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Synod of NSW & ACT

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## **Congregation Placement Profile**

Name of Placement: Peel Valley Uniting Church

Presbytery: New England North West Presbytery

Names(s) of Congregations or Agencies: Gowrie Community Church  
Hallsville Community Church  
West Tamworth Uniting Church

**Profile approved by Church Council/Congregation on**

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## Profile Purpose

The purpose of this profile is to:

- provide an opportunity for congregations to clarify their sense of identity, the context in which they work, the directions or goals of the congregation, and the leadership needed over the next five to ten years.
- provide information which will enable a ministry agent to discern if this is a community in which their gifts can be expressed and utilised.

This profile is set out in ten sections.

1. Basic Information
2. Identity – what sense of Christian community do the people share?
3. Context – what community does the church live in and seek to minister in?
4. Mission Direction – what goals has the congregation set and how will it pursue those goals?
5. Leadership – who exercises leadership, and how is leadership encouraged? (Church Council)
6. Ministry – who is involved and what will be expected of them?
7. Shared Congregations – for situations where ministry is shared across more than one congregation
8. Joint Nominating Committee
9. Presbytery
10. Draft Terms of Placement

## Presbytery Role

The Presbytery has the responsibility to carry out a mission audit (Reg. 2.7.14(a)) at the time that a congregation seeks a new placement. The mission audit and the task of completing the profile should mesh together. The Presbytery also has responsibility for helping the church council and joint nominating committee complete the profile.

## Sources

Information about your town or region can be gained from:

- The Australian Bureau of Statistics ([www.abs.gov.au](http://www.abs.gov.au))
- Local Government Community Profiles obtained from your local Council Office
- Local Information
- NCLS Community Profile

## 1. Basic Information

Peel Valley Uniting Church – multi centre

Church addresses

Gowrie – 2125 Gowrie Road, Gowrie NSW 2340

Hallsville – 1266 Manilla Road, Hallsville NSW 2340

West Tamworth – 77 Denison Street, West Tamworth NSW 2340

There is an unmanned office at Hallsville

Postal Address

Secretary, PO Box 3315, West Tamworth NSW 2340

Contact Email Address

ucapeelvalley@gmail.com

Website

ucapeelvalley.org.au

Please visit the website for map location. Also on the website are photo galleries and histories of the Congregation and the three church buildings.

## 2. Congregation Identity

*What sense of church do the people share?*

*This is what the Uniting Church says that we are “the organization which pursues its charitable purposes by facilitating worshiping, witnessing and serving as a fellowship of the spirit in Christ. Its members meet regularly to meet God’s word, to celebrate the sacraments, to build one another up in love, to share in the wider responsibilities of the church and to serve the world”*

Peel Valley is a vibrant, healthy, family church. We understand we may be considered small by some, however our Mission is real and viable. We know each other by name and care for each other. We study the gospel, pray and listen for God’s direction. We live by the doctrines of the Uniting Church in Australia.

We share in sincere, passionate worship and prayer. We are genuine in our hospitality and friendship. We enjoy traditional, practical presentation and study of the gospel.

We are ‘experimenting’ with what we can do to further our mission and achieve our goals. Our focus will remain the same, although our strategy may change.

### **Membership**

There are approximately 70 members of the congregation with the average attendance at services being 35 – 40.

Many others in the local communities, not counted as congregational members, attend services celebrating Easter, Christmas, and church anniversaries. Some of these services have seen up to 100 in attendance.

All of our members receive continuing Pastoral Care either in their home or aged care facility and when in hospital.

The congregation welcomes all who wish to share in the word of the Lord and does not require any formal process of membership.

Newcomers are welcomed and given a warm reception and a welcome letter inviting them to contact us with questions or feedback and asking them to return.

While some members have moved on, the congregation has welcomed new members resulting in a small degree of growth. In the past two years we have gained 7 new members; 3 from other congregations and 4 returning to the Christian faith.

The average age of our congregation is dropping, as several younger members have joined in recent times.

### **Worship**

There are three services each week

Hallsville (10+) Friday evening fellowship and supper (the lectionary is followed) Once a month a Holy Communion service Sunday at 9am.

Gowrie (8+) Traditional but informal service Sunday morning at 8:30am followed by morning tea and Holy Communion is celebrated on the first Sunday of the month.

West Tam (25+) Traditional service Sunday morning at 11am. On the first Sunday of the month, this service is followed by lunch and Holy Communion is celebrated on the third Sunday of the month.

On months that have a fifth Sunday there is a combined outing called '*Church on a Bus*' which visits other congregations in one of the surrounding towns and lunch is shared. On other occasions our congregation welcomes Uniting Church congregations from other rural centres.

### **Baptism and Life Transitions**

	<b>Two years</b>	<b>Three Years</b>
Baptisms (infant)	17	25

We happily welcome all families who come from the surrounding communities.

Funerals	1	2
Marriages	1	1

### **Groups**

The congregation enjoys a keen sense of fellowship and this includes sharing with the wider community.

Memory Lane	Fortnightly	25+
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An outreach activity with congregation and community sharing old time music/videos, games/trivia, guest speakers, and craft

Bible Study	Monthly	8+
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Fellowship evening meal	Weekly	10+
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Hallsville Community Markets	Monthly	80+
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Community morning tea at Gowrie	Monthly	18+
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' <i>Church on the Bus</i> '	Quarterly	22+
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Connecting with other denominations/congregations with reciprocal visits

' <i>River</i> ' service at Hallsville	Bi-annually	50+
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Home Groups	As needed	6+
Offering prayer and uplifting conversation to congregation/community		
Prayer chain	Ongoing	30+

We celebrate anything and everything. Mostly with pot-luck lunches, barbecues and lots of cake; birthdays, anniversaries, church milestones. The entire congregation and community are invited to these gatherings.

### Key Events

In January we organise a *Gospel Breakfast* during the Tamworth Country Music Festival. Local and visiting artists as well as the congregation and wider community have been supporting this event for many years.

Pre-Christmas lunch held to thank our volunteers and others who support us throughout the year, in the congregation and the wider community.

A number of our members are now into their 80's and 90's. Where these people used to organise and front cake stalls, fetes, and other such fundraising events, they now assist by making the cakes, making the crafts and giving generous donations.

Many of our members have an ongoing commitment to volunteer at the Clotheshorse (local op shop now managed by City Uniting Church). We also support Tamworth City church monthly, with donations for their foodbank.

### Values

When we conducted the Church Life Survey in 2016, the one common thread was '*love of God, and love of others*'. Being there for one another; being compassionate and forgiving. We believe we achieve this through being a welcoming and inclusive church, always listening for what God is asking us to do.

### Beliefs and Practices

The congregation has many commonly held beliefs, the most important are

The Trinity: The resurrection: God is always with us: The power of prayer:

There is also some diversity of belief but with an underlying acceptance of those who think differently and that only God has all the answers.

The congregation follows these beliefs in the services of worship and in the caring, sharing, outreach and praying for others.

### Gospel

"We've been given God's love – we try to share it with others" sums up the attitude of individuals and the congregation as a whole, towards the Gospel imperative.

"We try to follow Christ's example". This is lived out by the congregation through worship and outreach. It is also lived out on an individual basis.

"The Christian Gospel is the core of our beliefs – our bedrock."

We openly discuss the big issues challenging our world; social justice, the environment and we support the work and mission of the wider Uniting church. This is an area we feel the congregation can make a impact, with leadership and guidance.

### Cultural and Linguistic Diversity

Language spoken: English; Ethnic Groups: None

The congregation is accepting and welcoming to everyone; the reason many of our members joined the Uniting church.

### **Church Life Priorities**

*What aspects of your church's life are most valued by attenders?*

Survey of the congregation (23 responses) identified the following core life priorities

Sermons, preaching or Bible teaching

Practical care for one another in times of need (Pastoral Care)

Prayer ministry for one another

Reaching those who do not attend Church

Sharing in Holy Communion

A style or variety of styles of worship - Responses were equally Traditional, Bible Study, Fellowship

Styles or variety of music - Majority of responses were Traditional, some Modern

Meeting new people

Partnership with an aged care service

A snapshot of 'where we are now' would indicate our time, energy and funding is directed into Pastoral Care; Pastoral Care Coordinator and supporters, seminars and training.

Mentoring for lay preachers and members of our congregation who have expressed a desire to get involved in taking services and leading the congregation is of extreme importance at this time.

### 3. Context

#### The focus of the congregation

Geographically the congregation is drawn from the West Tamworth urban area and the Southern and Northern rural and semi-rural areas of post code 2340 of the Tamworth Region.

People Groups comprise mainly senior citizens of the families that have helped to develop the region as well as some younger new arrivals to the area.

The Peel Valley Uniting Church was formed when the two larger Tamworth churches became separate congregations. The original vision was three small congregations helping each other. There is a distance of 45 kilometres between the three worship centres. Today, we consider ourselves one congregation, a sense of camaraderie and belonging together keeping us strong. Two of our congregations are rural, whilst the third is in an older part of Tamworth, a regional centre.

The wider community (see attached maps)

There are approximately 45,700 living in this post code area.

The urban area of the post code area has a population of 38,736 and is served by three Uniting churches – Peel Valley, City and Southside, as well as several churches of other denominations.

The rural areas of Hallsville and Gowrie are served only by the Peel Valley Uniting Church.

The major age groups are fairly evenly spread with both young (0-9years) and elderly (80+years) being above the national average.

There is a low level of ethnicity in the area – less than 2% compared to the Australian level of nearly 16%.

The percentage of Aboriginal people in the wider community at 9% is three times the national and state average. Some members of the congregation in the Hallsville area are part Aboriginal.

Our current involvement with Aboriginal outreach is through Kairos Outside for Women.

The major economic activities and employers in the wider community include health care (hospitals, medical facilities and aged care), many small and medium business throughout Tamworth and the Taminda business district, the Tamworth Regional Council, professional, retail, and the Country Music industry together with accommodation, clubs and hotels.

The rates of those actively employed or still enrolled at high school are above the national average. However families with incomes less than \$800 per week are much higher than the national average and those university qualified are much lower. (refer full schedule of statistics attached).

Tamworth has a healthy and uncomplicated lifestyle with its people welcoming and friendly. Maybe this comes from the influx of thousands of tourists during the two week country music festival in January, but the easy mix of rural and urban also has an influence.

The city is large enough to have first class facilities but small enough not to have the



infrastructure issues of large cities. These facilities include a new hospital, cancer unit, sporting facilities, excellent schools both public and private, Conservatorium of Music, entertainment centre and theatres and a major horse and livestock events centre. The city is served by daily train service and frequent air services.

Our wider community is “a good place to live”, because people have lifestyle options. They are able to live in units, separate dwellings, or on acreage. Many Tamworth residents have the benefit of living close to other family members. Those who have lived in the area their whole lives have formed a range of friendships over a lifetime. There is therefore a strong sense of community.

Stress points in the community include unemployment, drugs and crime – particularly among the young, mental illness and an ageing demographic – an Australia wide issue.

## **Community Engagement**

*With whom does your congregation connect most in your wider community?*

St Andrews Aged Care Village – our Pastoral Care Coordinator conducts regular worship services. Music is provided by our organist and vocalist. We provide social visits and pastoral care for the residents and organise morning teas for special occasions.

Peel Valley partner with St. Andrews Village in various activities, worship services at Uniting McKay House and Alblas Lodge.

Hallsville’s outreach is to the local and wider Tamworth communities with Worship & Markets held on the last Sunday of each month. The congregation put on a cooked breakfast; a successful fundraising venture.

Gowrie’s outreach is to the local community. Current projects are building a new toilet/shower facility, painting and planning landscaping improvements. When ready, the church will be advertised for ‘Country Weddings’ and other community gatherings. We will also host campers during the Country Music Festival as Hallsville has done successfully for many years.

*List three ways in which your congregation connects, service or partner with people in your wider community?*

We partner with Tamworth City church assisting with the Annual City fete, contribute monthly to their foodbank collection and many of our members volunteer at the ‘clotheshorse’.

We provide financial support of religious studies at Timbumburi School (Gowrie is the nearest church to the school) and are involved in end of year presentations.

The congregation has an actively maintained website [www.ucapeelvalley.org.au](http://www.ucapeelvalley.org.au) which has the weekly readings, prayer points and newsletter. The site gets hits from around the world, so hopefully it gives inspiration to others.

*Do you own, rent, share or borrow buildings?*

The Gowrie, Hallsville and West Tamworth buildings are owned by Peel Valley Uniting Church.

*If you rent property to community groups, how do you engage with your tenants?*

We are continually looking at ways to engage the wider community. Over the years many groups have taken advantage of our hospitality and we have several opportunities currently being reviewed which need to be logistically worked through. For example, we have upgraded the sound system at Hallsville to encourage local and budding musicians to make use of the facility.

Our mission action group has been discussing ways in which we could support the volunteer care givers at the Tamworth Family Day Care. The most likely would be hosting quarterly lunches to thank them for their work.

We have had involvement with the Early Learning Centre, however this is now limited to joining in fundraising events rather than direct contact with the children.

Lutheran Church in Tamworth conduct their services each Sunday at 9am in the West Tamworth church and we have joined them in worship.

Red Cross – Hallsville church has strong links to the Red Cross Hallsville branch, offering the building and facilities for their use. The Red Cross ladies occasionally assist with catering for our events.

## 4. Future Direction

In answering the questions in this section you will be able to draw on both the long term work of the congregation on goals and directions, and also the work done in any mission audit conducted by your Presbytery.

Does the congregation have a mission or vision statement?

**Mission** "Called to be Free, Gifted to Serve"

**Vision** "To be transformed communities experiencing, enjoying and sharing the gift of the friendship of Jesus"

We believe that God has gifted each of us to serve in a particular way. It is never an obligation; it is what we are here for. Through our giving and service to others, we experience the heart of God

It is more than ten years since our current Goal and Mission were established and should be reviewed to ensure that they still meet the values and aspirations of the congregation. Such review would be conducted with the new ministry agent in place.

How has this congregation changed in the last five years? If current trends continue, what is the congregation likely to be facing in the next five to ten years?

NENW Presbytery conducted a "Consultation on the Life and Witness of our Congregation in 2013.

The positives of having such a document to reference, is in seeing how the congregation has moved forward in the last four years.

We are constructing our Preaching Plan using more of our own lay preachers, nurturing and training newer members to take up this work. We also occasionally invite guest preachers from other denominations to lead our worship.

We have a strong Pastoral Care team, led by our Pastoral Care Coordinator. We have taken the opportunities provided by Presbytery's Education Fund to support us with training programs and seminars.

We are looking at reviewing the contributions of our current Elders and possibly selecting additional numbers.

In addition we have reintroduced monthly Bible Study sessions, with visiting guest speakers.

We have established a Mission Action Group which also meets regularly to discuss new ideas and to work through action plans.

One activity was Operation Christmas Child; wrapping and filling shoeboxes to be sent to needy children in the Pacific Islands. Packing the boxes was a great day of fun and fellowship and we have agreed to make this an annual event.

Our Mission Action Group meets regularly and ideas, plans and progress are updated on our website after each meeting. Please visit the website to follow our progress.

Our congregation has become much more self-reliant over the past three years. We have designated church members (volunteers) in specific roles; transport coordinator, preaching plan coordinator, communications manager, etc. We continue with our strong Pastoral Care coordination to enable us to serve the wider community better.

We have invested in new sound equipment at Hallsville, video equipment at Wests and work has started upgrading the Gowrie church. All these improvements are vital to

establishing links with the community; inviting local musicians to Hallsville, Memory Lane at Wests and offering the Gowrie church for weddings and community gatherings.

Another community link we intend to pursue at Gowrie is to engage with the parents of school age children and determine if there is any interest in setting up a 'drop in centre' once a fortnight. Both the primary school and high school buses come past the church and we think there is a real opportunity to offer a safe, Christian meeting place with games, pool table, basketball hoop, etc. for local families.

We see an even bigger opportunity at Hallsville as this is a growing community with new housing developments popping up in all directions. Hallsville Uniting Church is the only church in the vicinity and we are not aware of plans for new buildings. Hallsville church has so much to offer with huge outdoor spaces, a well-equipped and fenced play area for younger children and indoor spaces with table tennis, sound system for budding musicians and a fully equipped kitchen for those interested in practising their culinary skills.

We intend to build on the original vision of the founding members of Peel Valley and their need for rural ministry. We are looking at ways to support Rural Ministry through 'The Flying Padre' and the newly appointed Rev Mark Faulkner in his position of Director of Rural & Remote Ministry Initiatives for NSW/ACT Synod.

Peel Valley Uniting Church provides a non-threatening space for those used to smaller congregations. Many of our members are on the land or have moved from farms where smaller congregations were the norm. They are comfortable and feel safe where everyone knows one another.

There was a small decline in numbers in the years following the establishment of Peel Valley, however since 2012 numbers have been increasing and the average age of members is also declining.

These newer members have revitalized the congregation by painting a picture of a church more visible to the community, serving our community through outreach that we deem important to what God is calling us to do.

There is more energy and excitement in our congregation. There is a lot more to do; we are not there yet. And we all understand 'we can't stay here'.

Name goals identified by the congregation/church council

Discernment is a spiritual discipline. We believe we must align ourselves with what God is doing. We understand God has put us in this place and given us each our special gifts. It is up to us to pray for God's direction.

Our people bear witness to their faith in Christ in their everyday lives, in the words they speak, in the kindness they show to others and in continuing the work of the God's church.

Our goals, the achievement of which will fulfil our Vision:

To deepen our personal relationship with God by aiming for a Christ centred life through the power of the Holy Spirit.

To respond to God's love and grace with heartfelt prayer and meaningful worship.

To show genuine concern and respect for all people and to respond to their needs by reaching out with the unconditional love of Jesus Christ.

To provide nurture, care and genuine fellowship for all who are touched by our church community.

What progress has the congregation made with its current plans?

Our 'current' plans were first put in place in 2013 after the above mentioned Consultation and we have achieved much of what we set out to do.

We have a preaching plan which covers a six month period. Regardless of numbers (in small congregations we know when people are sick, travelling and will not be at church), our services are held as per the scheduled time and day. Our services are variations on a traditional worship service.

Our worship is a clear and practical presentation of the Gospel. Prayer is sincere and meaningful.

Our pastoral care team has undertaken training and attended seminars and is spiritually guided by our Pastoral Care Coordinator. In our congregation and community the need for pastoral visits is huge; there is seldom a day when one of our members is not called upon to help.

We have re-established our bible study group, meeting on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the month and started a community coffee morning, Memory Lane. We meet on the first and third Tuesday for music/poetry, games/trivia, craft, fun and laughter. Guest speakers are particularly welcome.

We have an easy to navigate and informative website which is updated almost daily, we have installed the necessary video and sound equipment so we can expand on the content of our worship services, offer better sound quality to the hearing impaired and offer the use of our facilities to the community.

What will be the next strategic steps toward achieving the congregation's vision?

The next step for Peel Valley Uniting Church is to call a part-time Minister. We require someone with the time, gifts and abilities to nurture our congregation. Lay preachers do a wonderful job but they also need nurturing and mentoring. A Minister will give us a greater sense of continuity and identity.

It has been seven years since our Pastor retired from this congregation. Our congregation is confident the placement of a part-time minister would provide vision and momentum.

Regular devotionals by a Minister of the Word will create a more consistent message and style of worship.

Our congregation is not opposed to or fearful of change and we would willingly accept changes to worship. At the present time, we continue to engage in traditional worship; reading the gospel, heartfelt prayer, traditional hymns and the service presided over by one person, from the pulpit or round the table.

We have however introduced video messages as a way to gain a deeper understanding of what is happening in the church today, social justice and the environment. We have discussed the idea of live-streaming services from like-minded clergy-led congregations.

Rural Ministry is important to Peel Valley and we want to support it. We are excited to have the newly appointed Rev Mark Faulkner working with congregations in the bush and we will be supporting his work. We are looking at providing a scholarship for a rural Minister, discussion is underway.

We continue to expand our lay preacher and pastoral care base to support the wider Tamworth community. We strive to be known as compassionate and loving people doing God's work.

Communication is key to our health and growth.

The congregation - we will need to introduce change slowly, considering all views. Our

Leadership reviews all issues/ideas/plans before presenting them to our Council meetings (the entire congregation) for consideration and consensus.

### **Partnership**

Who are you collaborating with in your vision, at the moment? Who do you plan to collaborate with in the future?

Our outreach is our community; Gowrie, Hallsville, West Tamworth. It is exciting because the three are all so different and it is easy to see how we are of importance to each of them.

West Tamworth is situated in a community of elderly residents; many live alone in small units and we have links to the aged care facilities.

Hallsville and Gowrie have strong links to the founders of the Methodist/Uniting church in the areas and many of their descendants still live and worship with Peel Valley Uniting Church. Third and fourth generations are staying on the land and more young families are moving here for a better way of life. We see growth in the region and therefore anticipate a greater need to look after these families.

This collaboration has waxed and waned for many decades. The renewed and revitalized Peel Valley Uniting Church will see the importance of the church, once again, recognized and valued in these communities.

Collaboration with our new part-time Minister

*Romans 10 For whoever calls upon the name of the Lord shall be saved. How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach unless they are sent? So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.*

We feel that after decades of faithful worship and devotion to the church, senior members in particular, are experiencing a level of anxiety at not having a Minister to nurture their faith, offer spiritual guidance and allow them to witness the strengthening of the congregation, ensuring the survival of their church.

Presbytery tell us lay-led congregations are the way of the future and are willing to provide training to equip congregations to look after themselves.

We prepare for services, lead worship, organise our own programs, offer pastoral care, effectively taking over the position of Minister. But in a small church, many of our members are involved to some extent in lay preaching. So we have to ask, 'who will look after the spiritual and pastoral needs of our leaders?'

Since a Christian congregation could not exist without God's word, it clearly follows that it must have teachers and preachers who administer the word.

Just as each member of our congregation is 'gifted to serve' we view a Minister as a 'gift to our church', a part of Christ's plan for his church.

We see the Minister's role as one of nurturing and leading the congregation and community through preaching and teaching God's word. In addition to this, a Minister could enhance our pastoral care work, work with the congregation to develop and initiate programs and mentor individuals to prepare them for discipleship. Serving as a representative of the church in the community.

We require a leader to act as a representative of the church in the community, and who can build other leaders from the congregation. We require a Minister who casts a vision, maybe making changes or restructuring, but always keeping evangelism, mission and growth of the whole church and wider community involvement, at the forefront.

## 5. Leadership

Peel Valley has adopted regulation 3.9.3 which allows all members of the congregation to be part of the Church Council. The Council has an AGM each November at which the executive officers are appointed and the Council meets every three months. Meetings are well attended (85%+ of members).

The executive consists of Chairperson, Vice Chair, Treasurer, Secretary.

The Church Council makes its decisions by consensus, all members of the congregation participate.

The Congregation has five Elders who share in its spiritual oversight and nurture.

Council looks after all administrative, financial and property aspects of the Congregation, either directly or through its executive officers.

All members of the congregation have input into the form of worship (for example the bible reading roster), study, action and prayer groups and participate in missional activities.

Several members of the congregation regularly avail themselves of courses provided by Presbytery. This assists them in living out their faith more effectively, and filling their roles within the congregation more capably and knowledgeably.

Meg Mangan has filled the role of volunteer pastoral care co-ordinator. This role was created to ensure that members are visited or contacted on a regular basis. Meg is supported in this role by Margaret Crowell.

## 6. Ministry

### Ministry Placement

The congregation is seeking a part time (50%) placement.

We are seeking a Minister of the Word. The congregation is in agreement that a Minister of the Word would support us in achieving our goals of strengthening our faith respond to God's love and grace and help us to be a visible presence in our communities, caring for our neighbours.

This placement is a replacement for our Pastor who left in 2010.

New placement should commence as soon as possible.

We expect the principle responsibilities of a new ministry agent to be in strict accordance with 2.2.1 of the United Church in Australia Regulations, providing overall leadership; preaching; pastoral work; encouragement.

For some of us, the idea of offering God's salvation to others is the cause of a certain embarrassment and even resistance because we don't want to be associated with certain groups, preachers or ways of evangelizing.

We need an experienced minister who will work with us, through these barriers, enabling us to be comfortable and effective in sharing our faith with others.

We need a minister who can relate to all ages, but particularly understands that the elderly need to be heard, respected and valued. They feel responsible for their church and want to see it continue to flourish long after they have passed on.

We seek a leader and mentor; a Minister who will keep us focused on our vision and achieving our goals, who recognizes and understands our current limitations.

We seek a Minister who can help us as we struggle to come to terms with the question, "What does it mean to be a Christian today?" and to assist us as individuals and as a congregation, to live out the answers to that question.

### Current Staffing Arrangements

We have no current employees.

We have a volunteer Pastoral Care Coordinator supported by a sub-committee of the Church Council. We have a number of Lay Preachers who assist with services. Some of these are members of other Churches in the Tamworth area.

Is there a designated team leader? Yes

If 'yes', is this the new ministry person? Yes

Responsibilities are allocated consultatively.

### Administrative Support

Is there a church office? Yes

At 1266 Manilla Road, Hallsville NSW 2340

The office is not staffed.



## 7. Joint Congregations

Peel Valley is a multi-centre congregation (by definition of the Uniting Church of Australia)

Name of congregation

Peel Valley Uniting Church (members attend churches at Gowrie (32km South of Tamworth), Hallsville (13km North of Tamworth) and West Tamworth, close to the CBD.

In what ways do the congregations interact?

We share one Mission and One Vision.

Members often attend services at the other churches that are part of Peel Valley Uniting Church. All members combine quarterly for 'Church on the Bus', and attend quarterly Council meetings. Peel Valley also has combined services at Easter and Christmas as well as social gatherings for lunch, gospel breakfast, markets and life celebrations.

Give details of any agreements entered into for the sharing of Ministry across the congregations?

While there is no fixed agreement for sharing the Ministry, it is expected that it will be an equitable arrangement.

Do the congregations have separate Church Councils or a joint Church Council?

There is only one Church Council.

Are any major changes or developments anticipated within the grouped congregations in the next three/five years e.g. sudden growth, amalgamations, sale of property, new buildings?

There are no major changes anticipated to the current congregation other than an expectation that with a new Ministry there will be renewed opportunity to reach out to the communities.

The new housing developments springing up at Hallsville and surrounds are exciting, as Peel Valley is the only church in the area. Gowrie also has seen an upturn in the number of new residents.

List any shared mission goals that have been adopted by the grouped congregations for the next three/five years?

Peel Valley Uniting Church has always had a shared goal and vision and this will continue. We work as one congregation in three very different communities, supporting each other in the initiatives we have agreed on that will benefit our congregation and community. Refer to Section 4.

What role will the proposed ministry agent play in achieving these goals?

The new Minister is integral to taking Peel Valley Uniting Church on a path to be better able to achieve our goals.

## 8. Joint Nomination Council

The Joint Nominating Committee was approved by Peel Valley Uniting Church's Council at a meeting held on 7 August 2016.

Name Ross Davidson  
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Name Tony Orr  
Address 2058 Gowrie Rd, GOWRIE, NSW 2340  
Phone email (02) 9838 8799; keaorr@gmail.com

Name Evelyn Keane  
Address 2058 Gowrie Rd, GOWRIE, NSW 2340  
Phone email (02) 9838 8799; keaorr@gmail.com

Name Beth Scorgie  
Address 113 Piper St, Tamworth North, NSW 2340  
Phone email (02) 6766 4234; scorb7@gmail.com

Do you request permission to advertise this placement - No

### Checklist for JNC Convener

Profile completed and accepted by Church Council

Position Description(s) attached (where appropriate) n/a

Manse plans found and  
included Or n/a

Description of alternative housing arrangements attached n/a

Financial records copied and attached

Congregation members of JNC forwarded to Presbytery

Any extra attachments with community and congregation information to be made available to people interested in the position

## 9. Presbytery

### Name of Presbytery

1. Does the Presbytery support the mission directions identified by the congregation(s) (Profile section 4) for the next three/five years?  Yes  No

Presbytery comment:

2. **What is the** Presbytery perspective on this congregation's life and future?

3. Does the Presbytery consider that the congregation(s) should proceed to a new placement at this time?  Yes  No

Presbytery comment:

4. For which of the following ministries does the Presbytery consider that the position may be suitable?

Minister of the Word  Deacon  Pastor  Exiting Candidate

Give reasons for this choice:

- Is Priority/Strategic Placement recommended?  Yes  No

Give reasons for this choice:

5. Does the Presbytery consider that any changes to placement responsibilities or relationships are required at this time?  Yes  No

If yes, please elaborate:

6. Is the Presbytery satisfied that adequate and appropriate accommodation will be available, having regard to the Synod requirements for ministers' residences?  Yes  No

Date of the most recent Presbytery inspection of the residence

.....

If no, what steps are being taken to remedy the situation?

7. Is the Presbytery satisfied that adequate financial support for the placement and other congregation expenses will be available:

from the congregation(s) alone?

with help from Presbytery and/or Synod?

List any grants applied for or approved:

8. Does the Presbytery wish to make any additional comments?

9. Earliest date at which placement may become effective

10. If the JNC is requesting permission to advertise do you support their reasons? (Please give reasons)

**Presbytery Representatives on Joint Nominating Committee:**

Convenor Name            Rev Will Pearson  
Phone                      02 6772 0547  
Email Address            pastorwill@bigpond.com  
Postal Address            90 Fittler Cres, Armidale NSW 2350

Name                        Mrs Jacki Watts  
Phone                      02 6722 4172  
Email Address            wattil1946@hotmail.com  
Postal Address            PO Box 850, Inverell NSW 2360

Date of Presbytery Pastoral Relations Committee meeting

Signed .....  
*Chairperson/Secretary of Pastoral Relations Committee*

Date on which form is forwarded to Synod:

**Check list for PRC Convener**

- The Profiles are complete and have been approved by PRC:
- Adequate Manse Plans are attached
- Or
- Description of alternative housing arrangements have been approved
- Preliminary Terms of Placement have been filled out
- Financial details are attached and have been reviewed by Presbytery to ensure confidence that the Placement can be sustained
- Presbytery section is complete:

## 10. Terms of Placement

In calling (*name*)..... to placement in the ..... Congregation(s)/Presbytery/Board, as conveyed in a letter dated ..... to which this document is attached, the following are the agreed Terms of Placement to which the Minister and Congregation(s)/Presbytery (or other body/council as may be) commit themselves together in mutual ministry.

The terms set out below have the approval of the Presbytery/Board, and it is understood that it will be possible, with prayerful consideration, to consult together and ask the Presbytery to approve such changes as may become necessary or desirable from time to time.

1. (a) Full time or limited placement.  
(b) If limited, please provide details of the nature in which placement is limited e.g. amount of time, duration, other (percentages must be expressed in increments of 5).
2. **Date of commencement** .....
- 3.1 **Remuneration** will be paid in accordance with the schedule of stipend and allowances as determined by the Synod from time to time.
- 3.2 **Standing Costs** will be paid in accordance with the schedule of stipend and allowances as determined by the Synod from time to time.
- 3.3 **Travel Component** will be paid in accordance with the schedule of stipend and allowances as determined by the Synod from time to time on the basis of \_\_\_\_\_km per annum
4. **Residence:** (*Delete A or B as appropriate*)
  - (A) A rent-free residence will be provided, and a description of the residence is attached.  
*\* Attention is drawn to:*
    - (i) *the Synod's standards normally applicable to Ministerial residences.*
    - (ii) *the requirement of the placement is to provide:*  
*floor coverings; window furnishings; light fittings; study desk; chairs; shelving; filing cabinet. refrigerator; washing machine; television antenna; smoke detectors, clothes line, telephone and internet connection. If the kitchen is upgraded, consideration should be given to the installation of a of a dishwasher*
  - B) An allowance/benefit in lieu of residence will be paid at an initial rate of \$..... per annum. (**Not to exceed the maximum as set by Synod – refer to the current Synod Stipend, Allowances and Support Funds Information sheet.**)

5. **Superannuation Matters** (*Delete A, B or C as appropriate*)
  - (A) **Beneficiary Fund:** The Congregation(s)/Presbytery/Board will pay contributions to the Beneficiary Fund at the rate required (or at the appropriate percentage of the full rate in the case of limited placement).
  - (B) **Lay Staff Superannuation:** The Congregation(s)/Presbytery/Board will pay contributions to the Lay Staff Superannuation Fund at the rate required (or at the appropriate percentage of the full rate in the case of limited placement).
  - (C) **The Superannuation Fund** nominated by the Minister/Appointed Person.  
*In all instances contributions will be deducted from the remuneration and paid as required.*
  
6. **Ministerial Support Funds:** The Congregation(s)/Presbytery/Board will pay contributions to the Ministerial Support Funds at the rate required (or at the appropriate percentage of the full rate in the case of limited placement).
  
7. **Home Endowment Fund:** The Congregation/Presbytery/Board will deduct contributions from the remuneration and remit them as required.
  
8. **Other Allowances/Benefits:** (e.g. professional supervision costs, books, CD Rom, software, telephone (personal STD IDD), excess water). Resource allowance will be paid in accordance with the schedule of stipend and allowances as determined by the Synod from time to time.
  
9. **Leave:** Annual Leave shall be thirty days per annum.  
Other leave shall be taken in accordance with the provisions of Synod as set out in the By-Laws.
  
10. Any understandings that have been reached about how the ministerial responsibilities are to be shared or the responsibilities and/or time commitments for which the minister is called (ie specific job description).

.....  
Signed

.....  
Signed

Church Council Secretary/Executive Director

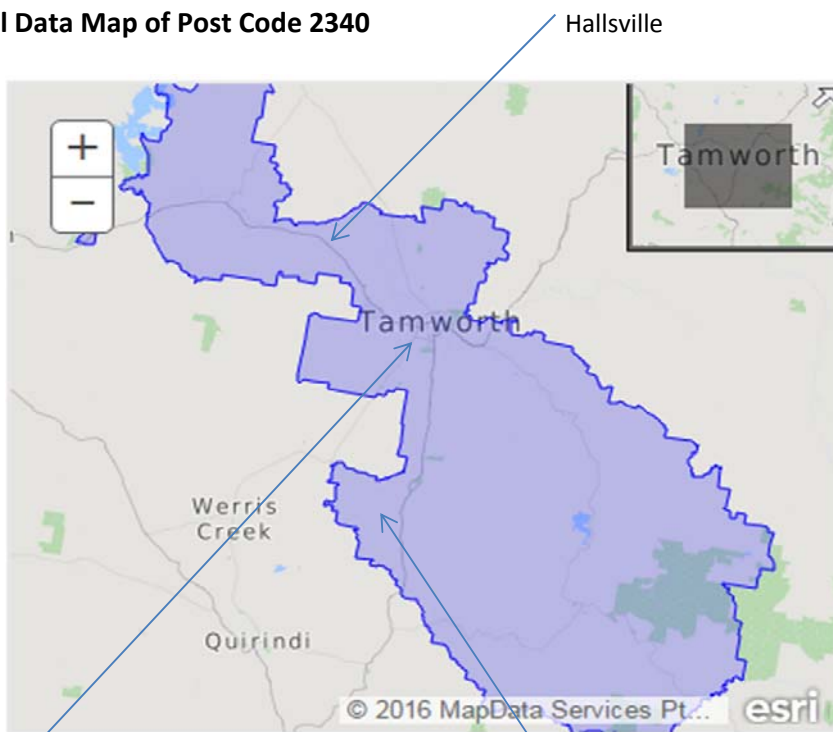
Minister

Date: .....

Date .....

**N.B.** A signed copy to be forwarded to the Synod Associate Secretary (Ministry) and a copy retained by each of the Minister, Congregation and Presbytery.

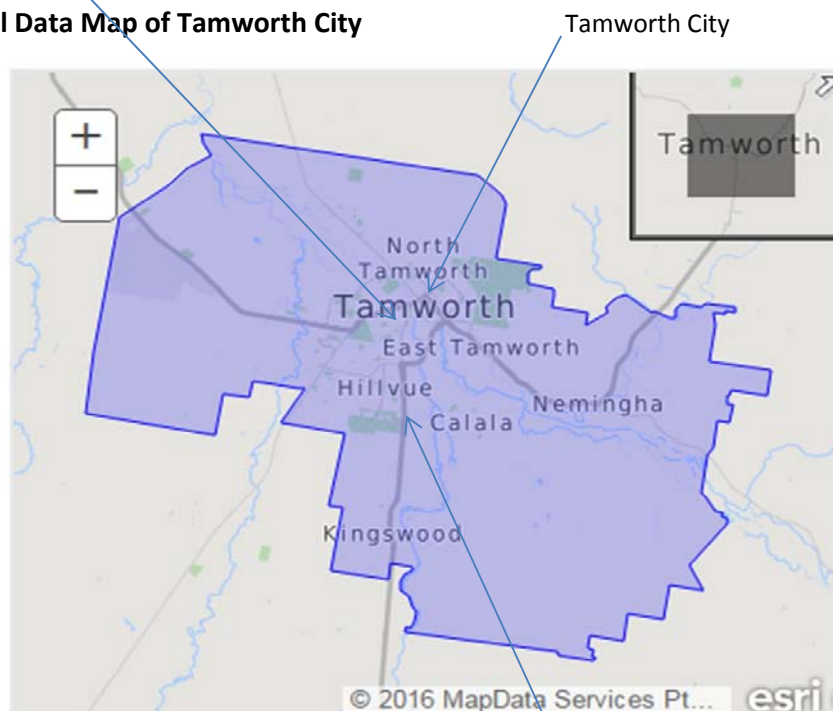
**Statistical Data Map of Post Code 2340**



West Tamworth

Gowrie

**Statistical Data Map of Tamworth City**



Tamworth City

Southside

**Statistical Data used obtained from these ABS files**

[http://www.censusdata.abs.gov.au/census\\_services/getproduct/census/2011/communityprofile/1031?opendocument&navpos=220](http://www.censusdata.abs.gov.au/census_services/getproduct/census/2011/communityprofile/1031?opendocument&navpos=220)

[http://www.censusdata.abs.gov.au/census\\_services/getproduct/census/2011/communityprofile/POA2340?opendocument&navpos=230](http://www.censusdata.abs.gov.au/census_services/getproduct/census/2011/communityprofile/POA2340?opendocument&navpos=230)

## A snapshot of the local community

This snapshot follows the format used by the NCLS in their Community Social Profiles, Summary Overview section. The Snapshot covers six categories: Population Structure; Education; Employment and Income; Households and Families; Housing; and Culture and Religion:

The NCLS format uses 12 key indicators, to these we have added two further indicators - indigenous and affiliated to the Uniting Church

	Post Code 2340		Tamworth City		Australia
<b>Counting People</b>					
<b>Total persons</b>	45700		38736		
<b>Total persons aged 15 years or over</b>	35992		30548		
<b>Total number of households</b>	17050		14597		
<b>Total number of families</b>	12031		10241		
<b>Fourteen Summary Indicators</b>					
<b>Population Structure</b>					
• <i>Aged 0 to 9:</i> Persons aged 0 to 9 years	6421	14.1%	5458	14.1%	12.9%
• <i>Aged 80 plus:</i> Persons 80 and over	1986	4.3%	1834	4.7%	3.9%
<b>Education</b>					
• <i>University qualified:</i> Persons with a university qualification (15+)	4004	11.1%	3274	10.7%	18.8%
• <i>In secondary school:</i> Persons currently enrolled in secondary school	3388	7.4%	2823	7.3%	6.2%
<b>Employment and Income</b>					
• <i>Employed persons:</i> Persons employed (15+)	21706	60.3%	16896	55.3%	57.9%
• <i>Income under \$800:</i> Gross family income under \$800 per week	3160	26.3%	2711	26.5%	21.4%
<b>Households and Families</b>					
• <i>Living alone:</i> Lone person households	5019	29.4%	4356	29.8%	24.3%
• <i>Young families:</i> Families with any child(ren) under 15	4877	40.5%	4116	40.2%	39.0%
<b>Housing</b>					
• <i>Home owners:</i> Dwellings fully owned or being purchased	11052	64.8%	9060	62.1%	64.3%
• <i>At same address:</i> Persons at same address five years ago	22655	49.6%	18636	48.1%	54.8%
<b>Culture and Religion</b>					
• <i>Born in NESCS:</i> Persons born in non-English speaking countries	718	1.6%	655	1.7%	15.7%
• <i>Indigenous:</i> Persons identifying as indigenous	4028	8.8%	3712	9.6%	2.5%
• <i>Christian affiliation:</i> Persons affiliated with Christian religion	35824	78.4%	30218	78.0%	61.1%
• <i>Uniting Church:</i> Persons affiliated with The Uniting Church	2492	5.5%	2025	5.2%	5.0%