of members/adherents:

0 - 9 Years**10 - 19 Years****20 - 29 Years****30 - 39 Years****40 - 49 Years *****50 - 59 Years****60 - 69 years *****70 - 79 Years****80 - 89 Years *****Over 90 Years ***

22. What approximate percentage of members/adherents are:

Female *

63

Male *

37

Indeterminate, intersex/unspecified

23. Approximately how many new people regularly participated in worship services last year?

To add a Participation record, please click the 'Create Participation record' button located on the right, to add more records click 'Create Participation record' again.

Reason ↑	Number	Comments	
3. Transfer from another denomination	10	Unknown numbers due to extensive on line presence	▼



24. In the past year how many of your congregation members no longer attended due to:

Transfer to another congregation or denomination *

6

No longer active in church of any description *

1

Death *

15

Ill Health ***Unable to attend worship due to COVID****Other**

No data kept on this. Being "unable" is usually a short term thing. Many chose not to attend because of Covid. This is ongoing.

25. How is information from church council or other bodies of the church communicated?

Announcements in worship or meetings No Yes**Church Publications e.g. Crosslight** No Yes**Email** No Yes**Websites** No Yes**Newsletters/Bulletins/Pew Sheets** No Yes**Noticeboards** No Yes**Social Media (Facebook, Instagram etc.)** No Yes**Other Specified - Communication**



Community Worship & Faith Development



Submission completed successfully.

26. When and where were worship services held?



To add When and Where are worship services held, please Click the “Create Worship Services Item” button located to the right, to add more Worship Service Items click “Create Worship Services Item” again.

Create Worship Services Item

Day ↑	Time	Style (choose the option that works best)	Type	Average attendance	Frequer
Sunday	8am	Contemplative/Reflective	In Person	20	Weekly
Sunday	9:15am	Multi-age/Family	In Person	24	Weekly
Sunday	10am	Multi-age/Family	In Person	90	Weekly
Sunday	11am	Traditional	Hybrid	55	Weekly



27. Did you have any groups for worship, faith formation or other spiritual practices? Faith formation is any activity intended to grow people's belief and trust in God.

To add a group, please Click the "Create Group item" button located to the right, to add more groups click "Create Group item" again.

Create Group Item

Day	Time	Type	Average attendance ↑	Frequency	Language	By Whom/For Whom
Monday		Bible Study	10	Fortnightly	English and Bahasa Indonesia	



28. What approximate percentage of your worship services are led by:

Ordained minister

90

Pastor

80

Lay leader(s)

10



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Risk Management, Occupational Health & Safety



Submission completed successfully.

29. Are the following items easily accessible on the church premises:

Safety Manual 2016? *

No Yes

Is the "if you are injured" poster prominently displayed? *

No Yes

Is the Evacuation plan properly signposted? *

No Yes

30. Following inspection by the Synod OHS Officer, have you implemented their recommendations for remediation of defects in your church property?

Yes

Reason



g

Safe Church Policies



Submission completed successfully.

31. Is your Church Council/Congregation aware and adhering to the UCA "Code of Conduct for Lay Leaders"?

For information navigate to the following website: <https://assembly.uca.org.au/resources/regulations> (<https://assembly.uca.org.au/resources/regulations>) : Click on the Policies tab for access to "Code of Conduct for Lay Leaders" and "Guidelines for Councils of the Church when implementing the Code of Conduct for Lay Leaders".

No Yes

Comments**32. Does your Church Council/congregation maintain an up-to-date register of "appointed leaders" (as per Synod's definition) required to hold a Working with Children Check (VIC/NSW) or Working with Vulnerable People Registration (TAS)? ***

Yes

Comments:

Kept in rolls database with appointed leaders decided from rosters and roles.

33. Has the Church Council/congregation appointed someone to administer the WWCC/R database for your congregation? *

No Yes

Comments:**34. Have appointed leaders attended Safe Church training within the last 3 years? ***

No



Comments:

It has not been available. We keep getting assured that on line training is almo:

35. How has your Church Council/congregation implemented the following Keeping Children Safe (KCS) policies?**Appoint Culture of Safety contact person**

Yes

Implemented process CC1 Guide for KCS

Yes

Display KCS poster

Yes

Other

No

Comments:

For information navigate to the following website: <http://ucavictas.org.au/keepingchildrensafe/> (<http://ucavictas.org.au/keepingchildrensafe/>)



For Victoria only (if you are located in Tasmania please answer N/A)

36. Is your Church Council/congregation aware of the Child Safe Standards required by the Victorian Government and can identify how they are being implemented in your setting through implementation of the Keeping Children Safe Policy? *

Yes

Comments:**37. Is your Church Council/congregation aware of the Reportable Conduct Standards required by the Victorian Government and can identify how they are being implemented in your setting? ***

Yes

Comments:

h

Feedback

Thank you for completing the return. The information you have provided will better inform the Synod and presbyteries on the wider life of the Church community. Your information is treated with respect and will not be shared with third parties outside of the Synod.

Submission completed successfully.

How easy was this survey to complete?

4 - Difficult

**How many people needed to be contacted in order to complete this survey?**

A few (We needed to contact a couple of people with specific roles e.g. Culture

Have you been made aware of any use of this information?

No

Was there any section or question you had difficulty completing?

Many of the questions could not be realistically answered during a pandemic.
There was no "typical" week.

Do you have any comments you would like to make about this survey or the process?**Submit**

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

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