

First Third of Life Minister

Southside Uniting Church, in Brisbane's inner southern suburbs, is looking to appoint a **First Third of Life Minister** to join our ministry team.

This role focuses on nurturing and growing ministry with **children, youth, young adults and their families**. As this area of ministry enters an exciting new season, we are seeking a **creative and dynamic leader** who is passionate about discipleship and eager to explore fresh expressions of church for the next generation.

Working collaboratively within our existing ministry team, the successful applicant will help **revitalise and strengthen our community**, while also engaging with the wider neighbourhood to imagine new ways of sharing God's love.

We welcome applications from **Ministers of the Word, Deacons, or qualified Pastors** who feel called to this purpose-driven role.

For more information please contact Rev Catherine Solomon, Presbytery Minister South Moreton on presmin@southmoreton.org.au.

To apply please send your expression of interest to Secretary of Placements at placements@ucaqld.com.au by 11/05/26 COB



Placement Description

Placement Title:	First Third of Life Minister
Service Area:	Southside Uniting Church
Placement Status:	Full Time
Location:	Office 24 Pope st Tarragindi
Stipend Details:	Refer to the Ministry Agent Payments Notice on the The Hub updated 1 st January each year
Next Review Date:	March 2031

The Church:

The Uniting Church in Australia (the Church) is a large uniquely Australian Christian denomination in Australia with heritage from historical reformed evangelical denominations. In Queensland, the Uniting Church has around 250 congregations and has schools, colleges and large community services (such as UnitingCare Queensland and Wesley Mission Queensland).

The Uniting Church is multicultural, committed to reconciliation with First Peoples, calls for reconciliation across its communities and aims to use its people and property resources wisely and in the furtherance of God's mission in the world.

Within the ministry of the whole Church, Jesus Christ calls men and women to proclamation of the gospel in word and deed through a call to ministry. This calling is exercised by preaching and presiding at the celebration of the sacraments and witnessing in the community of the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Placement

Southside Uniting Church is a vibrant intergenerational Christian community located in the inner southern suburbs of Brisbane. The vision is to continue to build a vibrant Christian community spanning across the suburbs, in which members are supported to grow together in faith and fellowship. This change process will involve significant challenges and opportunities for the ministry team and church leadership. The First Third of Life minister will be part of a core group of leaders that the community relies on to maintain positive focus on the shared vision, explore new opportunities and sensitively manage the loss and dislocation that change can involve from time to time. The first third of life minister will also be uniquely placed to lead and grow the next generation of members and leaders who recognise themselves as members of a single unified congregation. This position is strategically placed to bring about revitalisation within the Southside congregation and establish the church of the future.

The congregation continues to move towards a more unified community and decided in October 2025 to move towards a one site strategy. This work is underway with a five-year framework to move towards this vision.

The position

The First Third of Life minister is a full-time pastoral role focused on engaging and discipling children, youth and young adults and their families. This role has a broad scope across the age range from children to young adults, with functions varying according to the age and life stages, faith needs and family and other backgrounds of members. These functions may include engaging young children and new families in the life and fellowship of the church, supporting the development of members' faith from early childhood through high school and into young adulthood, and helping empower young and emerging leaders, with some engagement with young adults through mentoring and supporting their exploration of leadership opportunities within and beyond the church.

This position will work closely with the Senior Minister and Ministry Team to integrate age-specific ministries within the wider church life and foster strong community connections.

The person called to the role will be someone with a passion for exploring innovative and strategic approaches to renewal in growing fellowship, engagement and discipleship.

Key Responsibilities:

Working collaboratively with the Ministry Team and relevant Ministry Area Teams:

Faith Formation, Pastoral Care and Discipleship

- Develop and oversee discipleship pathways for children and youth that support faith formation in the home and church.
- Provide oversight of the Sunday School, including resource planning.
- Support the Girls and Boys Brigades team including resourcing leader development.
- Support and develop the Family Service including development of volunteers and leaders.
- Support and develop Movin On, a youth group aimed at Years 6-8, and similar initiatives focused on key life transition points for youth members.
- Identify resources that can be used to encourage faith formation and discipleship within the congregation.
- Mentor young adults and senior youth in leadership and faith development.
- Encourage children, youth and families to be involved in opportunities for faith formation offered by the South Moreton Presbytery, Queensland Synod, or Assembly.
- Support families with resources and ideas for developing faith at home.
- Develop opportunities for families to connect with one another and provide pastoral support for families within the congregation.

Worship and Ministry Participation

- Participate in planning and delivery of Family Service worship services on Saturday evenings currently held once a month.
- Support and develop the Sunday evening Youth Service currently held once a month.
- Participate in the leadership of worship, including preaching, as negotiated with the Senior Minister.
- Develop new and innovative ways to engage people in the worship of God.
- In cooperation with the Senior Minister encourage and equip people of all ages and stages to be involved in leading worship.

Community Engagement

- Strengthen and maintain SSUC's connection with community programs such as St Paul's soccer, Religious Instruction, Easter Madness, Amplify.
- Work with youth members and families to identify and explore broader civil society engagement opportunities in line with the vision and congregational priorities, such as engagement with the Queensland Community Alliance and local community outreach and environmental initiatives.

Leadership and Team Collaboration

- Provide leadership and pastoral support to volunteers in children's and youth ministries.
- Ensure all ministry activities comply with Safe Ministry policies and requirements.
- Contribute to Ministry Team planning and church-wide communication efforts.
- Participate in Presbytery activities which enhance the designated work of the role of First Third of Life minister.
- Attend and report to Church Council meetings as part of the leadership team.

Personal characteristics

Calling

- Able to demonstrate a clear sense of calling to serve God through this role, as discerned collectively by the applicant, congregation and Presbytery.

Character

- A mature and growing faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour, as demonstrated by love for God and others, obedience to the call of Jesus Christ and expression of the fruit of the Holy Spirit.
- Commitment to the Great Commission to make, mature and mobilise disciples, including a preparedness to use a mix of play, instruction and pastoral support to grow the faith and fellowship of members
- Demonstrated commitment to the ethos of the Uniting Church in Australia
- Emotionally mature
- A team player
- Integrity
- Willingness to explore, develop and experiment
- Openness to change, a willingness to learn from both successes and setbacks, and an ability to remain positive during uncertainty
- Demonstrated flexibility, initiative, creative thinking and ability to work independently.

Chemistry

- Commitment to working within the vision, mission, values and strategic direction of the Southside Uniting Church
- Demonstrated ability to work with and complement the work of others, maintaining healthy relationships and boundaries
- Demonstration of timely sharing of relevant information
- Demonstrated ability to relate to a range of people within and beyond the Congregation.
- Able to handle conflict
- Ability to understand and communicate a shared strategic vision.

Competence

- Extensive knowledge and skills in ministry with young people, through partnering with families
- Leadership
- Able to plan well and follow through on short, medium and long-term strategies
- Able to lead and inspire others and to create and sustain teams
- Strong communication skills; in speaking, writing and listening.

Placement Selection Criteria:

Qualifications:

As a Placement the role of the First Third of Life minister is suitable for an Ordained Minister or a recognized Pastor within the Uniting Church. 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.

Experience and Skills:

- Demonstrated experience in leading children's, families and youth ministry.
- Experience in volunteer coordination, team leadership and community engagement.
- Demonstrated ability to engage in revitalisation of a congregation.

Skills

- Strong interpersonal, written and verbal communication.
- Ability to work collaboratively and independently.
- Comfortable using technology for communication, planning and ministry (e.g., Microsoft Office, social media, shared platforms).

Compliance

- Undertaking of Safe Church training requirements – annually
- Statement of Commitment – signed annually
- Commitment to working within the purpose and values of the Uniting Church in Australia, Queensland Synod and adhering to the policies, organisational requirements and processes

Additional Requirements:

- Current Drivers Licence - A drivers licence is highly desirable given the wide geographic nature of the current placement boundaries.
- Working with Children Check (BCB - Blue Card) - All adults who work with people under 18 years in QLD in regulated employment are required to hold a current working with children clearance under the screening provisions of the [Working With Children \(Risk Management and Screening\) Act 2000](#). While not in an employment relationship, for the purposes of legislative compliance, presentation of a current Working With Children Card must be made before the placement will be confirmed.
- Work within the policies and procedures of the Uniting Church in Australia, Queensland Synod including the Safe Ministry with Children policy, applicable vaccination policies and the provisions of the [Work Health and Safety Act 2011](#) and other relevant legislation including reporting hazards/incidents, support for injured workers and full participation in return to work plans.
- This is an approved placement of the Uniting Church in Australia and the ministerial stipend and allowance provisions will apply.
- Attendance at Synod in Session (every 18 months) is expected and attendance at Ministry Agent retreats is desirable.
- The successful applicant must be eligible legally to work in Australia and proof of eligibility may be requested.

Authorised by:

Signature



Rev. Andrew Gunton

Senior Minister Southside Uniting Church

Date: 05/03/2026