



UNITING CHURCH IN AUSTRALIA WESTERN AUSTRALIA

POSITION DESCRIPTION

TITLE OF POSITION:	Rural Resource Minister
UNIT:	Presbytery of Western Australia
CLASSIFICATION:	Fixed-Term (3 years)
TYPE OF APPOINTMENT:	Part-time (.5)

JOB SPECIFICATION

1. Summary of the broad purpose of the position

The Rural Resource Minister will provide support and resourcing to rural congregations and faith communities so they are enabled to engage in worship, witness and service as the people of God in their communities.

This position will be a Placement and is open to either an ordained Minister of the Word or Deacon, or a lay person. If the person is a lay member of the Uniting Church, this will be considered as an appropriate position for a Pastor and the person will be expected to meet all the criteria to be recognised as a Pastor.

2. Reporting and key working relationships

The Rural Resource Minister will report to Presbytery Standing Committee, under the management of the Presbytery Officer.

The Rural Resource Minister will work closely with:

- The Rural and Remote Ministry Network
- Other staff of the Presbytery

The Rural Resource Minister may live in a rural or regional area but they will be required to maintain regular contact with other Presbytery staff by phone or electronically.

3. Key responsibilities

3.1 Guiding Principles

- i. Operate within the legislative bounds, polity, ethics and values of the Uniting Church in Australia
- ii. Actively promote and implement the Strategic Mission Directions of the Presbytery.
 - 1.
- iii. Actively participate in the Presbytery staff team, including participation in staff meetings either in person or via online technologies, always seeking to work collaboratively with other Presbytery staff.
 - 2.
- iv. Maintain a balance of priorities consistent with agreed strategic directions.
 - 3.

3.2 Resourcing Rural and Remote Ministry

ESSENTIAL

- i. Develop relationships with rural congregations and faith communities, through visiting, phone calls, Zoom meetings or participation in regional gatherings and rural retreats.
- ii. Ensure that appropriate worship resources are provided to worship leaders in rural congregations and faith communities on a regular basis.
 - 4.
- iii. Provide pastoral support and advice to lay leaders in rural congregations and faith communities and be a point of contact for them if they have any questions or concerns.
- iv. Facilitate the work of the Rural and Remote Ministry Network, including organising meetings, ensuring notes are taken and distributed and providing support to its Convenor so that it can provide encouragement and support to rural congregations and faith communities.
 - 5.
- v. Encourage all Presbytery staff and committees to be involved in building relationships with and providing support for small rural congregations and faith communities.
 - 6.
- vi. Assist congregations and faith communities in rural areas to discern their future directions and explore new models of ministry.
 - 7.
- vii. **DESIRABLE**
 - 8.
- viii. Assist ecumenical co-operation in rural communities as appropriate
 - 9.
- ix. Advocate for rural congregations and faith communities so that the whole church can celebrate achievements and provide support when needed.
 - 10.

- x. Promote effective and positive relationships with the Uniting Aboriginal & Islander Christian Congress (UAICC).

4. Person Specification

Essential

General Requirements
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Member of the Uniting Church in Australia (lay or ordained) ○ Commitment to the consultative, inter-conciliar, multicultural, ecumenical ethos of the UCA and our Covenantal relationship with First Peoples. ○ This role requires travel and a willingness to be away from home when required ○ Working With Children Check and National Police Clearance ○ Western Australian Driver License ○ Completed MSM training or committed to do so in 2024.
Personal Abilities / Aptitudes / Skills/Strengths
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ A passion for enabling the church to creatively develop in rural Western Australia ○ Ability to reflect theologically within the ethos of the UCA ○ Ability to work autonomously as well as part of a team ○ Effective pastoral skills, including mediation and conflict resolution skills. ○ Ability to work with people from diverse theological and cultural backgrounds.
Knowledge
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Sound biblical and theological knowledge 11. ○ Knowledge and acceptance of UCA polity, ethos, and structures of the WA Uniting Church 12. ○ Awareness of contemporary approaches to rural ministry ○ Understanding of the current context of ministry in rural communities and the issues faced by congregations and faith communities in rural areas.
Experience
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Experience of ministry in rural areas and living and working in a rural community. ○ Experience in adult education practices and working with groups ○ Experience in preaching and leading services of worship

Preferred

- A qualification in Theology

ACCEPTANCE OF POSITION DESCRIPTION

I _____ (insert name) have read and understand the requirements and responsibilities listed above and accept the position description of

Placement/Employee Signature _____

Date: _____ / _____ / _____

Presbytery Chairperson Signature: _____

Print Name: _____

Date: _____ / _____ / _____