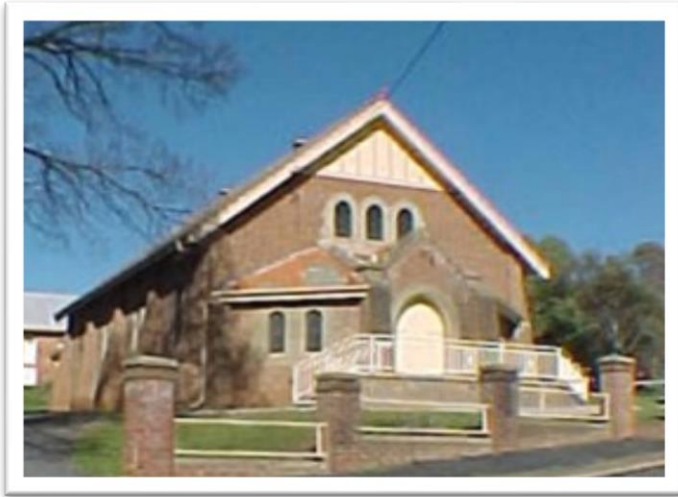


# Yass Parish of the Uniting Church in Australia Congregations of Yass and Rye Park



## MISSION PLAN 2020 and beyond

Prepared by Church Council: *November 2018, revised September 2020*

Endorsed by Congregation:

Endorsed by Presbytery:

## **Vision:**

*“As part of God’s people we are called by God, empowered by the Holy Spirit, to share the love and grace of Jesus Christ, within our community through regular worship, faithful witness and humble service.”*

## **Regarding the ‘Vision Statement’:**

The purpose of Jesus’ presence in the human world is to make people experience the Kingdom of God. The congregations of Yass and Rye Park are encouraged to take part in Jesus’ Kingdom ministry for the world.

The congregations of Yass and Rye Park have a focus in the following areas:

- Worship and prayer
- Pastoral care
- Community engagement through being actively involved in community groups and organisations
- Supporting SRE in the local schools – both Primary and Secondary
- Children’s ministry – Kid’s Church, Playgroup and supporting the local combined churches youth group
- Commitment to support the elderly within the community
- Welcoming and including all people.
- Encouraging Mission through all age groups
- The need to develop the property in ways that make it more fit for purpose
- Supporting local and national mission groups

## **Theological framework**

*The Yass Parish* has sought to discern how God is calling us into the future, and how we might participate in shaping that future. Over the past few years the congregation has embedded an understanding about mission that moves the congregation from focusing inward towards ourselves to focusing outward towards our community.

In a rapidly-changing social context, which can be very threatening and unsettling for many long-time residents, the congregation continues to affirm that what we have is good news for people and it needs to be shared. In a time when it is easy for political, religious and secular leaders to point out differences among people from different backgrounds and lifestyles that can create fear and distrust, the congregation sees its place within the community as a place which welcomes all people, and faithfully proclaims the message of love, grace and reconciliation.

At a time when many are frustrated and disappointed by ‘what is’, personally, locally, nationally and globally, the congregation seeks to articulate a vision of what ‘might yet be’ - the reign of God more fully experienced. Experience of the changing nature of the local community, combined with people’s lived experiences of moving on from where they are, whether it be geographically or spiritually, resonates strongly with the transformative nature of God’s work, and the new beginnings that God offers in Jesus through the Holy Spirit.

In this endeavour the congregation has been mindful of the wisdom contained in the scriptures about being called to move on from where we are and also how we are called to share God’s love and grace in the world. This wisdom has come from the stories of Abraham in the Old Testament in which God called him to go. The wisdom also comes from the Gospels in which we see the way Jesus interacts with others through love, acceptance and grace.

## Identified Goals

- Visible and known presence in community
  - Continued community service
  - Continue online with face to face and identify new community ministry opportunities
- Growth
  - People connected to and involved in ministry of congregations and worship
  - Financial
- Small Groups
- Education / Discipleship – Faith development

## Five marks of mission

This Mission Plan recognises the Five Marks of Mission. In relation to the period *July 2018 to July 2023*, the Yass Parish (Yass Uniting Church and Rye Park Uniting Church) intends to undertake the following:

### ***Tell: Proclaim the good news of the Kingdom***

- Continue to conduct worship services every Sunday at both Yass and Rye Park which offer a blend of both traditional and contemporary worship styles. Services will be led by both Ordained and Lay leaders with occasional invitations extended to visiting speakers from the Uniting Church and other organisations (e.g. Bible Society)
- Continue to explore other styles and forms of worship and 'Being Church' such as Online, House Church, Healing Service, Taize music and prayer, Praise and Worship nights, and Messy Church - to name a few. Exploring these worship styles and offering them as an occasional alternative to Sunday morning worship will open up the good news of the kingdom in new and different ways.
- Work with other churches to provide services at the aged care facilities in Yass
- Continue to conduct services in response to special circumstances and to recognise specific events and community needs. A number of these are already in place including an outdoor service in the form of a 'Great Aussie BBQ' (Frontier Services); Facing Christmas Without Them; Family Christmas Eve
- Support SRE in the local high school – prayerfully, financially, volunteering.
- Provide opportunities for the informal and unstructured proclamation of the gospel to individuals and small groups within the community – e.g. weekly morning teas, home church services, fellowship dinner, craft mornings, Parish Fairs or other fund raising events, and church participation in community activities such as Classic Yass, and Relay for Life, etc.
- Work to strengthen Ecumenical relationships as a witness of church unity to the community, working in partnership in a variety of activities: such as Community Christmas Carols, Circle of Sisters, Men's Breakfasts – Band of Brothers, Harvest Festival, Easter Sunrise Service, etc.
- Explore new ways of promoting the ministry activities of the Yass Parish in order to make Yass and Rye Park Uniting Church more widely known in the Yass and Canberra region
- Promote ministry activity of the wider Uniting Church of Australia.

***Teach: Teach, baptise and nurture new believers***

- Continue to maintain an intergenerational approach to ministry, including children and all ages in order to provide teaching and discipleship all.
- Provide trained staff for SRE at Rye Park and support (financially and spiritually) the SRE staff in Yass
- Provide for the baptism of young children in our community, teaching parents about the meaning of the promises and commitments they make
- Explore new ways of discipleship – making disciples, teaching, growing, nurturing faith.
- Continue to support and publicise the home based KYB Bible study groups in Yass
- Conduct seasonal study groups (e.g. Advent and Lent) to improve people's understanding of the principal seasons of the church year, encouraging people of all levels of faith and understanding to join
- Look at building small groups within the life of the congregation to meet the needs of building relationships and discipleship

***Tend: Respond to human need by loving service***

- Continue and build on the ministry of the Pastoral Partners program
- Continue support for our own members through hospital visits and pastoral care
- Build on the established relationships with the aged care facilities in Yass, including continuing providing a monthly worship service, visitation and morning teas
- Provide and maintain a safe environment for all people who use the church facilities. In particular, ensuring there is an enclosed and safe outdoor play area for children
- Provide easy access to the church and hall through smooth walkways and ramps, and investigate future needs such as driveways, parking spaces and easy access to church buildings for less mobile people, and parents with prams
- Continue to provide fellowship after every Sunday service as a way to help people feel welcome
- Respond with willing help to disasters in our community and maintain a disaster support fund to allow quick access to money when the need arises
- Provide a venue (and on occasion, refreshments / catering) for funerals and weddings of people in our community, even those who haven't had much to do with our church
- Continue to support Uniting World, Frontier Services, and other agencies such as Anglicare through fund raising, gift stalls and donations
- Build on the established Friday Playgroups, which supports parents, grandparents, toddlers and babies
- Build on relationships with community groups who currently use our church hall, and explore new ways for the hall to be used, e.g. community groups such as Historical Society and AA meetings

***Transform: Seek to transform unjust structures of society, to challenge violence of every kind and to pursue peace and reconciliation***

- Promote awareness of mental health and other issues within society, and educate our Pastoral Care team through Pastoral Partners information sessions
- Promote awareness of needs and situations of refugees, LGBTQA and other diverse groups within our community and church
- Continue to support missions, such as the UnitingWorld's work
- Continue to support KAIROS and its work in prisons in order to provide hope for a better life through a relationship with Jesus
- Build on established Safe Church policies ensuring our church is compliant

***Treasure: Strive to safeguard the integrity of creation, and sustain and renew the life of earth***

- Be a responsible steward of all properties and facilities, making maintenance a priority, and update as required. This is especially important with our heritage church and 1950's hall
- Consider the use of photovoltaic panels and backup when reroofing the church hall as well the manse roof
- Plant and maintain our water wise garden
- Maintain our tanks to capture rain water