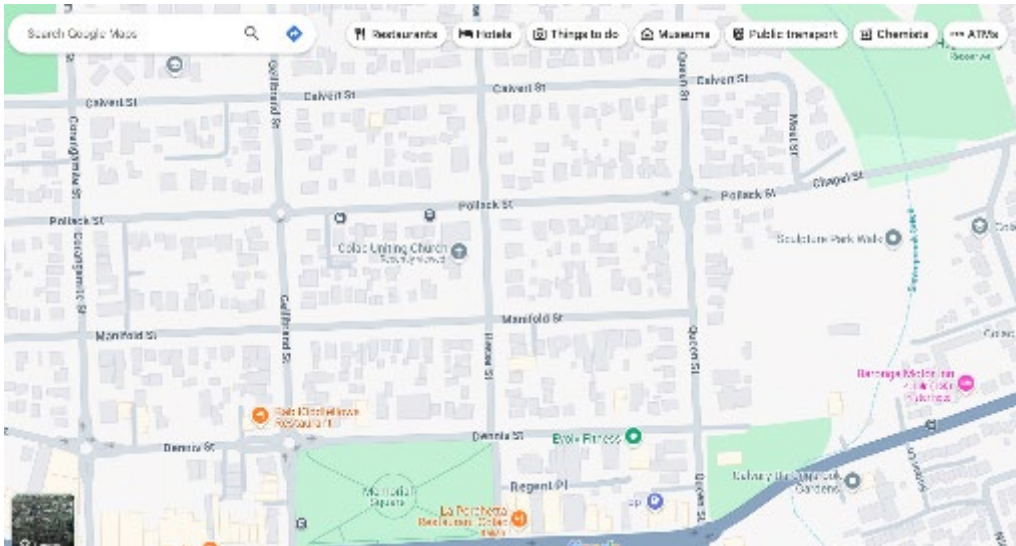




## A Placement Profile

A1	Presbytery	Western Victoria Presbytery	
A2	Name of Placement	CORC East Cluster (Corangamite Otway Regional Council)	
A3	Placement city/suburb/town	Colac	
A4	Church/Office location(s)	25 - 29 Hesse Street Colac	
A5	Congregations and agencies associated with this placement	Beeac, Colac, Cressy	
A6	Ministry leadership being sought	Specific ministry role:	Minister of the Word
		Minister of the Word <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Deacon <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ministry of Pastor <input type="checkbox"/>
		Ordinand <input type="checkbox"/>	
A7	Specific details	Additional placement <input type="checkbox"/>	Replacement placement <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
		Full Time <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Part Time <input type="checkbox"/>	Time fraction <input type="text"/>
		Earliest Start Date:	1/05/2025
A8	Placement term	Undefined <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Up to 10 years (see Reg 2.7.3(a))	
		Fixed Term	Required for non-congregational placements (see Reg 2.7.3(b))
			Years <input type="text"/>
A9	<i>To be completed by Presbytery, with reasons given on page Error! Bookmark not defined.:</i>		
	Is permission sought to advertise?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	
	Is a Priority Placement recommended?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	
A10	Website	In progress. Plan launch in June 2025	
A11	Social Media	Facebook <a href="https://www.facebook.com/colacunitingchurch">facebook.com/colacunitingchurch</a> YouTube <a href="https://www.youtube.com/@colacunitingchurch4336">https://www.youtube.com/@colacunitingchurch4336</a>	
A12	Google map link	<a href="https://www.google.com/maps/place/Colac+Uniting+Church/@-38.3367624,143.5895724,3a,75y,258.67h,89.81t/data=!3m7!1e1!3m5!1sE9n8uTS3FI5zCreSu1Ejng!2e0!6shttps:%2F%2Fstreetviewpixels-pa.googleapis.com%2Fv1%2Fthumbnail%3Fcb_client%3Dmaps_sv.tactile%26w%3D900%26h%3D600%26pitch%3D0.18507120226510665%26panoid%3DE9n8uTS3FI5zCreSu1Ejng%26yaw%3D258.66796879010246!7i16384!8i8192!4m9!3m8!1s0x6ad30f1411534bad:0x37c807304b97005a!8m2!3d-38.3366858!4d143.5892056!10e5!14m1!1BCgIlgARICCAI!16s%2Fg%2F1ptw4sfkb?entry=ttu&amp;q_ep=EgoyMDI1MDIyMy4xIXMDSOASAFQAw%3D%3D">https://www.google.com/maps/place/Colac+Uniting+Church/@-38.3367624,143.5895724,3a,75y,258.67h,89.81t/data=!3m7!1e1!3m5!1sE9n8uTS3FI5zCreSu1Ejng!2e0!6shttps:%2F%2Fstreetviewpixels-pa.googleapis.com%2Fv1%2Fthumbnail%3Fcb_client%3Dmaps_sv.tactile%26w%3D900%26h%3D600%26pitch%3D0.18507120226510665%26panoid%3DE9n8uTS3FI5zCreSu1Ejng%26yaw%3D258.66796879010246!7i16384!8i8192!4m9!3m8!1s0x6ad30f1411534bad:0x37c807304b97005a!8m2!3d-38.3366858!4d143.5892056!10e5!14m1!1BCgIlgARICCAI!16s%2Fg%2F1ptw4sfkb?entry=ttu&amp;q_ep=EgoyMDI1MDIyMy4xIXMDSOASAFQAw%3D%3D</a>  <a href="https://victas.uca.org.au/find-a-church/">https://victas.uca.org.au/find-a-church/</a>	

**A13 Area map**



**Uniting Church in Australia**  
SYNOD OF VICTORIA AND TASMANIA

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CORC region circled: Timboon area in West Cluster, Derrinallum (near Lismore), Camperdown and Apollo Bay in Central Cluster, Beecol, Colac, Cressy in East Cluster. Uniting Church congregations in Coragulac (pre CORC era), Forrest, Birregurra, Rokewood, and Warrion (of the East Cluster) have closed. Some members from these congregations have connected with Colac.





## B The Congregation

**B1 Tell a potential minister about this placement and yourselves, in your own words and pictures, in no more than one page. Share something of your congregation's values, beliefs, and ways in which you live out and share the gospel message.**

**Include comment about why you need a new minister. How will this placement be exciting, challenging, and attractive to a minister? How can God be served in new ways here? What do you want the Minister to do with you and for you?**

**This is your chance to 'be creative' and catch the attention of someone who is thinking of sharing their call, their gifts, their life with you.**

This position will be in the UCA Presbytery of Western Victoria, in the East cluster of the CORC (Corangamite Otway Regional Council) region. The CORC region has three clusters - West, Central and East (see map supplied). It was established in 2013 and meets quarterly. There are currently eight congregations in CORC.

The minister will be based at Colac. There are two other smaller outlying congregations (at Beeac and Cressy) in the East cluster. They are within 35km from Colac.

There will be a team arrangement, at the discernment of, and by arrangement between the ministers and lay worship leaders, in our region.

The nearest Uniting Church minister to Colac is in the Central cluster - at Camperdown (about 35-40 minutes' drive from Colac)

There is a strong emphasis on how to meet the congregations' spiritual and pastoral needs and connection in the wider community. Pastoral care and arrangements for home visiting is important to our members.

### COLAC REGION VALUES AND BELIEFS AND WAYS WE LIVE OUT AND SHARE THE GOSPEL

A congregational survey of our east cluster churches, done in Feb 2025, reported that our strengths are in our people, their spirituality and sense of community. The Colac congregation aims to be caring to and inclusive of all people, creative with building relationships with each other and with God as He leads our lives. We strive to be open to what the Lord wants us to do in our community and to act on issues that undermine people and our natural environment.

**COLAC UNITING CHURCH:** Although we are a group of mostly older people, our relationship with God, our community and each other, is important to us. It is strengthened through prayer, study, worship, practicing pastoral care, church council discernment, fellowship meals, and our desire to be inclusive for and to each other and in our community.

We offer practical support people on the margins (e.g. support Colac Kindness Network with their "food security" program).

We keep busy with pastoral care, outreach activities, seasonal art messages on a wall facing Hesse Street, and maintaining and upgrading our facilities for ministry, mission, and outreach purposes.

We have a culture of inclusiveness and fellowship. There is an acceptance of both traditional and creative styles of worship and music (our pipe organ is used regularly). New members are mainly from retirees, moving into Colac. There are very few young people at our usual Sunday worship - but we are slowly attracting more families to join our monthly Messy Church sessions.

There is effective governance system through functionally defined teams (Worship and Discipleship, Pastoral Care and Fellowship, Mission and Outreach, Administration -finance, property, Human Resources). We have a high engagement of members for volunteer activities when required.

**BEEAC AND CRESSY CONGREGATIONS** value and their close community and ecumenical connections. Beeac Uniting Church has a long standing, strong relationship with the Glen Waverly Uniting Church through their worship live broadcasts, close friendships, and mutual support.

### WHY WE NEED A NEW MINISTER

We need a minister in placement to guide us spiritually and practically, to preach and share the Word, to identify, equip, encourage, and unite the congregations and members in mission and outreach opportunities for sharing Christ's Gospel and compassion in our community.

**HOW IS THIS PLACEMENT ATTRACTIVE EXCITING/ CHALLENGING FOR A NEW MINISTER?**

The Colac community is inducive for making friends, connections and growing as a person. We are excited about our potential to expand our mission and fellowship, especially when our new "Welcome Centre" hall renovations complete in 2025.(draft plan pictured in photo gallery on last page). This will provide an opportunity to expand our mission, outreach, and for worship in fresh new ways. There will be new facilities, kitchen, and updated office spaces for administration and for a minister, IT equipment and meeting rooms. This should offer our minister the facilities to develop creative, visionary, and innovative ministry opportunities for growing our spiritual life and outreach. The Colac congregation has experienced worship musicians, media teams, a lay leader and two non-Uniting Church retired ministers (who are members at Colac UCA ), Bible study and Messy Church leaders ready to support a minister.

**HOW CAN GOD BE SERVED IN NEW WAYS HERE?**

We are open to creating new opportunities to engage with our local community, to create caring relationships and to share the Gospel. There is an opportunity to shine in the public as an "all-inclusive" church that generously and wisely uses its resources (of people and property) to love and walk alongside our "neighbour".

**WHAT WE NEED A NEW MINISTER TO DO FOR AND WITH US?**

Our Colac congregation is seeking a minister who can demonstrate a heart for pastoral care and to enable us to joyfully share love for the Lord, each other, and our communities. There is also a need to support our regional congregations to connect with each other, to be resourced and resilient to share ministry, and to grow in love and faith in Christ. We are open to a minister who is compassionate, has creative team-based Christ-centred worship skills and who can identify and support mission outreach projects in Colac that are suitable for making meaningful connections with all ages, backgrounds, and abilities.

**OTHER:**

The East Region of CORC's Mission Statement is:  
To make Christ's message known beyond our own individual congregations, in a changing world, by being welcoming, inclusive and spiritual to all  
Colac Uniting Church Vision statement:  
To know Christ and to make Christ known  
Colac Uniting Church Mission Statement:  
To be a regional community, growing, and leading people to abundant life in Christ

**B2 List and explain any particular priorities which the congregation has identified and which it will address in the next two to five years?**

- 1. Develop vibrant spiritual life and leadership of our church with effective communication between Minister, leaders, congregation, and community.
- 2. Alongsiding and connecting more with our local communities (where God is at work) - being an open church of faithful encouraged people who are enabled, to witness and invite anyone to share our space in worship or other activities.
- 3. Enhance Colac's pastoral care/visitation and "Connectors" program (a "keeping us connected" program)
- 4. Resource cluster's smaller congregations pastorally.
- 5. Property management
  - a) ensure buildings are safe, comfortable, and fit for purpose.
  - b) rationalize which buildings are needed for worship, resources, and mission.

The completion of updating our Welcome Centre in 2025, should allow many opportunities to achieve this.

**B3 Does this placement relate to more than one congregation?**

If so, provide details on page Error! Bookmark not defined..

Yes

No



**B4 What ethnic and language groups are represented in the congregation?  
What proportion of the congregation does each represent?**

Colac: predominantly English speaking,  
Occasional visits by people of Indian, Pacific Island, Chinese, and other Asian speaking backgrounds

**B5 What languages are spoken in the life of your:**

<b>Congregation, by</b>	<b>COLAC</b>	<b>Community, by</b>	
Individuals	English	Individuals	English / multicultural
Groups	English	Groups	English / multicultural

**B6 What languages are spoken by the congregation in worship?**

English

**B7 Describe any involvement your congregation has in covenanting with first nations people.**

Non-Specific  
Colac has an Aboriginal Gathering Place / hub - we connect as opportunity presents

**B8 List any UCA Schools and/or agencies (Uniting VicTas, Uniting AgeWell) with which the congregation has an existing relationship.**

Nil There is no 'Uniting' Presence in Colac.  
The nearest "UNITING" presence is in Ballarat, Geelong, and Warrnambool

**C1 List three of your missional activities that your congregation does best?**

COLAC

1. Pastoral Care and Fellowship through our "Connectors" program, communion, and worship in Residential Aged Care facilities and our regular (after worship) morning teas/ lunch-time catchups.
2. Community Outreach and Mission. Includes: livestreamed worship, Messy Church, Church Community Garden, and food/pantry donation collections for local charities.
3. Communication. This includes our weekly Sunday bulletin, weekly emailed "E-News", a monthly "Sowing Seeds" spiritual news publication, regular Facebook posts, local newspaper articles, posters on notice boards.

BEEAC

1. Ecumenical relationships
2. Connection and presence in the local community
3. Inter church relationship and friendship with the Glen Waverley Uniting Church.

**C2 What are three missional activities your congregation would like to develop?**

1. Strengthen our leaders' and volunteers' faith and in their participation in church life, through training, study groups, and Bible courses, and as guided by our minister.
2. Develop ways of connecting our church mission and faith and within the church and our wider communities through:
  - a) Mission outreach from the "Welcome Centre", which is "alongsiding" and inclusive for all ages, abilities, and stages of faith. This is also to include suitable non-church-based activities with and for our community
  - b) Developing a user-friendly Colac Uniting Church website that demonstrates our vision, mission, fellowship, and spirituality.
3. Understand and strengthen ecumenical and interfaith links in Colac.

**C3 How has the congregation changed in the past two years? COLAC**

COLAC UNITING CHURCH

1. Is attracting more retirees.
2. Increased people connecting via Digital Ministry - live stream worship, YouTube, Facebook, emails.
3. Our Messy Church has grown from one family to three or four families.
4. There is broader participation of members through team structures e.g. increase in media, pastoral and care home visiting Messy Church team members.
5. An ongoing plan was put in place for lay members to uphold regular ministry in the Aged Care homes.
6. Increased engagement in environmental awareness and projects and reducing our environmental footprint (e.g. solar panels installed, using recycled paper products, recycling drink containers for charity, Lids4Kids.)
7. Broadened our presence in our wider community through our "long- shelf- life" food collection and our Community Garden produce supports food security charities in Colac (Salvation Army and the Colac Kindness Network), participated in local festivals, environmental campaigns, and in local ecumenical events.
8. Governance and decision-making structures and finances were developed to achieve accountability and transparency and for the Welcome Centre (Hall) refurbishment.
9. Endorsed to employ a part time admin staff resource person.
10. Increase in members with "Working With Children Checks" (WWCC), Safe Church awareness and training.

11. Introduced a monthly casual "Saturday Board Games" afternoon. This has been a relaxed way to meet and mix with non-church people and helped to link new interested families to Messy Church

12. Reduced number of volunteers able to help manage our Community Garden - needs addressing in 2025

BEEAC- Planning to sell a block of land.

CRESSY- Attendance reduced. Shares church a building with a local History group.

WARRION: Congregation/Church closed 2024. Members transferred to Colac. Sale of Buildings is pending

#### **C4 What changes and developments are anticipated in the next three to five years?**

1. The Welcome Centre refurbishment will be completed and functioning for ministry, mission, and outreach by end of 2025.
2. More support for ministry roles within our regional group (CORC). There is a need to develop a practical ministry with the smaller communities in our cluster, whether they meet as a congregation in buildings or not.
4. Rationalisation of all properties in our cluster - to be adequate and appropriate to our mission and ministry. Property upgrades, sales, or change of use, is likely.
5. Possible closure of CRESSY church due to declining numbers and difficult to maintaining buildings. Possible sale of other regional church property.
6. Increase in number of frail elderly people in our churches and fewer people able to take on leadership roles
7. The title of "Elder" is being replaced with the title of "Leader"

## **D The Community**

### **D1 Describe the wider community in which your ministry is located.**

Colac is a small rural city situated in Western Victoria. It is in the northern part of the Colac Otway Shire which is situated in a dormant volcanic plain that has scenic views and lakes, and, also has easy access to beaches, waterfalls, forest, hinterland, and other tourist destinations such as water falls, hiking and bike trails, and forests in the Otway Ranges. The Twelve Apostles and the Great Ocean Road is about an hour from Colac.

Colac is centrally located between the cities of Geelong, Ballarat, and Warrnambool. The distance to these cities, from Colac is about an hour. Colac is also about two hours from Melbourne and international airports (by road).


It has a stable population of 22,394 people with approximately 13,000 living in the main area of Colac. The median age is 45 years. The average income is lower than the state's average.

The small towns of Beac and Cressy (in the East Cluster) are about 30 minutes' drive north of Colac. The coastal town of Apollo Bay (of the central cluster) is about an hour's drive south of Colac.

The Colac Otway Shire acknowledges the ancient Gulidjan and Gadubanud peoples as original custodians of the land that we live, work and worship in.

The area's industry is mostly agricultural with the main activities being dairy, grazing, cropping and forestry and tourism with a strong hospitality and Health Care presence.

The main local industry is based on processing agricultural products. Colac is the service centre for this area and has an increasing multicultural population (European, African, Asian and Islander).



There is a broad selection of shops, education facilities, a selection of arts and crafts events, service, and sports clubs to take advantage of. Also- there are annual festivals, weekend markets and major community events in Colac and our region.

The local Family Christian Centre, a Pentecostal Church, tends to engage younger people and has high energy music.

Colac has an active ministers' support network (ecumenical) who meet monthly

## **D2 What makes this an enjoyable place to live?**

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1. There is a friendly, relaxed rural lifestyle vibe. There are also multicultural influences beginning to happen.
2. Colac has good choices for general education, health, sport, arts, and cultural needs.
3. Farming lifestyles blend with more town-based industry e.g. Australian Kiln Dried, Australian Lamb Company, and Bulla (Dairy processing)
4. The shopping centre and places to dine, cover most people's needs. It is easy to drive, park, walk or cycle in.
5. Access to regular train service (Warrnambool - Melbourne line) and airports within 2 hours of Colac.
6. The weather is mostly mild temperate Mediterranean like - with wet winters and sunny summers
7. Colac's Botanic Gardens, lakeside paths and heritage tree lined street scapes are a showpiece, especially in Autumn and Spring
8. Local tourist attractions on the local Volcanic plains, in the Otway Ranges and along the Great Ocean Road offer magnificent views and chances to get exercise, escape from any stress and to enjoy God's creation.

## **D3 What are the points of stress and pain in the wider community?**

1. High numbers of low socio-economic level people (30+% of households)
2. Homelessness and lack of affordable and available housing
3. Food access and security
4. Substance abuse
5. High gambling rate
6. Loss of services from the community e.g. some banks closing and workforce availability can be limited
7. Emotions : Small close-knit community where generations of families have lived many years, where many people really grieve when a prominent community or family member dies or suffers a tragedy.

#### **D4 How closely does your congregation reflect the demographics of your local area?**

1. Our congregation is mostly retired individuals (which also reflects the Colac demographic of an ageing population). The community median age is forty-five. Most are of English-speaking backgrounds.
2. The congregation reflects the historic demographic of the area, predominantly Anglo/Celtic and older persons. The congregation numbers in Colac are holding their own in number at about 112, as retirees move into the town from elsewhere or in from farm properties. We do have a small cohort of our members from other countries.
3. There are over forty different languages spoken by community groups in Colac. This diversity is not regularly represented in our congregation.

#### **D5 What community facilities are present in the local area?**

- Schools/ Education:
  - Colac Secondary College,
  - Trinity College. A Catholic secondary school
  - Lake Colac Specialist school.
  - Primary Schools; Colac, Colac West, Colac South West, Elliminyt, Beeac,
  - Catholic primary Schools; Sacred Heart, St. Mary's,
  - Up to fourteen early education /childcare services (Preschool/ Kindergarten, Childcare Centres or Family Day Care) in Colac
  - South West College of TAFE- Colac campus, Warrnambool, and the Gordon Institute (Geelong).
  - Medical and Allied Health Training through Deakin University.
  - University of the Third Age, (U3A - Colac)
  - Services clubs, Lions, Rotary, Probus, View.
  - Country Women's Association groups
  - Three Residential Aged Care Homes, one supported with a chaplain.
  - Several NDIS Group homes
  - Colac Area Health runs a strong network of Primary Care and support care including a Youth Health Hub which includes a "Headspace" provider.
  - Hesse Rural Health provides health services to the Rural health centre in Beeac.
  - Birregurra also has a rural health provider.
  - Numerous Sporting clubs, football/netball, tennis, basketball, netball, soccer, swimming, sailing, croquet, bowls, badminton, cricket, tennis, archery
  - Cubs, Scouts, Guides
  - Multiple medical practices, dentists, health care professionals, medical support services; Care centre,
  - NDIS hub, Community house/hub.
  - A Men's Shed
  - Caracaramigen - (The Colac Aboriginal Gathering Place)
  - Arts Centre (COPACC)
  - Town Band, Colac Chorale (Choir) and other music groups
  - Music Theatre and/or dance groups
  - Botanic Gardens and Lake Colac
  - History Centre - Colac and District Historic Society and Family History Groups
  - Arts and Craft groups
  - Library
  - Monthly produce market
  - Festivals and events
  - RSL
  - There are multiple denominations and faith communities worshipping within Colac. They include Uniting Church, Catholic, St. Mary's (three churches in Colac and surrounds), Anglican, Parish of Ss. Johns' (main church and two churches elsewhere), Church of Christ, Christian Family Centre - plus four others.
- Emergency Services- Police, Fire, Ambulance, SES, Reviver Driver program, etc
- Chaplaincy is a vital component of many of our primary schools and the three (3) residential aged care homes. Part of our Colac Uniting Church mission is to raise funds for Chaplaincy in Colac.