



## The Uniting Church in Australia NORTHERN SYNOD

# Placement Description

<b>Placement Title:</b>	Community Minister
<b>Service Area:</b>	Alice Springs, The Northern Synod
<b>Placement Status:</b>	0.5 FTE
<b>Location:</b>	Alice Springs Uniting Church Congregation
<b>Stipend Details:</b>	Click on link to refer to the <a href="#">Northern Synod Stipend and Allowances Schedule 2024</a> and the <a href="#">Northern Synod Ministry Handbook</a> or visit the Northern Synod website.

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### The Church:

The Uniting Church in Australia is a large uniquely Australian Christian denomination in Australia with heritage from historical reformed evangelical denominations. Northern Synod consists of two presbyteries, the Pilgrim Presbytery of Northern Australia (PPNA) and the Northern Regional Council of Congress (NRCC). The PPNA relates to the fifteen non-indigenous congregations across the Synod. Three of these are congregation/patrols (Tennant Creek/Barkly, East Kimberly Ministry and Jabiru). There are two patrols (West Kimberly and Centralian Patrol in the Centre) which do not have congregations.

The Uniting Church is multicultural, committed to reconciliation with first peoples, calls for reconciliation across its communities and aims to use its people and property resources wisely and in the furtherance of God's mission in the world.

Within the ministry of the whole Church, Jesus Christ calls men and women to proclamation of the gospel in word and deed through a call to ministry. This calling is exercised by preaching and presiding at the celebration of the sacraments and witnessing in the community of the gospel of Jesus Christ.

The vision of the Pilgrim Presbytery of Northern Australia is to enable congregations to use their God-given gifts in walking with their community in the ordinate paths of life. We acknowledge our call to care for all, as water in this wide red land.

### The Congregation:

The Alice Springs Uniting Church (ASUC) is part of the Uniting Church in Australia. The Uniting Church is a community of people across Australia called by God, shaped by Jesus and empowered by the Spirit to live with love and grace in the world.

The Uniting Church is in a covenant relationship with the Uniting Aboriginal and Islander Christian Congress. At the Alice Springs Uniting Church this covenant relationship is central to who we are.

We worship on the lands of the Arrernte people, the lands they call Mparntwe.

We are located in the heart of town in the John Flynn Memorial Church building. Grateful to those who went before us, we seek the Kingdom of God in this time and place.

We are a proudly intergenerational, multicultural and affirming church. We have Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples and languages sharing in ministry together. We are a safe church for all no matter their age, race, gender sexuality or where they are in life or faith.

We value the deep stillness of the land in which we live. We allow the creation and the community of which we are a part to shape our discipleship.

Justice, sustainability, reconciliation, and equality are key expressions of the holistic faith we seek to nurture in each other, and in the wider community which we serve. <https://aliceunitingchurch.org.au/>

We are a community of faith seeking to live out the radical good news of Jesus.

We open up our land, buildings and resources in the heart of town with the hope of creating a 'meeting place' for people of diverse backgrounds.

Despite some of the news headlines about our town we believe that everyone has a gift and that we are placed in the heart of Alice

### Ministry Placement

<https://www.ns.uca.org.au>

Springs to be:

- A welcoming sanctuary for travellers
- A reconciling community
- A people caring for others

In the name of Christ.

### **Placement Purpose:**

The purpose of this placement is to assist the Alice Springs Uniting Church's involvement in the community, enabling the congregation to fulfil its vision to serve the Alice Springs community.

The role will involve:

- **Church services in the Community** – This role will be responsible for leading church services (worship, preaching and delivering sacraments) in the hospital (monthly), prison (6 weekly), St Philip's High School (once per term) and "Old Timers" aged care service.
- **Community Liaison** The ASUC buildings and lawns are located in the centre of town. They are used by large numbers of people and community groups. This forms a large part of our engagement with the community. This role will be responsible for liaising with these groups and ensuring all hire agreements and payments are made.
- **Pastoral Support to volunteers:** The ASUC has an Op Shop and a museum in the heritage listed Adelaide House (first hospital in Alice). This role will be responsible for recruitment and pastoral support of these volunteers and ensuring all safe church documentation is maintained.
- **Pastoral Support to the UAICC (Uniting Aboriginal Islander and Christian Congress) members of the church.** This will include hospital and hostel visits and prayer.
- **Support for ITECA (Indigenous Theological Education in Central Australia).** ITECA endeavours to run one or two, one week, workshops per year. The community engagement minister will support Uniting Church members from the APY lands to attend these courses.
- **Oversight of community work crew and cleaners:** The ASUC has a community work crew visit weekly to assist with grounds maintenance and cleaning. They have a supervisor but this role will be responsible for liaising with the supervisor about tasks and providing a welcoming environment. This role will also have oversight of our cleaner.
- **Drop in:** Occasionally people drop into the office/op shop for showers, a cup of tea or foodbank vouchers. This role will assist with these when available.
- **Occasional preaching opportunities**
- **Occasional on call for emergencies.**
- **Participate in Church Council and other Councils of the church**

### **Key Responsibilities:**

1. Work within the policies and procedures of the Uniting Church in Australia, Northern Synod including the Safe Ministry Policy and the provisions of the Workplace Health and Safety and other relevant legislation including reporting hazards/incidents, support for injured workers and full participation in return to work plans.
2. Undertake other ministry duties as and when directed within the capabilities of the incumbent.

### **Reporting Relationships:**

This placement reports to: The Pilgrim Presbytery of the Northern Synod

### **Placement Selection Criteria:**

1. Qualifications:
  - 1.1. Recognised (or working towards) relevant qualifications in theology and/or community engagement practices
  - 1.2. Experience working cross culturally, cultural sensitivity and self-awareness
  - 1.3. Experience of pastoral care, preaching and teaching across a range of different contexts
  - 1.4. Demonstrated commitment to discipling others
2. Experience and Skills:
  - 2.1. General competencies specific to the role as identified by the context of the Northern Synod, particularly in relation to First Peoples Ministry

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- 2.2. Experience working or volunteering in the community sector, church or other faith based / not for profit organisation
- 2.3. Demonstrates effective people skills in complex environments
- 2.4. Well-developed capacity for networking and connecting with the community
- 2.5. Innovative and creative and experience working under limited supervision
- 2.6. Demonstrated organisational skills
- 2.7. Demonstrated capacity for teamwork
- 2.8. Commitment to working within the purpose and values of the Uniting Church in Australia, Northern Synod and adhering to the policies, organisational requirements and processes

**Additional Requirements:**

- Current Drivers Licence - Presentation of a current Drivers Licence must be made before your appointment to the position can be confirmed.
- Working with Children Clearance Card (NT Ochre Card)
- All adults who work with people under 18 years in NT in regulated employment are required to undergo a “Working with Children Check” under the screening provisions of the Working with Children (Risk Management and Screening) Act. The outcome of a clearance to work will be the granting of an Ochre Card. While not in an employment relationship, for the purposes of legislative compliance, presentation of a current Suitability Card must be made before the placement to be confirmed.
- A National Criminal History Check to be provided and assessed every 5 years. Presentation of a current National Criminal History Check must be made before appointment to the position can be confirmed.
- This position is for the exercise of the duties of ordained ministry of the Uniting Church in Australia. Preference will in the first case be given to appropriately qualified Ministers of the Word or Deacons. A lay person may be appointed to the role subject to successful completion of core competency requirements for the ministry of pastor in the Uniting Church in Australia. The successful applicant will be required to comply with the [Code of Ethics and Ministry Practice](#). and access regular professional supervision.
- This is an approved placement of the Uniting Church in Australia and the ministerial stipend and allowance provisions will apply.
- The successful applicant must be eligible to legally work in Australia and proof of eligibility may be requested.

**Authorised by:**

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Signature

Rev Janet Staines

General Secretary

Date: