

APPLICATION FORM

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|---|--------------------------------------|
| Congregations: Wagga Wagga Uniting Church | Presbytery: Riverina |
| Project Title: Pilgrim Uniting Centre | Presbytery Priority: 1 |
| Contribution to Living is Giving 3 years ago: \$10,000 2 years ago \$10,000 | Last year \$10,000 Grant Category: P |

Mission is God’s activity, and we are invited to live and work as partners with God. What we do, and how we do it, reflects what we believe. What does your project want to say about God?

1. How does this Project demonstrate your understanding of the Mission of God?

The Wagga Wagga congregation believes the call of witnessing to Jesus Christ in regional Australia. This is the responsibility of the local congregation. We have adopted an “ecumenical strategy for congregation-based evangelism” as articulated by Raymond Fung and based on Isaiah’s vision of the restored community; in which both the young and the old find fulfilment and people do not labour in vain but enjoy the work of their hands. Thus the congregation seeks to engage with people working together for the *Isaiah vision* and in the process living the love of Christ. In 2006, after a decade of prayerful planning, the congregation discerned that God was calling it to “fish” from a new home base in the South-western growth corridor of Wagga Wagga (John 21). To inhabit a space that is a visible sign of the hospitality of God, primarily experienced in worship around the communion table, and from which other ‘feeding’ activities and programs are offered in partnership with other community bodies. By relocating to the South City Commercial Centre, God is saying to the City of Wagga Wagga that Christ has a place in the public life of the community and that God offers a public invitation for all peoples to enter God’s house and to be fed the food of eternal life.

2. Intended Mission Outcomes of the Project - What will be different when this grant concludes?

This grant will help provide a permanent home for the 150 people who currently regularly worship on Sundays in a Lutheran School Hall. This will enable us to take the next step towards fulfilment of our call to be in mission and ministry to the growing edges of our community. The goals of this project are to provide a facility which will enable:

- Additional mid-week bible studies and small group activities
- The integration of the work of Uniting Care Ageing and the congregation’s diaconal ministry.
- The development of at least five partnerships with community groups through the provision of facilities and support
- The presence of a strong regional Uniting Church in the Riverina
- Continue to support and further develop refugee resettlement in Wagga Wagga
- Continue and expand activities and programs for families, young people and children

It is hoped the realisation of these goals would see the number of people who participate in public worship within the congregation increase by five percent per annum.

3. Mission Objectives of the Project - What will be happening in the project to achieve the intended mission outcomes?

Funding will make it possible to construction a new facility in a growth corridor which is:

- More inviting, open and hospitable to the general public than the surrounding public buildings
- A flexible design allowing all users to maximise usage
- Designed to allow the use of emerging audio visual technologies

The activities and priorities of the congregation are:

- Diversity in worship styles, in particular exploration of what it means to be an emergent church
- Leadership in cross-cultural ministry and inclusion of persons who relocate to Wagga Wagga
- The offering programs to counter social isolation in the suburbs
- Programs for families, young people and children

The key aims for this project for measurement purposes are:

- Growth in average worship attendance
- Growth in the number of people participating as volunteers in the activities of the Wagga Wagga Uniting Church
- Growth in the number of people with whom the congregation is in regular contact
- Growth in the number of families, young people and children involved in activities

SMRF Criteria

4. Passionate Engagement – Who are you engaging, and how have you engaged them?

(1)

In 1995 the Wagga Wagga Parish recognised the danger of becoming a complacent, ageing, middle-class group of people and so examined its property holdings with a view to ensure they were practical, yet portraying identity and reverence for God in a manner which speaks to today's generations and cultures. In 2000 the Parish called Rev Geoff Flynn to offer leadership as the Parish moved to towards the goal of worship on one site.

In August 2002 the congregation resolved by formal majority (95 yes 6 no) to form a Regional Worshipping Community on 2 sites:

- (1) an urban/CBD worshipping community at the Wesley Church which continues to be a place of traditional styled worship, (a Korean worshipping community at Wesley now exists as well) and three Pilgrim worshipping communities at the Lutheran Primary School. The school facilitates the use of flexible seating, modern technology and child friendly activities in worship. At the 10.30 Pilgrim service the majority of attendees are now children from a cross-cultural background.
- (2) The congregation then resolved by consensus to sell the Turvey Park and Koorngal Uniting in Churches with a view to purchasing a more permanent home for Pilgrim communities while retaining the Wesley property.

In 2006 the Congregation decided to purchase land in the South City Shopping Centre as the long term home for Pilgrim Uniting. Building on this site gives the UCA a public presence in the southwest growth corridor within walking distance to two of the lower socio-economic suburbs of Wagga Wagga.

A Building Facilitation Team (BFT) consisting of five members chaired by Glenn Elliott Rudder of the congregation developed a concept for the new building. The building design was adopted by the Congregation in 2007-8. A Building Finance Committee (BFC) consisting of 7 persons chaired by Wayne Geale sought pledges towards the proposed building project. The first appeal in March 2009 resulted in over 90 persons pledging of \$284,000. A further \$100,000 was pledged in July 2009. During the second half of 2009 the BFT and BFC have met jointly to identify a staged construction process to enable the building to proceed. While Rev Geoff Flynn remains committed to the building project Rev Mosese Taufa is actively engaged with developing youth and children's ministry from lower socio-economic families.

The passion of the congregation for this project is best illustrated by the way it has patiently worked through a series of difficult property decisions in order to realise its vision of being a regional church while maintaining a strong presence in central Wagga Wagga.

5. Common Vision - How will you maintain the purpose of the project during the life of the grant?

The project has been grown and refined for over ten years through a series of Mission Workshops with an average of 50 people have participating, and a consequence that Wagga Wagga Uniting Church has developed both its regional and urban/CBD ministries.

Having made the difficult decision to purchase a block of land that would best serve as a home base for Pilgrim Uniting the congregation spent two years refining its building needs. In 2009 a 12-page brochure outlining the proposed building development was circulated to every member of the congregation that invited them to make a financial commitment towards the project.

The strategy in place to implement and review the project is to made up of three teams/committees; building, finance and programs. Each team/committee meets to develop ideas and make recommendations to the Church Council and the congregation as a whole. The Building Finance Committee will continue to assess and review the financial aspects of the project. The Building Facilitation Team will continue to work on the project up until May 2010. A Project Oversight Team will then be appointed by the Church Council and will liaise with the Project Manager during the tender and construction phases. A Mission Planning Team will be formed in February 2010 to explore new mission opportunities when Pilgrim Uniting Centre opens in 2011. A timeline for the project will be distributed to the congregation in February 2010. At least six updates on the building project will be presented in the congregation magazine each year. The project's progress will be reviewed monthly at the Pilgrim Elders & Leaders group and quarterly by the Church Council. The wider community is kept informed through press releases in the local newspaper and via our website.

6. Gift Development - How will this grant increase your capacity to participate in mission?

The established practice is for the Ministry Team to identify and work with persons who express a desire to be involved in a specific mission activity undertaken in the name of the Wagga Wagga Uniting Church. Persons with similar interests are put in touch with each other to form mission groups. The Church Council appoints a person to co-ordinate the specific mission activity usually on the recommendation of the mission group members. The expectation is that the group leaders will be responsible for mentoring group members and that the group leaders will be mentored by one of the Ministry Team.

In keeping with the *Isaiah Vision* the congregation encourages compassionate people who are not yet members of the UCA to join our mission groups provided they are willing to be accountable to the group leader. This is providing an effective way of disciplining men and women who are looking for opportunities to care for others, and for people who like to work with their hands.

This grant serves to provide a new venue out of which new and existing mission groups can operate. For example it may be possible to expand the Opportunity Shop, Drop-In Centre and play group ministries operating on the Wesley site into the new building.

7. Multiplying Effect – How will this project generate new groups for new people?

Having mid-week access to a second building immediately offers new mission possibilities. The number of people who use the Wesley Complex during the week as a result of our mid-week mission activities is at least four times the average worship attendance. Operation of the mid-week ministries out of the new building will, we hope, have a similar multiplying effect at Pilgrim.

We are aware there is a twelve-month window of opportunity to gain new members when a new church is opened in a community such as Glenfield. Thus the congregation has requested that Rev Geoff Flynn's placement be extended so as to provide consistent and missional leadership to a process of planning new groups to which new people could join in parallel to the building project itself.

By seeking to design a building that is more open than traditional neo-gothic buildings, the congregation is serious about meeting the psychological need of people to cross the threshold without feeling threatened or uncomfortable.

Financial Aspects

8. What will the Money be spent on - What specific costs will this grant cover?

The grant sought will contribute 10% of the capital cost of developing Stage One of the new base for the Pilgrim Community's mission outreach in Wagga wagga's growth area in the south-west corridor and surrounding regions.

Detailed Financials have been provided. The following table is based on revision design work and approvals being completed in FY 2009/10 and the project being completed in FY 2010/11. Any delay will move expenditure down the timeline but for reasons of congregational morale and cost escalations we are keen to see this long running change of direction achieved in the earliest possible timeframe.

| | | 2010-2011 | 2011-2012 | 2012-2013 | 2013-2014 | 2014-2015 | Total 5 Years |
|---|---|-------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|---------------|
| A | Estimated Cost of Project | \$2,037,000 | | | | | \$2.037m |
| B | Less: Applicant's contribution from ordinary income towards project | | | | | | |
| C | Less funds in hand/reserves | \$1,307,000 | | | | | \$1.307m |
| D | Less Congregation fund raising/pledges | \$185,000 | | | | | \$185,000 |
| E | Less Loans (Self Help) | | | | | | |
| F | Less Loans (UR) | \$290,000 | | | | | \$290,000 |
| G | Other Sources of Income | \$70,000 | | | | | \$70,000 |
| H | Shortfall = Grant requested | \$185,000 | | | | | \$185,000 |

9. Long Term Strategies - what will you do when the money runs out?

The grant will be pay for some of the cost of building the Pilgrim Uniting Centre. The cost of borrowing capital to complete the building would be reduced by the grant allowing the project to go ahead.

10. Alternate Sources of Funding What other efforts have been made to obtain funding for this project? Please identify all alternative sources of funding, whether successful or not.

- Disposal of redundant properties occurred in 2003 as first step in refocussing mission to fund capital works
- Congregation pledges sought and tallied in 2009
- Ongoing fundraising commenced in 2007
- Self-help Fund – facility was offered to membership but limited rate of adoption by members due to protracted delays
- Presbytery Grant – not supported to date

11. Other Grants applied for or received by the applying body in the past (for any purpose)

| Purpose | Total Amount | Source of funds | Date commenced | Date concluded |
|---|--------------|---------------------|----------------|----------------|
| Part Funding of Youth and Children’s Worker | \$10,000 | Burnside | 1 Jan 03 | 30 Dec 03 |
| Community Aged Care Chaplaincy Pilot | \$5,000 | Uniting Care | 1 Jan08 | 30 Jun 08 |
| Disadvantaged Youth Soccer Clinic | \$3,000 | Wagga City Council | 1 Nov 09 | 30 Jun 10 |
| UCATSA Worker | \$39,000 | Riverina Presbytery | Feb 08 | Dec 10 |

12. Statistics

People directly engaged through this project
 Team members focused primarily on this project
 Staff employed by applying body
 Average Worship Attendance (Relevant Congregation/s)

| | 2006-7 | 2008-9 | 2010-11 with a grant |
|---|--------|--------|-------------------------|
| People directly engaged through this project | 150 | 150 | 300 |
| Team members focused primarily on this project | 12 | 12 | 45 |
| Staff employed by applying body | 5 | 5 | 5 |
| Average Worship Attendance (Relevant Congregation/s) | 220 | 240 | 280 |

13. NCLS or LCLS Surveys When did your congregation / applying body last complete an NCLS or LCLS? What have you done in response to the results of that survey?

The congregation participated in the NCLS in 2001 and 2006. Regrettably, the changes the congregation put in place following the 2001 led to a corruption of the comparison between the results of the 2001 and 2006 surveys. Little use has been made of the 2006 results as the survey was conducted at a low point in life of the congregation brought about by the sexuality debate, the death of two key leaders and the conclusion of a much loved ministry placement. In adopting the *Isaiah Vision* the congregation has sought to address its low scoring in the area of faith sharing.

14. Presbytery Comment

(Name, position and signature of representative of relevant Presbytery Committee)

APPLICATION COVER SHEET

Presbytery and SMRF staff will need to contact applicants after lodgement, and all correspondence related to the application and its approval will be addressed to the contact persons. Please give all accurate and reliable contact details to facilitate this process. A frequently checked email address is essential.

Congregation

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|---|--|
| Contact person Glenn Elliott-Rudder | Phone 02 69226829/ 0406427334 |
| Address 46 Amaroo Street Wagga Wagga NSW 2650 | Fax Nil Email meganglenn@optusnet.com.au |

Presbytery

| | |
|----------------|-------------------------|
| Contact person | Phone |
| Address | Fax Email |

Check that all the items on this checklist are included in your application before sending it to your Presbytery.

| | |
|--|--|
| Application Form | |
| Project Budget and Long Range Forecast | |
| Application Checklist and Application Label | |
| Mission Plan | |
| Completed UR1 Return for 2008-09 | |
| Additional Information - Categories P, E, N, S, R <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • key stages of the project and a timeline for their implementation • an ongoing process for evaluating the outcomes of the project • the role of the person who will implement the plan • the role of the person in relation to other staff (if any) | |
| Additional Information - Category P <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Any plans, Feasibility study reports, Real Estate assessments or Architects reports • Communication Plan to demonstrate Common Vision | |
| Additional Information - Category S <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communication Plan for sharing the benefit of this project across the Synod. | |
| Additional Information - Category R <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research Proposal | |
| Submitting your Application: | |
| Complete the “Application Form – LABEL”. Make 3 copies of it and paste one onto each cardboard folder | |
| Make 3 copies of all of the documentation required for your application and send all 3 to your Presbytery. | |
| Email a copy of your application to Allison Forrest allisonf@nsw.uca.org.au | |

APPLICATION LABEL

Please make **3** copies of the completed label. Cut & paste one on the flap of each cardboard wallet.



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| NSW & ACT Synod Mission Resource Fund APPLICATION TO THE 2010 SMRF ANNUAL CONSULTATION GRANT CATEGORIES P, E, N, S, R | (office use only) |
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|------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| CONGREGATION Wagga Wagga | PRESBYTERY Riverina |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------------|

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|--|
| PROJECT TITLE Pilgrim Uniting Centre |
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| | 2010-11 | 2011-12 | 2012-13 | 2013-14 | 2014-15 | TOTAL |
|------------------------|------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|--------------|
| Grant amount requested | \$ 185,000 | \$ | \$ | \$ | \$ | \$ 185,000 |

Tick or shade one box to indicate the Category under which this application is made

| | | | | |
|--------|---|---|---|---|
| P ✓ | E | N | S | R |
|--------|---|---|---|---|

| | | |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Date approved by Church Council | Date approved by Presbytery | Presbytery Priority Ranking |
| 04 February 2010 | | |