

ELTHAM MONTMORENCY UNITING CHURCH

Vision and Mission statements with Objectives

Our Vision

to be a living presence of Jesus in the community

Our Mission

to embody Jesus through:

- ❖ **nurturing spiritual life** (*deepening relationships with God and each other*)
- ❖ **faithful pastoral caring** (*expressing love because we are loved by God*)
- ❖ **equipping and encouraging disciples** (*learning and sharing*)
- ❖ **seeking justice and serving community** (*advocating for justice; community involvement*)

Our Objectives

Please note that these four perspectives on our mission all overlap. It is impossible to separate spiritual from practical; community connections and pastoral care etc.

to embody Jesus through:

- ❖ **nurturing spiritual life**
by offering opportunities for individual and corporate worship, prayer, study, and retreats.
 - offering creative and engaging Worship Services for all ages (*e.g. Sunday worship; interactive and inclusive "Messy Church"*)
 - supporting each other prayerfully (*e.g. Lectionary Reflection group*)
 - providing occasions for experiencing 'sacred space' (*e.g. retreats*)
 - equipping and encouraging members to discover new life in the Spirit (*all the above and "Food for Thought" breakfast gatherings, Chatsworth Terrace*)
 - *feeding individuals inwardly to enable outward expressions of faith and love*

❖ **faithful pastoral caring**

by offering generous and inclusive care and hospitality for the congregation and others for whom they are concerned.

- ensuring that our activities are welcoming, inclusive, and loving
- affirming the pastoral care that happens whenever people gather (*e.g. 'Coffee Club'; men's lunch; birthday lunches; Op Shop; worship*)
- offering 'Care Groups' to build fellowship and connectiveness
- maintaining a 'safe' environment for all
- entrusting the Minister and Elders with oversight of Pastoral Care

❖ **equipping and encouraging disciples**

by offering a variety of opportunities to learn and share God's life-giving stories.

- providing engaging opportunities for learning about faith and Christian practices for people of all ages (*e.g. worship services; 'Food for Thought' breakfast gatherings*)
- offering study groups (*e.g. Lectionary Reflection group; Book group*)
- identifying and engaging the strengths and giftedness of our members
- discerning and encouraging leadership potential, at all ages and stages
- encouraging lively, inclusive, contagious discipleship

❖ **seeking justice and serving community**

by acting for justice, and seeking opportunities to deepen relationships with the wider community.

- discerning opportunities for partnering with other churches, agencies and community groups
- seeking life-giving connections in the community (*e.g. offering a listening ear and hospitality in the Op Shop*)
- encouraging participation in community justice groups, (*e.g. Reconciliation; Oxfam, Amnesty, LinC*)
- promoting environmental responsibility
- responding to special appeals (*e.g. using VicTas Synod's 'Justice and International Mission' resources*)

What is this document for?

When we are clear about who we are and what is important to us, we are better able to make choices and decisions that have integrity. We are freed to say 'no' to that which doesn't fit with our vision and mission, and say 'yes' with confidence at other times.

The language is aspirational. It describes how we imagine ourselves functioning at our God-blessed best. This is what we are aiming for – our vision.