



Greystanes Uniting Church

Cnr Cumberland & Eldridge Roads (P O Box 5064)

Greystanes NSW 2145

Minister: Rev Gail Hinton 0407 269 162

revgail@greystanesuniting.org.au

Office Phone: 9636 3245

Email: office@greystanesuniting.org.au

Website: www.greystanesuniting.org.au

Rev Gail's Message

This Sunday we will reevaluate our church's values. The values of Greystanes Uniting Church were determined a few years ago, well before I came into the picture, in fact your values appear in your Placement Profile, the document that explained who you are, what you are about and what you wanted in your next minister. I received your Placement Profile in the first half of 2022 and I still occasionally read through this document to assess how I am going according to the tasks it outlined. The people elected to interview me, known as the Joint Nominating Committee (JNC) also received a profile about me. This process is like a bit like that old game show *Perfect Match*, it attempts to pair together the ideal congregation with the ideal minister. We all know that there is no such thing as an ideal, perfect relationship however the process generally works well and for us it was a success.

In some ways the dreams and hopes of the congregation expressed in the profile are aspirational, they have to attract a potential minister's attention and hit the right missional notes (and the same goes for the minister's profile, it's like getting dressed up to the nines for the first date). I recently read through your profile and I noticed that back in 2022 I put an asterisk next to your values, they spoke to my heart. In your profile you stated that: We are a welcoming community whose main values are Belonging and Inclusivity, Compassion and Acceptance, Caring and Respect, Humour, Laughter and Fun, Family and Children.

At this point in our journey together there are a few things that stand out in your profile that seem to speak to this moment. When I started back in August 2022 we had no idea of the sad and unexpected events that would unfold in 2025. The losses we endured and grieved and the closure of the Childcare Centre has changed the landscape dramatically. As I read through your profile today, I am struck by the following aspirations, first your desire to tap into the resource of active retirees within the congregation, utilising that people power to spread the gospel, secondly, your desire for strategic leadership and encouragement, thirdly, the hope that new ways "to interact with the community and begin some new events within the life of the congregation" would eventuate under the oversight of the new minister. Lastly, the ABCD workshop and Mission Strategy Group reports that identified the following mission fields, Programmes for children, the creation of small groups, including a group for retirees, and a desire to be "involved in activities within our local community".

I hope you can see the ways in which we have made progress in some of these areas. Some may no longer be possible or desirable, however we now find ourselves on the brink of doing something tangible and exciting with the space we have inherited and truly connecting with the local community by creating a Community Hub. Please continue to pray that all the decisions I make, that the Church Council makes and that we make together as a Congregation are Holy Spirit led.