



Uniting Church in Australia
Presbytery of Gippsland

5th June 2020

RE: Secondment of Rev. Ian Ferguson to Bairnsdale for three months

Dear Members of Brunswick Uniting Church,

As the Uniting Church in the Presbytery of Gippsland we wish to offer our thanks and gratitude for your part in enabling Rev. Ian Ferguson to join us in ministry for three months in response to the devastating bushfires this past summer.

In particular the people of Bairnsdale have greatly appreciated his pastoral care and worship leadership; our congregations further east without ministers in placement have welcomed the support he has offered; our ministers in fire-affected areas have benefitted from the extra pastoral care Ian was able to provide. I am also personally grateful as Ian was able to take up a number of my responsibilities with regards to East Gippsland at a time when the impact of fires was otherwise overwhelming.

As we began to work into healing spaces after the fires, we have been impacted (as all have) by COVID-19. Amidst this, we have appreciated Ian's ministry in new ways. He has shared his creativity through photography and use of technology, especially enabling a strong online video worship presence from Bairnsdale which continues.

You are in our prayers as Ian returns to the church in Brunswick, and as you all adapt to life and ministry in the context of COVID-19.

Grace and peace to you in the challenges and opportunities ahead,

Rev. Arnie Wierenga
on behalf of the Presbytery of Gippsland Pastoral Relations Committee

*Rev. Arnie Wierenga, Resourcing Minister, Pastoral & Strategic
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