

BUC Congregational Community Survey-

exploring what gives life, ministry and vision to our congregation.

The community life of Blackwood Uniting Church, both '*for us*' and '*offered to others*' is an important aspect of how we express the gospel. This questionnaire seeks to take that discussion further and focus on how BUC should expend the available resources (volunteers, finances and paid staff).

The information given in this questionnaire will be a guide to Church Council in discerning where God would lead us as a community of faith in future ministry and mission. It will also help us discern clearly what resources we have, or can acquire, and how we might allocate them wisely in accordance with these directions.

So as you fill in the survey here we invite you to reflect on the following scale -

1- This is a "core activity" i.e. it is an important activity which we should be doing both now and into the future.

2- This is a "worthwhile activity" but we need to "rework" it in some way?

3- This is an activity that we could "let go" or "prune" like the vine in John 15.

We are asking everyone to fill this out, as individuals rather than as a couple so that we get the maximum input and creativity. This is an anonymous survey and we ask that it is completed and returned to the church by the

Closing Date - Sunday 24th August, 2014

There is also space to comment if there is something else, or some aspect or opportunity that we have missed? E.g. what is not here that should be.

If there is not enough space within the survey, feel free to write an extra response.

We ask that you do this survey prayerfully and in a spirit of discernment.

Revs Phil & Cogs on behalf of the Church Council

Question 1 Do you attend a Worship service at Blackwood Uniting Church?

If so, please indicate which services you attend- (Please tick)

- 9.15 Worship
- 11.00 Worship
- Messy Church
- I mostly attend at Christmas, Easter or special occasions.

Do you have any comments about our current worship?

Are there other worship options that you would like to see at BUC?

Do you have a worship idea that might make a difference to future ministry at BUC?

Comments _____

Currently, there are many roles, tasks and rosters that make up how we do worship, implement activities and other aspects of community life at Blackwood Uniting Church.

On the next pages there are two lists-

In the first list **tick** the activities **you are currently involved with.**

(The roles and activities that you support with your “time, talents and gifts”.)

In the second list we ask that you place each activity in one of three categories.

- a **core activity of who we are**
(I.e. an activity that is important and necessary to the BUC.)
- an **activity that needs improving or reworking**
(I.e. an activity that still has merit but is not sustainable for some reason.)
- an **activity that we need to let go or prune** *like the vine in John 15.*
(I.e. an activity that has had its season or is a poor use of resources etc.)

Question 2.

With which of the following are you actively involved?

(The things that you support with your "time, talents and gifts".)

- Worship presentation and preparation** - assisting with worship in any way, i.e. worship leading, bible reading, preaching, music, greeting, morning tea, data, sound, preparing Holy Communion, assisting with the Children's Corner, Resthaven Bus, etc.
- Blackwood Community Classes-** (Community Program) attending any classes, including Continuing Learning
- Blackwood Community Classes-** (Community Program) volunteering as an office helper, pastoral carer, adult learning, moving furniture etc.
- Kid's Hope**
- Beacon Emergency Relief**
- Inner Pilgrimage**
- Friday Night Meals**
- Playgroup**
- Mainly Music**
- Messy Church**
- Flinders Chapel Services**
- West Papua Support**
- Social Justice Committee**
- Cluster Group/s**
- Friday Friends**
- Pastoral Care**
- Walking Group**
- Banner Making**
- Church Council & Elders**
- Property Maintenance**, including gardening.
- Finance Committee**
- Book Club**
- Bible Study/s**

Any other activities that you are involved in at BUC? Please specify. (*Apologies if we have left anything off the list*) Any other comments you wish to make?

Comments – _____

Question 3.

Please tick only one column for each role or activity, either a core activity, one that needs reworking in some way, or one that needs to be let go or pruned. There is also a column if you have no opinion. This will help us to see where our focus will be for future ministry.

Roles/ Activities	This is a Core activity of who we are at BUC	This activity may need reworking	This is an activity that needs to be let go	No Opinion
Worship				
Community Classes- (Program)				
Kid's Hope				
Beacon Emergency Relief				
Inner Pilgrimage				
Friday Night Meals				
Playgroup				
Mainly Music				
Messy Church				
Flinders Chapel Services				
West Papua Support				
Social Justice Committee				
Cluster Group/s				
Bible Studies				
Friday Friends				
Banner Making Group				
Book Club				
Walking Group				

Comments

(Please list other possible future activities or make additional comments)

Question 4. Finances

Church Council has been reviewing all aspects of our finances, and the various ways that we raise revenue (*hall hire, fees, donations, congregational offering etc.*) and the various ways that we spend the money raised.

The budget for 2014 still involves a shortfall or deficit of around \$26,000 – our expenditure is \$26,000 more than our income. Clearly this cannot continue. In planning for 2015 and beyond, we need to increase our income or a number of important activities may not be able to continue. To maintain these essential programs would you consider increasing your giving?

If so, how much more would you give?

- Yes**, I could give an extra \$10, \$20, \$40, a week to assist with ministry at BUC (please circle one option); or
- Yes**, I could give an extra \$_____ per week (Please fill in the amount you can afford); or
- Yes**, I could give a one off donation of \$_____
- No**, I am sorry, but I am unable to increase my giving at this time.

Comments – _____

Question 5. Dream Casting

At the recent congregational meeting we discussed two key questions about the future of BUC. As there were many people away, we again invite you to do some simple "dream casting". This is an opportunity to for you to dream, plan or state **your vision** for the future of Blackwood Uniting Church?

The questions we asked at last Sunday's Meeting were-

Q 5.1- WHAT IS YOUR VISION FOR BLACKWOOD UNITING CHURCH?

[note: Not activities, programs) *Please answer as fully as possible*

Q 5.2 - HOW CAN WE DO THIS AT BLACKWOOD UNITING? (Ideas)

Question 6 – Any other comments?

Thank you for taking the time to complete this survey!
Your responses are appreciated and will be taken into the reflections by the leadership of BUC. A summary overview of responses will be produced.

Blessings Revs Phil & Cogs on behalf of the BUC Church Council.