



**UNITING CHURCH IN AUSTRALIA  
THE GAP CONGREGATION**



**STRATEGIC  
PLAN  
2017 - 2021**

**02/2020 (V15)**

**(Endorsed by Church Council 11/02/2020)**



## INTRODUCTION

The Gap Uniting Church is a congregation of the Uniting Church in Australia. The Uniting Church in Australia came about when several church denominations united in 1977. The agreement that was reached is called "The Basis of Union".

The Gap Uniting Church Congregation worship, witness, and serve as a fellowship in the Spirit of Christ and meet regularly to hear God's Word, to celebrate the sacraments, to build one another up in love, to share the wider responsibilities of the Church and to serve the world.

The broad Mission of Uniting Church Congregations is:

To connect people to the love of God through worship, witness and service and in full accord with the Constitution and Regulations of the Uniting Church in Australia, the Congregation does:

- (i) bear witness to that unity that is both Christ's gift and his will;
- (ii) build up the members and adherents in faith and love;
- (iii) sustain the members and adherents in hope;
- (iv) nurture the members and adherents in their growth in grace;
- (v) equip the members and adherents for engagement in worship, witness and service in the world as they participate in the mission of Christ;
- (vi) discipline its members in love;
- (vii) maintain pastoral oversight;
- (viii) encourage each member and adherent to participate in the life of the Congregation and endeavour to provide opportunity for that participation; and
- (ix) provide means whereby the members and adherents may be sustained in fellowship, in prayer and in confession, in baptism and in the Lord's Supper, in mutual reception of and mutual exertion in the Gospel proclamation and service.

## OUR MISSION AT THE GAP UNITING CHURCH

***Growing life-long disciples of Christ***

## THE VALUES WE TREASURE AT THE GAP UNITING CHURCH

- **COMMUNITY** – We support one another and those in need
- **INNOVATION** – We encourage new events , activities and ministries that are Spirit led
- **LEARNING** – We seek to deepen our faith and understanding of God
- **SERVICE** – We are a serving Church and embrace responding with generosity

## OUR FIVE YEAR VISION AT THE GAP UNITING CHURCH

The Five Year Vision of The Gap Uniting Church came out of a Life & Witness Consultation conducted by Moreton Rivers Presbytery in 2016 that involved members of the Congregation and Community.

Our Vision identifies areas in which the Congregation, Council, Ministry Team and members will concentrate efforts to maximise the impact of God’s work in The Gap. They work hand-in-hand with the Congregation’s broader mission as set out above and complement the many other activities, events, programs or groups that are not directly covered.

The Vision Priorities and Goals will be used by Church Council and the Care, Discipleship, Finance, Ministry, Outreach and Worship Teams (Mission Teams) to prepare their plans for each year.

**PRIORITY** – *These are the current priorities that The Gap UC will focus on between 2017 and 2021.*

**GOALS** – *These are to be the outcomes we wish to see in our congregation and community.*

Priority	Goals
<b>1. Growing our intergenerational worship</b>	<p>(a) Commence an engaging, free ranging Evening Worship, owned by the youth &amp; young adults &amp; open to all by July 2017.</p> <p>(b) Commence a second Morning Worship in 2021 that replicates the strengths &amp; mission of the current Morning Service</p>

Priority	Goals
<b>2. Growing our membership through outreach, belonging and ministry opportunities</b>	<p>(a) Acknowledge ‘the gaps’ within The Gap Uniting Church and engage with our local community as equals</p> <p>(b) Develop strategies to grow belonging and fellowship</p> <p>(c) Develop strategies that allow our activities, programs and processes to be scalable to meet the requirements of fast congregational growth</p>

Priority	Goals
<b>3. Growing our commitment to faith development</b>	(a) Grow the 'Heart' (spiritual/intimate) areas of our Church to match the strengths of our 'Head' (thinking) and 'Hand' (serving) areas  (b) Be intentionally intergenerational in faith formation and develop strategies for family faith formation  (c) Provide opportunities to encourage congregational members to continue their discipleship journey

Priority	Goals
<b>4. Growing the use of spiritual gifts and leadership abilities</b>	(a) Grow leadership that aligns with peoples passion, gifts and life experiences  (b) Build a culture of succession planning that promotes permission and empowerment by giving people authority and trust, not just tasks – Leadership at all levels  (c) Invest in the training and growth of individuals

Priority	Goals
<b>5. Growing our call to mission beyond The Gap</b>	(a) Engage and connect with surrounding suburbs and reach outside of "The Gap"  (b) Provide a significant mission opportunity on an annual basis