



**NORTHERN SYNOD**

UNITING CHURCH IN AUSTRALIA

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## Placement Description

**Placement Title:** Remote Area Disaster Chaplain

**Service Area:** Top End North of Katherine

**Placement Status:** Part-Time (0.5FTE)

**Location:** Based in Darwin or Katherine, Northern Territory.

**Stipend Details:** Click on link to refer to the [Northern Synod Stipend and Allowances Schedule 2024](#) and the [Northern Synod Ministry Handbook](#) or visit the Northern Synod website.

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### The Uniting Church

The Uniting Church is the third largest Christian denomination in Australia and the first church to be created in and of Australia. The Uniting Church is organised not by a hierarchy, but by groups of women and men, lay and ordained, gathering together, making decisions by consensus, in each area of the church's life. The church is structured as a series of inter-related councils - local congregations, regional presbyteries, state synods, and the national Assembly. Ecumenism remains a vital aspect in all of the Church's life and work.

The Uniting Church has long taken a role in the advocacy for justice and policy reform, encouraging moral, social and ethical integrity. We have been a strong advocate First Nations justice issues including sovereignty and the Statement from the Heart, in relationship with the Uniting Aboriginal and Islander Christian Congress. We are a multicultural church, valuing the rich cultural and linguistic diversity of our members. We advocate for many important social, political and economic reforms

including climate justice and issues relating to equality and dignity of all people.

## **The Northern Synod**

The Northern Synod geographically covers the Northern Territory, the Kimberley region of Western Australia and the Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara (APY) Lands of South Australia. As part of The Uniting Church in Australia, the Northern Synod is the Council of the Church responsible for the general and spiritual oversight, direction and administration of the Church's worship, witness and service.

The Northern Synod has two presbyteries. The Northern Regional Council of Congress (NRCC) is both a presbytery and a Regional Council of the Uniting Aboriginal and Islander Christian Congress (UAIICC). It covers the same area as the Synod and has oversight and responsibility for all First Nations congregations and ministries. The Pilgrim Presbytery of Northern Australia (PPNA) also covers the same area as the Synod and has oversight and responsibilities for all other congregations and ministries.

The Northern Synod exercises pastoral, administrative and discipline responsibilities in relation to the presbyteries within its bounds to promote and encourage the mission of the God through the Church. Through the project Coordinate and with partners Nungalinga College, Bible Society and Australian Society for Indigenous Languages (AuSIL), the Northern Synod promotes the translation, production and use of Scriptures in peoples 'heart' languages.

The Northern Synod also has important historical relationships with partners: Aboriginal Resource and Development Services (ARDS); Nungalinga College; Somerville Community Services; St Phillips College Alice Springs; and Australian Regional and Remote Community Services (ARRCS).

## **Our Mission and Values**

The mission of the Northern Synod is to proclaim, promote and live out the reign of God revealed in Jesus Christ under the direction of the Holy Spirit, transforming people and communities in which God calls us to worship, witness and serve. We commit to a vision of following Jesus, living together and going forward together in the love of Christ.

In doing so, we seek to honour the Church's covenant commitment to an Australia which respects this land and values the sovereignty of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples, their knowledge, cultures, languages, and law.

## **Placement Purpose:**

The purpose of this placement is to be a Frontier Services Disaster Chaplain within the Northern Synod, providing practical, pastoral and spiritual care to those who live and work within remote Australia. This ministry would establish pastoral links with communities in the normal work of Bush Chaplaincy and build on these links in times of disaster, working with the overall Northern Territory emergency response.

## **Key Responsibilities:**

1. Act as the Senior Chaplain with the Northern Territory Council of Churches (NTCC) to Coordinate an Emergency Chaplain Response across the Top End of the Northern Territory in conjunction with the NT Emergency Response Management Plan.
2. Train Chaplains for emergency situations including arranging training workshops with trainers, advertising training workshops, taking registrations and church nomination forms, issue identity cards and equipment on satisfactory completion of training.
3. Deploy Chaplains for emergency situations, including be the point of contact for any deployment needed, be first port of call for Welfare Group when emergency declared, contact chaplains for availability and form a roster, liaise with welfare group throughout response, debrief chaplains after shifts.
4. Attend to Administration, including maintain a list of current chaplains and contact details, update contact details with NT Emergency Management Welfare Group, attend monthly meetings of NT Emergency Management Welfare Group, attend bi-annual meetings of AVECA (Australian Volunteer Emergency Chaplaincy Alliance).
5. Make contact and build links through ministry and care to those in your remote area. These can include but aren't limited to remote properties, indigenous communities, community groups, isolated people, mines, local businesses, and refuges.
6. Work with communities to develop Disaster Preparedness Plans that are informed by the NT Emergency Response Management Plan.
7. You will be required on occasions to advocate for those in remote and rural areas with other agencies of the Uniting Church and other organisations, to ensure that people have access to the services they require.
8. Work with individuals and communities in dealing with post-disaster effects of bushfires, floods, mine accidents, and personal trauma.
9. Monitor mental health, make referrals or participate in the planning and delivery of mental health programs.
10. Encourage people to access support and government resources in drought and flood-impacted communities.

11. Develop ecumenical relationships wherever possible to enhance the pastoral oversight of rural and remote communities.
12. Work in all situations without discrimination on grounds of race, culture, gender, age, religious/non-religious beliefs, political ideology etc.
13. Cover great distances to visit few people in areas where there is no 'normal' congregational ministry or other services readily accessible - circumstances that require people to be strong, independent and resourceful yet often alone and isolated from community support.
14. Work outside of 'regular hours' fitting in with projects and community needs.
15. Work cooperatively with other organisations both religious and community based, to establish good working relationships.
16. Train and obtain authorisation to provide Chaplaincy for Police, Fire, SES, and/or other local community services.
17. Train and obtain authorisation to offer chaplaincy as a Disaster Recovery Chaplain in times of fire, flood, other disasters.

## **Partnerships**

The Salvation Army has a Flying Padre based in Katherine. The current Padre is an Emergency Response Chaplain with the Emergency Response Chaplain Service (ERCS). A road-based patrol will complement this ministry. There is also a team of local ERCS chaplains in Katherine.

The Disaster Chaplain would be in partnership with NTCC and churches which have historic links with communities in the region: Baptists in the Victoria river area, Catholics in Daly River area, Anglicans in Rover River area and A.I.M in the McArthur River area. Building relations with these churches and Government and Non-Government agencies working in the region would be essential.

## **Boundaries of the Placement**

Top End North of Katherine, including the coastal areas from East Arnhem to West Kimberley.

## **Reporting Relationships**

1. The placement reports to the Northern Synod Placements Committee through the General Secretary.
2. The General Secretary will provide operational supervision and arrange a reference group for the placement.
3. The placement will provide quarterly reports to Frontier Services to give clear evidence of public benevolent activities. These reports will be in the prescribed format as determined by Frontier Services.
4. In matters pertaining to the Congregation in the area the placement is accountable to the Pilgrim Presbytery of Northern Australia.

## Length of Placement

The usual placement conditions apply. It is initially for three (3) years with a ministry reflection after two years and a ministry consultation towards the end of the fourth year.

### Placement Selection Criteria:

#### 1. Qualifications:

- 1.1. Recognised theological and ministry leadership training
- 1.2. Experience working cross culturally, cultural sensitivity and self-awareness
- 1.3. Experience of pastoral care, preaching and teaching across a range of different contexts
- 1.4. Demonstrated commitment to discipling others

#### 2. Experience and Skills:

- 2.1. Understanding the nature and function of the Uniting Aboriginal and Islander Christian Congress within the Uniting Church in Australia.
- 2.2. Ability to work sensitively in a cross-cultural context.
- 2.3. Experience in networking with others in ministry and working alongside and equipping lay people for ministries.
- 2.4. A commitment to the use of Aboriginal languages for first language speakers.
- 2.5. Conflict resolution and/or mediation skills.
- 2.6. Being a self-starter – capable of planning, initiating and developing work without close supervision; able to set SMART goals and evaluate progress.
- 2.7. Being able to reflect Biblically and theologically within the Australian Indigenous context of this ministry.
- 2.8. Being able to collaborate with others and see oneself as part of a wider team.

### Additional Requirements:

- Current Drivers Licence - Presentation of a current Drivers Licence must be made before your appointment to the position can be confirmed.
- Working with Children Clearance Card (NT Ochre Card)
- All adults who work with people under 18 years in NT in regulated employment are required to undergo a “Working with Children Check” under the screening provisions of the Working with Children (Risk Management and Screening) Act. The outcome of a clearance to work will be the granting of an Ochre Card. While not in an employment relationship, for the purposes of legislative compliance, presentation of a current Suitability Card must be made before the placement to be confirmed.

- A National Criminal History Check to be provided and assessed every 5 years. Presentation of a current National Criminal History Check must be made before appointment to the position can be confirmed.
- This position is for the exercise of the duties of ordained ministry of the Uniting Church in Australia. Preference will in the first case be given to appropriately qualified Ministers of the Word or Deacons. A lay person may be appointed to the role subject to successful completion of core competency requirements for the ministry of pastor in the Uniting Church in Australia. The successful applicant will be required to comply with the Code of Ethics and Ministry Practice. and access regular professional supervision.
- This is an approved placement of the Uniting Church in Australia and the ministerial stipend and allowance provisions will apply.
- The successful applicant must be eligible to legally work in Australia and proof of eligibility may be requested.

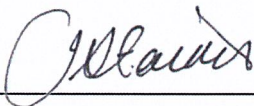
### Authorised by

Signed



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Pilgrim Presbytery of Northern Synod

Date 11.7.2025



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General Secretary – Northern Synod

Date 2.5.2025