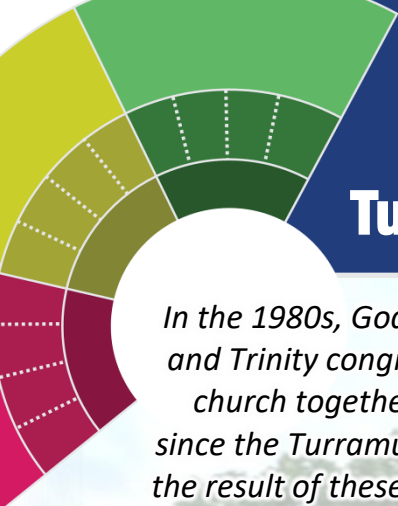


**Turrumurra
Uniting Church**

2019 VISION

*Setting the direction for
God's Ministry & Mission
at TUC in 2019*



God's Vision for Ministry and Mission at Turramurra Uniting Church

In the 1980s, God stirred a vision within the St Margaret's and Trinity congregations to imagine a new way of doing church together. In 2019 we are celebrating 25 years since the Turramurra Uniting Church complex was opened - the result of these faithful people embracing this vision and bringing that vision to life.

As our community and society continue to change, it is important to regularly evaluate our church's mission and explore creative ways of how we can best fulfill Jesus' commands to "love God and love others" as well as "making disciples of all people". Our church invested considerable time, prayer and energy into formulating a Vision in which we believe God was leading us forward in our ministry and mission.

Our Vision

In this era of ministry and mission at TUC, we discern that God is leading us to centre all that we do around the core of

Faith and Discipleship

deepening our own faith and discipleship
and growing faith and discipleship in others.

Around this core will be three foci which we will prioritize:

Children, Youth and Families – building faith and discipleship
in children, youth and family

Generations – pastorally and spiritually supporting those who
are moving through key transitional points in life,
especially our seniors

Community Engagement – building a sense of community and
connection within both our church family and local community

**We believe that these Vision foci
remain as we move into 2019**



Our Core Mission Priority is
Faith & Discipleship

Other mission foci:
Children, Youth & Families
Generations
Community Engagement

Our Mission Priorities

In 2018 we then came up with 12 specific ideas/new initiatives that we wanted to bring to life. These included:

1. **Alpha / Youth Alpha Course** which will be running in Term 2, 2019
2. **Social Events.** We ran one event last year, more are planned for 2019
3. **Playgroup/Mothers Group.** Starting in Term 1, 2019
4. **CareNet.** The idea is being placed on hold while we work out some details. Church Directory/Database is ready
5. **Resourcing Intentional Faith Development.** Completed – amazing database on church website.
6. **Adapting the Chapel into a Venue**
10:45am has moved worship into chapel for 2 or 3 out of 4 Sundays. Discussions are starting about updating organ, possibly piano and creative events which could use this space
7. **Welcoming church foyer / coffee machine.** To start in 2019.
8. **Communication/ Signage/ Marketing**
To start in 2019.
9. **HUB Idea** - how do we build upon the connections that we have with the groups that use our complex. Possibly a "HUB Newsletter". To start in 2019.
10. **Rural Connection.** Drought Support & Hampers in 2018. May explore "saltbush" project in 2019
11. **Community Engagement Team** - to look at ideas of achieving our mission goal. To start in 2019.
12. **Social Justice Team** - To create opportunities for our church to become more aware or engage with social justice issues. To start in 2019.

Our 2019 Vision

In 2019 our Vision is to build upon our 2018 Vision by exploring it through the lens of growth pathways – to intentionally explore what it means for a person to grow in their discipleship of Jesus and their connection to the church from their first experience through to a deep sense of ownership and contribution.

CEOs talk about growing their business through analysing each step of the customer pathway – from the moment the customer walks through the door or clicks on the link through to them being a loyal customer who is advocating for your product. Although the church is not a business, we sometimes fall into the trap of thinking that a person's journey into faith and belonging to the church family happens organically - it just happens. And while for some people it does, we believe that our church can experience more growth – both spiritually and numerically – if we are more intentional about these pathways.

In 2019 we are going to ask specific questions around First Impressions, Welcoming, Connecting/Belonging, Integrating, Ownership and Contributing/Sending.

Pathways to Growth



Connecting/
Belonging

Integrating

Ownership

Contributing
& Sending

Impressions

Welcome

First Impressions / Welcoming

Our 2019 mission goal is to make new people welcome and to make our first impression count.

From the moment that someone visits our website, walks through the doors of our complex or attends worship or a group or event, or has a question about faith, we want to make sure that this first impression is a good one ... we want a first experience of TUC to be one that sets people at ease, gives the information they need without being pushy while expressing our desire that they feel loved and welcomed.



QUESTIONS THAT EMERGE.

IDEAS TO EXPLORE.

What do people experience when entering our church foyer before worship?

When people first start exploring faith, what might be a non-threatening way that we can allow people to ask questions?

How can we build bridges into the local community? What connections do people in the church already have?

Name badges?

*First impression of our website?
What do we need on our website to make people want to explore more?*

How do we use food or hospitality to improve first impressions or to make people feel welcome?

Is the church complex welcoming? What are people's first impressions when they walk through our doors?

Coffee Machine?

How do we do evangelism in today's society? How do we begin to introduce Jesus to a non-Christian?

"First 5 minutes"

*What is the process of welcoming people when they arrive at worship or a church group?
Can we improve on this process?*

Introducing new people to other people

What is the process of getting contact details for follow up?

How do we follow up the mission priority about making the chapel a more flexible and usable space?

What are people's first impressions when they look at us as an example of a Christian?

*Do people know where to go when they come to our church complex?
Is the signage adequate?*

First Impressions

Welcome

Connecting/Integrating

Our 2019 mission goal is to help people find a place to belong and feel connected to our church community.

How do we move a person from feeling welcome to finding a connection? How do we encourage friendship? How do we create easy pathways to be more integrated? How do we bring people to faith and help them grow in their faith? Do they feel loved and cared for? This area raises a whole lot of questions around the way our church encourages friendship and fellowship and the pastoral care culture that we are developing.



QUESTIONS THAT EMERGE. IDEAS TO EXPLORE.

Bible Study Groups

How do we increase local community's "ownership" of church complex?

"First 3 months"

What is the process of integrating new people into the life of our church? How do we connect new worshippers with other programs or activities?

How do we bring people to faith in Jesus in today's world? It must be more than just praying a prayer!

Identifying local programs and activities that we can be a part of – both individually and as a church community

Community Hub idea. How do we connect different users of the church complex to us and each other?

If a new person wanted to join a bible study group, how would they go about it?

Children, Youth and Family Continuum idea

How can we make better use of our Intentional Faith Development Database?

What is the process of befriending new people – especially outside of worship or the group?

Kids Church. Junior Discipleship.

How do we strengthen our connection with Turratots?

How can we use programs such as Alpha to help people belong?

Make a friend, Be a friend, introduce a friend to Christ.

Do those who come to our worship services feel loved? Are they spiritually growing?

Pastoral Care

Do people feel a sense of belonging at TUC? Why? Why not?

Connecting/Belonging **Integrating**

Ownership/Contributing

Our 2019 mission goal is to bring people to a point where they love our church community and want to contribute their time, skills and resources to it.

What is our process for creating a sense of ownership within our church community? When people want to contribute, is there an easy process for identifying gifts, training, and providing opportunities for people to serve? How do we “send” people to the wider mission of God?



QUESTIONS THAT EMERGE.

IDEAS TO EXPLORE.

How can we help people identify their spiritual gifts and passions?

How do we be more of a “sending” church?

Identifying local programs and activities that we can be a part of – both individually and as a church community

Identifying gifts that can be used in worship

Equipping/Empowering

Identifying ways that people can “value add” to a church program or activity

How good are we at providing opportunities for people to use their gifts?

Identifying where we can “serve” the local community – not necessarily to get things back but rather to just give and help.

Conferences

Mentoring

“First 6 months”

What is the process of working with new people to identify their passions and gifts and where they might be open to serving within or beyond the church?

Identifying new leaders / succession planning

What sort of training - either in house or beyond - would be helpful for people in our church?

*What does it mean to be a missionary in today’s society?
How do we encourage people to serve in God’s worldwide mission?*



Ownership

Contributing & Sending

Where to now?

As a church we will be continuing to work through our mission priorities and we would encourage you to be open to God's leading of how you might be able to help bring those priorities to life. Maybe you would like to help with Alpha or YouthAlpha? Maybe God is stirring a passion to run another social evening? Or maybe to bring together those who are passionate about rural issues or social justice to work out what 2019 might bring?

As a way of exploring the questions that might be arising from the "Pathway to Growth" perspective, we will be organising three one-off taskforce meetings—one for each of the three areas. In these meetings we will see what questions jump out the most within the group and see if there are any solutions or ideas that we might be able to follow through. These nights would not attempt to "solve all the problems" but rather we might be able to come up with one or two things that might improve what we do. Details of these meetings are on the following page.

Above all, we would encourage you to pray. Pray for our church and the Vision. Pray for the different ways our church is gathering, caring, reaching out and growing. And pray that God might show you the best way for you to be a part of bringing our Vision to Life.

PATHWAYS TO GROWTH— TASKFORCE GATHERINGS

First Impressions/Welcoming

One-Off Taskforce Meeting

*Thursday 14th February. 7:30-9pm.
In the Chapel at the church.*

Connecting/Integrating

One-Off Taskforce Meeting

*Thursday 21st February. 7:30-9pm.
In the Chapel at the church.*

Ownership/Contributing/Sending

One-Off Taskforce Meeting

*Thursday 28th February. 7:30-9pm.
In the Chapel at the church.*



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Youth Pastor: Jonty Cornford

