

# Bangalow and Alstonville Uniting Churches

## POSITION DESCRIPTION

### First Third of Life Ministry Coordinator

#### EMPLOYER PROFILE

**Our Purpose:** Reflecting Christ's heart, we are creating an inclusive and intergenerational community.

**Our Mission:** To enhance, develop, and grow the First Third of Life Ministry across Bangalow Byron Bay Uniting Church and Alstonville Uniting Church, sharing the message of Christ with young people and the community.

**Our Values:** Inclusivity, Collaboration, Faith, and Community Engagement.

This new role is central to a Synod Growth Fund project which is a collaboration between Bangalow Byron Bay and Alstonville Uniting Churches and is a logical next step in developing the existing ministries, exploring new ministries and building stronger connections with local young people, families and community groups. Both churches are located in the Far North Coast Presbytery in a rural area and are at a distance of 25 minutes by car. There are some similarities, but the two congregations also have different dynamics and contexts.

#### **Bangalow Byron Bay:**

Bangalow Byron Bay Uniting Church is a joint congregation across two locations and for the purposes of this role and project the focus will be in the Bangalow community. The church premises are in a prime position in the centre of the Bangalow village, adjacent to the local public school. Bangalow is also the centre of business for a number of surrounding villages in the Hinterland just west of Byron Bay and so the location draws people from a wider geographic area. Bangalow Uniting Church has built a wonderful reputation in the community through its ministries. The outcome of engaging in the UME Growing Young Project in 2021 has resulted in a number of new initiatives and missional engagements focused on ministry to people in the first third of life. The congregation has a strategic focus for Bangalow of "Ministry to Families" (First Third of Life Ministry).

#### **Alstonville:**

Alstonville Uniting Church is centrally located on the main street of Alstonville, next to two primary schools and the entrance to the high school. It is in a prime location, just 150 metres from Alstonville Plaza - the centre of the local community for Alstonville, Wollongbar, Rous Mill, and the surrounding areas. Alstonville Uniting Church has been known in its community over the years for its vibrant ministries. Following extensive mission planning last year, the congregation is seeking to develop ministries specifically for the primary school age group (which will flow on from the current thriving Mainly Music program for pre-schoolers) with a focus on further engaging local families, communities, and schools.

## **ABOUT THE ROLE**

The First Third of Life Ministry Coordinator (FTLM) is a Lay Specified Ministry role within the Uniting Church in Australia. The FTLM Coordinator will work equally across both Bangalow Byron Bay and Alstonville Uniting Churches to facilitate, lead, and grow ministries for people in the first third of life. This includes leading the existing Growing Young groups, creating community connections, and developing new ministry programs aligned with local needs.

## **KEY RESPONSIBILITIES**

- Pastorally lead and coordinate the Growing Young groups at both congregations, facilitating collaboration, discipleship and shared learning.
- Develop and implement new ministry initiatives focused on engaging and discipling young people and families.
- Facilitate intergenerational and intercultural connections, exploring fresh expressions of church.
- Collaborate with both congregations' leadership and ministry agents to ensure strategic alignment and resource sharing.
- Organise family engagement events and community connection activities.
- Identify and respond to local community needs through faith-based programs and activities.
- Mentor and equip volunteers and church members for First Third of Life Ministry involvement.
- Maintain effective communication and reporting with both congregations and the Strategic Reference Group.
- Foster the development of potential young leaders.
- Following policy and procedures in relation to workplace health and safety
- Participating in maintaining a safe working environment for both yourself and others in the workplace
- Undertaking additional duties as directed

## **EVANGELISM OR SERVICE BEYOND A GATHERED CONGREGATION**

- Explore ways of enhancing or implementing community outreach programs.
- Explore ways of better connecting and working with existing community groups beyond the church.
- Developing stronger connections with more local advertising and publicity.

## **IN ADDITION TO THOSE OUTLINED ABOVE, SPECIFIC RESPONSIBILITIES ALSO INCLUDE:**

- Reading and understanding the Basis of Union, and having a preparedness to work within the polity and ethos of the Uniting Church in Australia.
- Abide by the discipline processes as set out in the Constitution and Regulation of the Uniting Church and the Code of Ethics and Ministry Practice adopted by the National Assembly as they relate to ministerial practice.

- Abide by the requirements of the Uniting Church Regulations in relation to the specified Ministry of Pastor.
- Having a genuine willingness to embrace challenges as they arise and to work flexibly in support of the overall key objectives of the Uniting Church in Australia
- Work within the guidelines of the Culture of Safety Unit/Synod Mission Services.

## **KEY RELATIONSHIPS**

### **INTERNAL:**

- Bangalow Byron Bay UC & Alstonville UC Growing Young Teams
- Ministers in Placement
- Strategic Reference Group
- Church Councils

### **EXTERNAL:**

- Local Schools and Community Groups
- Synod Mission Services (UME and PULSE)
- Presbytery and Regional Partnership Representatives

## **KEY COMPETENCIES**

- A strong personal Christian faith and commitment to the Uniting Church ethos.
- Proven ability to lead ministry initiatives and work collaboratively with teams.
- Experience working with children, youth, and families in faith-based contexts.
- Strong organisational and administrative skills.
- Effective communication and interpersonal skills, including digital communication.
- Ability to develop creative and engaging faith programs.

## **QUALIFICATIONS AND EXPERIENCE**

- A qualification in ministry, theology, or a related field.
- Eligible for commissioning as a Lay Pastor under the Uniting Church regulations.
- Successful Criminal History Records Check, Working with Vulnerable People Check, Working with Children Check and 'in good standing with faith tradition' requirement.
- Experience leading faith-based programs and working with diverse groups.
- Ability to work flexibly across multiple congregations.
- Driver's license.
- The right to work in Australia

NOTE: As this role involves pastoral duties, fringe benefits may be provided to the staff member where the person meets one of the following descriptions:

- Ordained as a minister or deacon (i.e. minister of religion); or
- A student at a theological college undertaking a course in order to become a minister of religion; or
- Listed on the Register of lay ministers of the Uniting Church and admitted/ commissioned to hold authority on doctrine or religious practice.

## **ROLE OVERVIEW**

Classification: Award Free

Employment Type: Full-Time (shared equally (50%) between both congregations)

Appointing Body: Bangalow Byron Bay Uniting Church and Alstonville Uniting Church

Report Line: Ministers in Placement

Direct Reports: Nil

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