



**THE UNITING CHURCH IN AUSTRALIA**  
Bendigo West Parish  
FOREST ST. CONGREGATION

**MINISTERS:**

Rev. Lindsay Faulkner  
Phone: 43-6034.

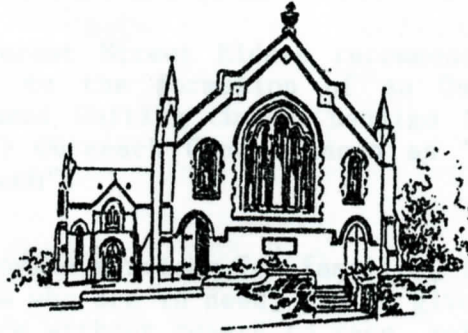
Rev. Geoffrey Barker  
Phone: 41-4178.

**PARISH SECRETARY:**

P.O. Box 365  
Bendigo 3550.

**PARISH CENTRE:**

25 Forest Street  
Phone: 43-4972.



25 Forest Street,  
BENDIGO 3550

12th August, 1993

Dear Member,

Please find enclosed a comprehensive description of a proposed Outreach Agency of the Uniting Church, sponsored by the Bendigo West Parish through the Forest Street Congregation and to be known as 'Bendigo Uniting Church Outreach'.

The question of how best to address the pressing needs of many in our community has been with us for many years now and has brought forward a variety of responses. The Benevolent Fund which has been widely supported is one example.

The Forest Street Elders Council commends to you 'Bendigo Uniting Church Outreach' as we believe it is the best way to harness both the human and material resources available to provide consistent and efficient care to those in need, and also to ensure that it is fully accountable to the local congregation via the Parish Council so that the enterprise is clearly seen as our response to our faith.

We urge you to read the enclosure carefully and to ask for any clarification that you desire. The approval that we are seeking on August 29th at our Service which will be a Congregational Meeting is the first step for the structure to be established. The precise details of the administration will be in the hands of the Board of Management which will operate in accordance with the Constitution which has been agreed to by the Forest Street Elders.

Yours sincerely,

*Ruth Hosking*

RUTH HOSKING  
SECRETARY, COUNCIL OF ELDERS.

Enc.

## REPORT TO FOREST STREET CONGREGATION

AUGUST 15th 1993

### OUTREACH AGENCY OF BENDIGO WEST PARISH

SPONSORED BY THE BENDIGO WEST PARISH THROUGH THE FOREST ST. CONGREGATION

1. STATEMENT:- The Forest Street Elders recommend that the Congregation agree to the formation of an Outreach Organisation to be named Uniting Church Bendigo (Forest Street Congregation) Outreach Centre known as "Bendigo Uniting Church Outreach".
2. AIM & OBJECTS:
  - (a) To provide services for families, individuals and organisations who are in need, and to give public benevolent service without regard to race, religion or creed.
  - (b) To provide programmes which enable families, individuals and organisations to develop positive relationships with each other and their community.
  - (c) To deliver services in a way which promotes Human dignity.
  - (d) To provide Services within the area of the Loddon-Campaspe Presbytery.
3. ELEMENTS IN THE PROGRAMME:

The following elements are typical of the Services to be provided:

  - (a) Assistance in the form of Food, Clothing, accommodation etc;
  - (b) Educational programmes to enable clients to obtain independence from the Welfare Cycle e.g. Basis Cooking of simple wholesome meals to a budget; Economical Shopping techniques.
  - (c) Other programmes as determined from time to time.
4. ORGANISATION:
  - (a) Why a Parish Agency and not a Parish Mission?
    - (i) Difficulty in obtaining Synod acceptance of a "Parish Mission".
    - (ii) Whole of Parish would be committed to 'Parish Mission' whereas with an Agency of the Parish supported by Forest Street can mean that the other Churches in the Parish can do their own outreach programmes independent of Forest Street.
    - (iii) An Agency of the Parish Council supported by Forest St. Congregation seems to provide for a simpler organisation both to establish and operate. It has, perhaps, a more limited programme but the Constitution we propose adopting is reasonably wide enough for our purposes.
    - (iv) By adopting an Agency supported by Forest Street, there is more chance of retaining a multi-congregational Parish and therefore enjoy the obvious benefits of more than one Minister if a back up is required due to Annual Leave, Sickness etc.
  - (b) The Forest St. Congregation provides the Worshipping Congregation to which the Agency is linked, thus providing a spiritual base for the work of the Agency.
  - (c) A Board of Management will be appointed by the Parish Council with various representatives e.g. other Parishes etc. - see later note on composition of Board of Management.



- (d) The Board will manage the Agency through Staff appointed by the Agency/Parish Council. The Agency is responsible to the Parish Council and through it to the Presbytery & Synod.
- (e) Because the composition of the Board will include representatives from other Parishes and the Community who have special skills, the Agency will relate to the Total Bendigo Community and therefore receive support from the Bendigo & Wider Community.
- (f) The Board's Legal Entity is established once its formation is approved by Synod. Synod is an Incorporated Body and hence any approved body such as a Parish Agency is therefore incorporated under the Act of Parliament which established The Uniting Church in Australia.

5. FINANCE:

- (a) The finances of the Agency and the Parish/Congregations are separate entities.
- (b) The Board of Management is responsible for raising its own Funds and managing its financial affairs in accordance with the Constitution and Rules and Regulations of The Uniting Church.
- (c) It can conduct Public Appeals for Funds.
- (d) It can receive Taxation Department approval for Tax deductibility with respect to donations.
- (e) It can receive Government Grants made from time to time to Welfare Agencies.

6. APPROVAL PROCEDURE & TIMING:

- (a) Congregation - 29th August 1993
- (b) Special Parish Council Meeting 15th September 1993
- (c) Presbytery Mission Council 30th September, 1993
- (d) Presbytery 19.10.93
- (e) Commission for Mission of Synod
- (f) Synod.

In effect - approval could be obtained early 1994. However with the departure of Revd. Lindsay Faulkner in Feb. 94 and the Calling of a new Minister, the actual commencement of operations should be delayed until the new Minister is in place (probably May-June).

In the meantime the present Benevolent Fund operation will continue as at present. It has a small Steering Committee working with Lindsay Faulkner which administers its assets to meet the needs with which it is confronted.

7. BENEVOLENT FUND:

The present Benevolent Fund and its operation will be formally absorbed by the Agency "Bendigo Uniting Church Outreach" once the Agency is established.

8. STAFF:

Staff will be both Paid and Voluntary. However, initially they will most likely be Volunteers.

- Director
- Secretary
- Treasurer
- Agency Workers of Specialist or General Nature

Initially the Director will be the Forest Street Minister. However the Board of Management should ultimately move towards the appointment of a Paid Administrator who is not the Forest Street Congregation Minister. The Forest Street Congregation Minister could then assume the position of Superintendent.

9. BOARD OF MANAGEMENT:

|     |  |                |
|-----|--|----------------|
| (a) | One Nominee of each Parish in Bendigo other than Bendigo West Parish = 5 (North, South, East, St. Andrew's & Eaglehawk).   | =5             |
| (b) | Four Nominees from Bendigo West Parish   | =4             |
| (c) | The Minister responsible for the Forest Street Congregation  | =1             |
| (d) | 6 others appointed by the Parish Council from a list of nominations provided by the Community and Presbytery taking into account expertise in -<br>Welfare, Legal Matters, Administration, Finance | =6             |
|     | TOTAL  | <hr/> 16 <hr/> |

10. ORGANISATION CHART (See next page).

11. CONSTITUTION. A draft Constitution has been prepared and agreed to by the Elders. It is ready to send to the Commission for Mission for their legal approval, once the Congregation and Parish approve this proposal.



THEN TO SYNOD  
REPORTS TO PRESBYTERY

PARISH COUNCIL - FOREST ST.  
WORSHIPPING CONGREGATION.

BENDIGO UNITING CHURCH OUTREACH  
BOARD

DIRECTOR, STAFF

VARIOUS PROGRAMMES

NOTE: The process by which Programmes & Fundraising Schemes are initiated by the Board & Staff and approved by the Board and reported to the Parish Council, retains the accountability and responsibility of the relationship between the Parish Council and the Uniting Church Outreach Board.

The Board should submit a brief quarterly report to the Parish Council and a more comprehensive Annual Report to the Parish Council. The Annual Report will be forwarded to Presbytery and Synod.

PROGRAMMES ETC. SUBMITTED FOR APPROVAL TO BOARD.  
PROGRAMMES IMPLEMENTED AFTER APPROVAL BY BOARD.

SUGGESTED MOTION:

IT IS MOVED that:

- (a) Forest Street Congregation agree to the establishment of an Outreach Agency of the Uniting Church sponsored by the Bendigo West Parish through the Forest Street Congregation to be known as "BENDIGO UNITING CHURCH OUTREACH".
- (b) The operation and organisation of the Agency be as outlined in the presentation to the Congregation on 29th August, 1993.
- (c) The Parish Council be asked to receive this Report at its Meeting on 15th September 1993 and be requested to support the Forest St. Congregation in this matter, by recommending to Synod, through the Presbytery of Loddon-Campaspe, the approval of the Establishment of "BENDIGO UNITING CHURCH OUTREACH" as an Agency of the Bendigo West Parish (focussed on the Forest Street Congregation.)

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS:

- (a) copy of todays (29.8.93) presentation with amendments (if any) determined today.
- (b) Copy of CONSTITUTION.

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