

Balmain Uniting Church Ministry and Mission Development Plan 2019-2022

Theological and Missional Foundation

Our foundation for ministry and mission at Balmain Uniting Church lies in our commitment to our call as the Body of Christ – who are we called to *be* and (then) what are we called to *do* as the *people of God* in this place at this time?

We are a diverse community committed to growing our faith in God, sharing Christ's message and living in God's Spirit of love.

Central to our community are the following verses of Scripture: ^[1]_[SEP]

1. Matthew 22: 36-40 “Love the Lord your God with all your heart, mind and soul, and love your neighbour as yourself.” ^[1]_[SEP]

2. Micah 6:8 “Do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with your God.” ^[1]_[SEP]

In response to God's love, Christ's teaching and the Spirit present with us, we seek to:

Do justice: - being just in our dealings with others and seeking justice on others' behalf. We work together to seek a greater equality for all people.

Love mercy: offering practical support, reaching out to others.

Walk humbly with your God: sharing our faith with humility and grace.

Our call into ministry and mission in our local area (and beyond) seeks to:

1. develop stronger relationships with the local community;
2. grow capacity and leadership within our congregation;
3. build on our strengths :
 - a. worship and faith gatherings which nurture faith in God
 - b. supporting people exploring matters of sexuality, gender, faith and spirituality
 - c. offering theological and faith perspective in public arenas which draws on our passion for social justice
 - d. a communal ability to sit with uncertainty and inclusion of people across the spectrum of belief.

Summary: Balmain Uniting Church Ministry and Mission Plan

version 2: 15 August 2021 (Originally developed on 16th July 2019)

As actioned in the Summary Plan attached.

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Summary Plan

	Focus Area	Objectives	Approach	Process	Who	Notes from June meeting (column to be deleted)
1	Worship and faith gatherings which encourage and nurture faith in God	Nurture and grow our worship community while holding to 'Sabbath'	<p>Nurture and grow an intergenerational worship</p> <p>Flexible and accessible</p> <p>Build visibility on a local level</p> <p>Invite people to church</p>	<p>Release time for Minister to integrate intergenerational liturgy into Sunday morning service</p> <p>Integrate intergen practices into Sunday morning worship</p> <p>Explore alternative options for intergenerational gatherings</p> <p>Record sermon Look at options e.g. podcasts</p> <p>Invest in new banner/s to hang Design and distribute invitation/information postcards</p>	<p>Church Council Lead person:</p> <p>Minister/Congregation</p> <p>Church council</p> <p>Worship Working Group</p> <p>Church council Lead person:</p> <p>Congregation</p>	<p>Identify models of worship (different times of the day/week, style eg. café church) which encourage more regular attendance</p> <p>Pub after church or during the week</p> <p>Once a month questions for discussion (small group)</p> <p>How do we connect with Sunday folk- kids spot, shops open, no longer a 'rest' day observed?</p> <p>All age</p>

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			Newsletter	Identify friends/colleagues to invite to church and/or church events	Newsletter Working Group (James, Felicity, Julie-Anne)	Take church to the people All age evening service
2	Nurture Spirituality	Provide a safe space for exploration of faith for people on different faith journeys. Provide opportunities for people with a Christian faith to grow in their	Continue to provide a safe space which is a key part of this congregation and which contributes to the mission of the Uniting Church overall. Provide Pastoral Care to each other Intentional conversations	Continue to develop Community Care Network Explore forming a small group which provides a casual, focused time of intentional conversation	Minister Minister/ Church Council Lead person:	

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		understanding of their faith and in their ability to articulate what their faith means.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - After service - Small Group - Seasonal preparational study 	<p>Integrate conversation time within Sunday worship to form a practice of intentional conversation</p> <p>Small group form for 6 months</p>	<p>Congregation/ Minister</p> <p>Minister and Worship Working Group</p>	
3.	Build local connections	Develop intentional relationships with local community	<p>Identify people and places in the community where local connections can and have been made.</p> <p>Plan what, who, why and how Balmain UCA could make these connections</p>	<p>Formulate a list of people and places in the community where local connections can and have been made</p> <p>Identify three top priority connections.</p> <p>Work purposefully to see how Balmain can connect and serve with/alongside these groups</p>	<p>Church council Lead person:</p> <p>Church Council</p> <p>Church Council Lead person:</p>	(Identified are: Writers loft, Casual Mondays, World Day of Prayer, Interfaith, Agency, Playgroup, Jazz Night, Smiths Hall, Buddhist meditation, Global Conduct, Montessori,

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						Roselle Neighbourhood Centre, Bridge for Asylum Seekers)
4	Property and financial sharing	<p>Use our Properties to maximize opportunities to connect with the local community to support the objectives set out above.</p> <p>Release funds generated by our properties</p>	<p>Finance our plans for Mission and Ministry</p> <p>Finance the maintenance and development of the properties we have stewardship of to bring them up to a good standard as a church asset</p>	<p>Full time MOW placement Projects arising from building local relationships</p> <p>Develop/update short and long term maintenance plan for our properties</p>	<p>Church council Lead person:</p> <p>Church council Lead person:</p>	<p>(We support, financially, theological students as they prepare for ministry 6/12. Take a group to share in rural church (as supply) lead worship?- where there is no minister Saltbush RNC Indigenous</p>

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	Focus Area	Objectives	Approach	Process	Who	Notes from June meeting (column to be deleted)
			Release funds to support the mission of the wider church including congregations who are less generously resourced.	Approach Synod and Presbytery about the new Property Income Sharing Policy	Church Council Lead person:	