



Uniting Church in Australia  
Presbytery of Western Australia



A WELCOMING  
CHRISTIAN  
COMMUNITY

# A Handy Guide to Mission Planning

## The five marks of mission

<b>Tell</b>	Proclaim the Kingdom's Good News
<b>Teach</b>	Teach, baptise, and nurture new believers
<b>Tend</b>	Respond to human need by loving service
<b>Transform</b>	Transform society's unjust structures
<b>Treasure</b>	Safeguard the integrity of creation

This document is a companion to a larger document, "Mission Planning: Playing our Part in the Mission of God". It provides a summary of how you may engage with the mission planning process.

There is space for making notes, which can act as a prompt as you plan. It is not a template because every congregation is unique, and your mission plan will not look like the mission plan of another congregation.

By using this document, you are being invited to reimagine how the Body of Christ can live and work in your unique context, to ask how you will engage with contemporary culture and with those people who are not already connected with the church.

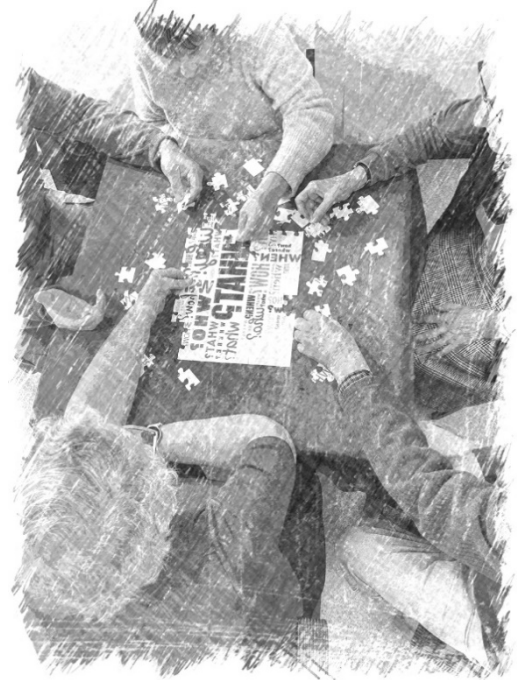
**Mission is good news!**



# Gathering

As you listen to God's word and pray together ask the Thrive Mission Committee to share the tool they have developed that will help in gathering information. The following data is important.

- National Church Life Survey
- Australian Bureau of Statistics – details of the community including how many UCA people are included in the census for your local area, local demographics and living arrangements.
- Local Government – make an appointment with your community development officer to find out about their priorities. What can you learn about your community, its strengths, its nature, its needs.
- Local history – what has your community been known for in the past?
- Local church history – Where has your church come from as a community of faith? This is not for nostalgia but to get a sense of what has shaped the congregation over the years.
- What has your church inherited in terms of identity, purpose, and context? Is this still relevant? How deeply does it find expression? Does it need to be honoured or celebrated? Does it need to be maintained or let go? How does this inform decisions about legacy?
- Church attendance data, details of church property and information of key people in the congregation, including those being paid as well as volunteers.
- Numbers of people served by the church, which includes attendance at various programmes, not just Sunday morning attendance.
- Financial information in an easy-to-understand format
- What other churches are there in your vicinity and what are they doing?



Your notes:

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# What's required in a mission plan?

- Preparing:** Provide an overview of how you conducted mission planning and what steps you took. What is the history of your congregation, and its mission?
- Gathering:** Talk about your congregation - what you do, who makes up your ministry team or teams, where you're located, and what facilities you have. (Some of this can be copied from your Church profile).  
  
Provide demographics and significant data about your local neighbourhood and community, including any information that may have helped you to understand the nature of the community and how it affects the local church.
- Listening:** What did you do during the mission planning process to hear the views of your congregation and the wider community about the future direction of the church? If you conducted surveys provide details of the results. How did you go about hearing the voice of God in prayer and Scripture?
- Visioning:** As you have gone through the mission planning process outline the goals you have identified for future mission. Tell us about your dreams for the long term as well as shorter-term goals that may be stepping stones towards the larger dream. Have you identified any fresh expressions of church?
- Measuring:** As you outline your dreams, identify who is responsible for implementation, when you see these goals being implemented as well as the steps in the process, and how you will know that you have achieved them.  
  
Include a budget that shows how you intend to pay for and achieve the goals you have set
- Focusing:** Your mission plan needs to be something that anyone can look at it in the future and see clearly what is anticipated, how those goals will be achieved and who is responsible for implementation. Review your mission plan to make sure it is in a format that is easily accessible and can be used to help the congregation, your ministry team or anyone else to get a snapshot of your congregation and how it is putting into practice the five marks of mission: Tell, teach, tend, transform, and treasure. Include some photos.
- Implementing and Reviewing:** You may not be able to include these in your mission plan yet, but remember it is a living document. Include a review date and include details of your implementation in the next mission plan.