



Uniting Church in Australia
Synod of Victoria and Tasmania

brunswick uniting church

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22nd January, 2020

Dear Friends,

I am writing to make a significant announcement about our ministry together at BUC for the next three months.

The Synod of Victoria and Tasmania has asked Brunswick to support the Presbytery of East Gippsland by releasing me to do 3 months emergency supply ministry there.

Church Council has considered this request and approved the following recommendation by consensus: *“that we agree to release Ian for 3 months from early February.”*

East Gippsland has been hard hit by the fire disaster and the Uniting Church has very few experienced ministers on the ground there. Currently, the only UCA ministers in placement east of Sale are an exit student in Orbost and the Frontier Services High Country Patrol Minister who has been stranded in Mallacoota. A number of congregations are vacant. We have been approached to help meet this need because Brunswick is seen to be a strong and well-resourced congregation that is in a position to share ministry under these extreme circumstances.

The details of this arrangement are being worked out at our end by a Supply Arrangements Team including members of the Church Council, the Ministry Team, and Worship, Pastoral Care, and Discipleship and Education Committees. We are seeking two part time supply ministers, one to work with Worship and D&E, and one to work with Pastoral Care. A starting date is yet to be fixed but I expect to be at BUC for the next three Sundays.

I am challenged and excited by this call of God through the church. It provides a way for me to give my gifts in response to this overwhelming crisis and for our congregation to support that response. It will mean that Beth and I will be living apart for this time, but we will organise ourselves to meet regularly.

You will be informed as more details are decided (supply ministers, starting date etc), but in the meantime please hold the church in East Gippsland in your prayers, and feel free to contact me or members of the Church Council to talk about this.

Peace.
Ian

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