



Berry Uniting Church Congregation



MISSION and MINISTRY PLAN SUMMARY 2022-2027

“The Gospel of Christ, which means the good news of Christ, is given to tell us not what we already know but what we do not know. It is given not to tell us that we have failed, because we already know that about ourselves. That is not good news. It is given to tell us what we have forgotten, and that is who we are. Spirituality does not consist of being told what to do. It consists of being reminded of who we are. Only when we know who we are will we be clearer about what we should do.” (Rev Dr John Philip Newell)

Over the past 5 months since the 13 February, Berry UC has been working on a new Mission & Ministry Plan. There have been 3 workshops and 3 gatherings of a small group from the Church Council which have developed the Plan for the next five years. The Plan is representative of all the comments and input from all these groups and the full plan will be presented to the Congregation Meeting on 3 July for adoption. The process has been inclusive of all views expressed at the Workshops and Meetings that have been held over these past 5 months.

This summary is intended to give a sense of what is in the Plan, so that we may consider what is most important in terms of the Mission and Ministry of the Congregation moving forward.

The Plan has established new Vision and Mission Statements as follows:

Our Vision - We aspire to be PEOPLE WALKING WITH JESUS, SHARING GOD'S LOVE

Our Mission - We seek to SHARE GOOD NEWS THROUGH WELCOME, HOSPITALITY AND SERVICE TO ALL

As a result of the Workshops there are statements which establish a new vision of

WHO ARE WE (our Culture & Values)

WHO ARE OUR NEIGHBOURS

WHAT DO WE NEED TO BE & DO (What is GOD leading us to be/do)

Based on these formative statements the Plan then establishes 5 GOALS with a number of ACTIVITIES that will enable us to work towards progressing these GOALS. At the Church Council which met on 21 June, it was determined that we need to prioritize these goals into things which **WE MUST DO**, things **WE WILL TRY TO DO** and things which **WE WOULD DO IF WE COULD**. You are asked to “vote” on how you would prioritize these ACTIVITIES so that when the final Plan is presented to the Congregation Meeting the Plan can be adopted.

The 5 GOALS and ACTIVITIES with a statement of the PURPOSE of the ACTIVITY are presented below for your prayerful consideration.

Goal 1: To provide generous, intentional hospitality and welcoming inclusion to all

ACTIVITY	PURPOSE	PRORITY
Encourage and empower all members to practice "radical hospitality"	Encourage and empower all members to practice "radical hospitality"	Must Do Will Try To Do Would Do if Possible
Support "Coffee & Friends"	To provide the opportunity for social gathering To offer times & a place of welcome & inclusion for the lonely & alone & new members of the community To create opportunities for radical hospitality & relationship building	Must Do Will Try To Do Would Do if Possible
Sausage Sizzle on Saturdays	To engage with people who visit Berry on Saturdays as they walk through Church parking area	Must Do Will Try To Do Would Do if Possible
Devonshire Teas in Wesley Centre to connect with weekend tourists	To engage with people who came to Berry as weekend tourists	Must Do Will Try To Do Would Do if Possible
Hall Users Dinner	An opportunity for the Church to host a dinner for the users of the halls, as a way of getting to know and be known within the community as a place of caring and acceptance	Must Do Will Try To Do Would Do if Possible
Provide two meal based events during the year which give opportunities for the congregation to mix and share with members and partners of the Groups associated with the congregation	To provide a meal for people who are alone and in need of a social gathering	Must Do Will Try To Do Would Do if Possible
Use of Pizza Oven	To explore ways of using the pizza oven as a way of engaging with community	Must Do Will Try To Do Would Do if Possible
Have more regular gatherings over a meal	To build relationships founded on trust and acceptance	Must Do Will Try To Do Would Do if Possible
Ensure that all leaders of church based groups understand and put into practice the values of welcome and inclusion	To encourage all leaders to embrace an ethos of radical hospitality and acceptance	Must Do Will Try To Do Would Do if Possible
Pursue "Covenant relationships" with and learn about local First Nations peoples Communities (in consultation with UAICC)	Heighten awareness of local Indigenous culture, values & history Become aware of Indigenous community social justice issues	Must Do Will Try To Do Would Do if Possible

Goal 2: To provide educational, social justice, spiritual and recreational activities to in our community

ACTIVITY	PURPOSE	PRORITY
Support activities of RAR Shoalhaven - #StopTheShame	To advocate for justice for refugees & asylum seekers To raise funds for the support of refugees in Port Moresby, in hotel detention in Australia and in the community, living without government support	Must Do Will Try To Do Would Do if Possible
Support activities & campaigns of Uniting Advocacy	To build awareness in the congregation of the various issues that Uniting Advocacy is working on To add our voice to the voices of other congregations and Uniting in seeking justice for the vulnerable and weak members of society	Must Do Will Try To Do Would Do if Possible
Cooking Classes in kitchen in Hall	To engage with people in need of a place to mix with others and to learn to cook	Must Do Will Try To Do Would Do if Possible
Hats for Homeless	To provide the opportunity for people to gather to loom beanies that will be distributed to rough-sleepers in areas of need by Hats for Homeless	Must Do Will Try To Do Would Do if Possible
Conversations for Seekers	To provide an opportunity for "seekers" to meet and discuss matters of faith and spirituality in a safe and welcoming environment	Must Do Will Try To Do Would Do if Possible
Seminars & Workshops	An opportunity for engaging people in the community around discussion of issues of social importance. An opportunity to raise the profile of the Church as a place where important topics are discussed and debated	Must Do Will Try To Do Would Do if Possible

Spirituality/Religion in the Pub	Raising the profile of the Church as a community which steps outside the confines of the Church to allow people to discuss and debate matters of religion and spirituality in the local Pub	Must Do Will Try To Do Would Do if Possible
Bake-up days in kitchen for special occasions (such as ANZAC Day & Mothers' Day)	Provide the opportunity for providing cakes & biscuits etc for distribution as gifts on special days	Must Do Will Try To Do Would Do if Possible

Goal 3: To develop, nurture and enrich our Christian faith and spiritual life guided by the ethos of the Uniting Church in Australia

ACTIVITY	PURPOSE	PRORITY
Worship Services & Preaching	Continue to develop worship and preaching which is hopeful and inspiring and which involves more Church members	Must Do Will Try To Do Would Do if Possible
Taizé Services	Provide an alternative style of worship which enables people to explore and deepen a sense of spirituality	Must Do Will Try To Do Would Do if Possible
Sensory Garden	Engage with Berry garden club to provide a space of beauty for peaceful meditation for people in the community to access for spiritual reflection	Must Do Will Try To Do Would Do if Possible
Labyrinth	Engage with Berry garden club and Men's Shed to develop a Labyrinth as a space for spiritual reflection that is accessible to anyone in the community, and which provides a place for days of reflection	Must Do Will Try To Do Would Do if Possible
Basic Christianity classes/seminars	To teach both newcomers to faith and regular attendees to the Church about the basic tenants of the Christian faith	Must Do Will Try To Do Would Do if Possible
Berry "Spiritual Life" Space	Develop a local space that provides opportunities for mediation, retreat and contemplative prayer that will be a part of a South Coast network of similar places	Must Do Will Try To Do Would Do if Possible
Support existing Bible Study group & facilitate new group(s)	To expand the opportunities for members of the Church to gather in house groups to study and discuss the Bible to develop small groups within the Church To build the knowledge & understanding of the congregation & help people to deepen their faith	Must Do Will Try To Do Would Do if Possible
Provide educational opportunities to learn about and discuss Theology, Church History, Biblical Studies & Philosophy	To build the knowledge & understanding of the congregation To provide opportunities for exploration and learning which deepen people's knowledge of theology, Church History, Biblical Studies and Philosophy	Must Do Will Try To Do Would Do if Possible
Facilitate training courses for the congregation and wider community such as Mental Health First Aid & Suicide Awareness;	To build the knowledge & understanding of the congregation & community of these issues To train people to be competent in recognizing and responding to signs of mental ill health or suicide ideation.	Must Do Will Try To Do Would Do if Possible
Promote, encourage and facilitate congregation participation in training and educational short courses such as Living Our Values, the Sacraments, Lay Preaching and Safe Church workshops.)	To build the knowledge & understanding of Uniting Church values and theology of the congregation & help people to deepen their faith	Must Do Will Try To Do Would Do if Possible

Goal 4: To explore, encourage and develop ways of connecting with our community

ACTIVITY	PURPOSE	PRORITY
Continue and seek to further expand the excellent community connections through the existing Library	To build social capital in community To build relationships & create opportunities to share the gospel To create relationships within which pastoral care may be offered	Must Do Will Try To Do Would Do if Possible
Develop a programme of musical performances	To create opportunities to share the creativity of composers and musicians with the community To create opportunities to meet and build relationships with the musical community and music lovers	Must Do Will Try To Do Would Do if Possible

Men's Shed	To continue to provide the opportunity for community members to participate in the activities of the Mens' Shed To continue to provide the opportunity to build relationships within which pastoral care may be offered	Must Do Will Try To Do Would Do if Possible
Recommence 'Reconnection Groups' for older people	An opportunity for older people to gather and create relationships which provide opportunities for care and support	Must Do Will Try To Do Would Do if Possible
Wills & Estate Planning Seminars	An opportunity for questions to be answered and any confusion to be resolved	Must Do Will Try To Do Would Do if Possible
Funeral Planning/Preparation	An opportunity for people to understand the intricacies of Funeral planning and to think about and prepare for the inevitable event	Must Do Will Try To Do Would Do if Possible

Goal 5: To integrate and be an example of "creation care" in all we do and say

ACTIVITY	PURPOSE	PRIORITY
Community Garden	Develop a space for a community garden on the grounds of the Church	Must Do Will Try To Do Would Do if Possible
Conduct public fora on Climate Change and other issues social justice	To create opportunities to raise awareness in the community about issues, to debate the issues and to take action in some cases	Must Do Will Try To Do Would Do if Possible
Negotiate a regular item on Climate change and Social Justice in Local Newspaper	To raise and discuss matters about Climate change and social justice as they relate to Berry and the wider community	Must Do Will Try To Do Would Do if Possible
Support activities of ARRC NSW, ARRC Kiama and Uniting Climate Action Network	To be aware of the various issues related to creation care that these groups are working on and advocating for and participate in that advocacy To create opportunities for individuals to make personal changes that will benefit the environment	Must Do Will Try To Do Would Do if Possible
Work towards obtaining Five Leaf Advanced Eco Awards	To assist the congregation and individuals to take environmental action and become more sustainable	Must Do Will Try To Do Would Do if Possible
Follow the Season of Creation (SoC) lectionary each year	To offer the opportunity to the congregation to turn their full attention toward God the creator and toward their relationship with the whole creation.	Must Do Will Try To Do Would Do if Possible
Conduct occasional outdoor services (e.g. at Community Garden)	To heighten appreciation of the natural world around us and of God as Creator	Must Do Will Try To Do Would Do if Possible