

Our Presbytery of The Downs is seeking a Presbytery Minister for a short term placement of 2 years. The Presbytery of The Downs is approximately 680000 km² of lush agricultural/farming heaven along the New England Highway from the NSW border and Crows Nest in the North. Vast stretches of grazing country down the Gore, Moonie and Warrego Highways, and way, way out west to the edge of the Simpson Desert on the Mitchell.

We are looking for a person with vision, energy and a strong team commitment who will provide strategic leadership, missional direction and support across the Presbytery. The role will specifically involve working with the Presbytery and its committees.

This placement is open to both Ordained and Lay Ministry Agents.

Please submit an expression of interest to the Secretary of Placements Committee placements@ucaqlld.com.au by COB Monday 25th August 2025.

For any further information please email Rev Bruce Moore at bruce.moore@ucaqlld.com.au

You can find the **Position Description** [here](#).



The Uniting Church in Australia Queensland Synod

Position Description

Title:	Presbytery Minister
Presbytery:	The Downs
Employment Status:	Short Term Placement - 2 years
Location:	Downs Presbytery. The Presbytery Office located in St Stephens UCA Hall Toowoomba City
Classification:	The position is open to both Ordained and Lay

Overview

The Presbytery of The Downs is approximately 680000 km² of lush agricultural/farming heaven along the New England Highway from the NSW border and Crows Nest in the North. Vast stretches of grazing country down the Gore, Moonie and Warrego Highways, and way, way out west to the edge of the Simpson Desert on the Mitchell.

The Downs Presbytery is currently served by 12 ministry agents, 7 ordained 6 who are in full time ministry, while the part time person is currently in supply concluding in December. 5 pastors with 2 being in a full time agency placement and 3 part time in congregational ministry. Bottletree Bush Chaplaincy is presently vacant awaiting confirmation of funding from Frontier Services. Both Middle Ridge and Maranoa will be seeking a part time Ministry placement for the coming year.

There are 24 congregations 6 of which are Lay led. Ministry agents include, Bush Chaplains, Blue Care Chaplain, 6 active retired ministers and approximately 37 Lay Preachers. The largest Congregation numerically would have up to 180 worshippers while the smallest would have 4. A number of smaller Congregations have visiting Lay Preachers from other Denominations to take services for them. There are 2 Ecumenical Covenants currently in place.

The Position

The Presbytery of The Downs seeks a person with vision, energy and a strong team commitment who will provide strategic leadership, missional direction and support across the Presbytery. The role will specifically involve working with the Presbytery and its committees.

This position is for the exercise of the duties of the ordained ministry of the Uniting Church in Australia. Preference will in the first case be given to appropriately qualified Minister of the Word or Deacon. A lay person may be appointed to the role subject to successful completion of requirements for the ministry of pastor in the Uniting Church.

It is envisaged that the role will be one which will encourage and assist Places of Ministry and Ministry Agents to live their faith within their local community.

The placement will be for two years .

The Presbytery Minister is responsible to the Presbytery of The Downs through its Standing Committee.

Allowances and stipend as for a Minister of the Uniting Church in Australia, Queensland Synod. A loading of 10% in addition to the stipend will be paid to the Presbytery Minister.

Four weeks annual leave, 2 weeks Continuing Education leave plus any additional personal time agreed.

A Credit Card is provided for Presbytery use. Out of pocket expenses will be reimbursed.

An Administrative Assistant works part time for 24 hours per week currently Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 9am-5pm to assist the Presbytery Minister and the Presbytery executive, congregations and ministry agents.

A dedicated mobile phone and fully setup laptop with security and password protection are provided.

Either a house allowance if ministry agent is living in their own home, or a rental property will be provided. If the house allowance doesn't cover rent, the presbytery will cover the difference.

Key Responsibilities

- Work within the policies and procedures of the Uniting Church in Australia, Queensland Synod including the Safe Church Policy and the provisions of the Workplace Health and Safety and other relevant legislation including reporting hazards/incidents, support for injured workers and full participation in return to work plans.
- Provide strategic leadership in the development and co-ordination of mission and ministry across the Presbytery, in consultation with presbytery committees, ministry agents and congregations and in conjunction with appropriate Synod personnel.
- Encourage and guide transitions within the Presbytery to reflect the changing needs and context of the Presbytery.
- Work with congregations to reflect and plan strategically in the light of any financial constraints and future church requirements.
- Working collaboratively with the Mission Accompanying Team, MC3 and Presbytery Support Unit to encourage the development of a Presbytery culture that embraces and nurtures new models and ways of being a missional church.
- Working collaboratively with the Presbytery executive to facilitate appropriate education/training events, to build skills in ministry, congregational development and action that engage both the church and non-church communities.
- Lead worship and administer the sacraments as appropriate within the life of the Presbytery.
- Facilitating and supporting Ministry Agents to sustain healthy ministry.
- Represent the Presbytery on Synod Placements Committee and other appropriate Synod Committees.
- Support the Presbytery and its Congregations as they engage in the wider church Presbytery capacity conversations.
- Be an advocate within the Synod for Rural and Remote communities.
- May chair the Pastoral Relations Committee and provide advice and support to the Presbytery's Standing Committee.
- Continue to:-
 - a. develop relationships with the Uniting Aboriginal Islander Christian Congress to support mission and ministry with First Peoples.
 - b. develop a working relationship with all UCA agencies through the appropriate personnel.

Selection Criteria

- a. Adherence to the Basis of Union.
- b. Demonstrated ability to work across differing ministry and community contexts, empowering congregations to develop identity in Christ, sustainability and mission to create and maintain healthy and vital congregations.
- c. Demonstrated ability to affirm, empower and equip God's people to engage in the ministry of all believers; encourage lay people in leadership; identify and share resources appropriate for Congregations and Key Leaders in relation to mission outreach and spiritual development.
- d. A demonstrated ability to promote new initiatives and engage with others to facilitate the exploration, development, implementation and evaluation of such initiatives within local community settings.
- e. An ability to deal with the wide range of stakeholders associated with the Church.
- f. An ability to deal with sensitive and confidential issues.
- g. Demonstrated ability to work as a team member, model and encourage effective leadership, manage the development of policies and procedures, compliance and regulations, delegation of tasks, negotiation and conflict management skills, pastoral care and mentoring with a wide range of people using written and oral communication skills.

Additional Information

This position requires flexibility in work practice to accommodate after hours and weekend work. A current driver's licence is essential as is a current Blue Card for working with children and young people. Presentation of a current Suitability Card must be made before the placement to be confirmed.

The Presbytery Minister should expect to drive approximately 30,000kms per year, and be willing to spend some nights away from home.

The successful applicant must be eligible to legally work in Australia and proof of eligibility may be requested.

Inquiries about this role should be directed to the Secretary of Presbytery
Ms. Allison Kahler on secretary@downspresbytery.org.au

Signed:



Date: 08-07-2025

Presbytery Chair