



POSITION DESCRIPTION

Somers Camp Chaplaincy

Background to Somers Camp

Somers Camp is a July school holiday event of the Presbytery of Port Phillip East and has been running annually (apart from Covid interruptions) for more than 60 years. It is usually held at the Lord Somers Powerhouse Campsite in Somers. The approximately 120 camp participants are aged between 8 – 15 years from all around the Presbytery. Beyond attending as a camper, opportunities exist for ex-campers and others to participate in leadership training opportunities and the leadership of the camp. Somers is managed by a group called “Core” who meet regularly and report to Presbytery.

SOMERS CAMP CHAPLAINCY

Half a day per week (not necessarily taken weekly) is to be dedicated to working with Somers Camp, in roles such as the chaplaincy role, including pastoral care, networking, and encouraging growth among the “Somers Community” both on and between camps.

This role will be under the oversight of the Presbytery, through the Presbytery ministers.

1. PRIMARY PURPOSE: Lead, coordinate and build outreach with children and youth through the Uniting Churches Somers Camp.

2. EMPLOYMENT DETAILS:

(a) EMPLOYER: Presbytery of Port Phillip East managed through High Street Uniting Church.

(b) TIME FRACTION: 0.1EFT (1/2 a day a week) not necessarily taken weekly (This position could be combined with the High Street Uniting Church (HSUC) Children and Youth Worker position or can stand alone). The position description for the HSUC Children and Youth Worker position is also available. (c) DURATION OF CONTRACT: Until 31 December 2024

(d) DIRECT ACCOUNTABILITY: The Somers Chaplaincy role is accountable to the Presbytery through the Presbytery Ministers facilitated by the Minister of High Street Uniting Church.

(e) ACCOUNTABILITY AS A PASTOR: As this position is an appointment within the scope of UCA Regulation 2.2.2 (a), HSUC will consult with the Uniting Church Presbytery of Port Phillip East in making the appointment, making reference to the

matters listed in Regulation 2.3.3(b) about suitability for the ministry of Pastor. A person may be recognised as a Pastor for the duration of this appointment after satisfying the conditions listed in Regulation 2.4.6, including demonstrating willingness to develop any necessary competencies in accordance with Regulations 2.4.3 and 2.6.9.

(f) PAY RATE: If the successful applicant is not an ordained minister, the remuneration will be as a Level 3 Non-Placement Pastor. *This rate is \$37.25 per hour with relevant provisions and allowances applied. See the NON-PLACEMENT TERMS AND CONDITIONS*

3. SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS OF THE POSITION

(a) Christian faith, with capacity and willingness to work within the ethos of the Uniting Church

(b) All children who are involved in any of the Church's activities, events or programs have a right to feel and be safe; the Church is committed to provide safe environments where children are cared for, respected, nurtured and sustained. Employment in this role is subject to a current Working With Children Check, and other relevant safe-church requirements including having received full current Covid 19 vaccinations.

(c) The Children and Youth Worker must abide by the Uniting Church in Australia's Code of *Ethics and Ministry Practice*.

(d) The role requires attendance at Somers Camp, Training weekend and Core meetings (????); the timing of the remaining time can be negotiated but clear "work hours" need to be agreed, with sufficient flexibility to allow for variations as the need arises.

4. JOB COMPETENCIES

(a) QUALIFICATIONS AND EXPERIENCE

- Active involvement in the running of church-based children's and youth activities
- People undergoing study towards youth ministry and/or theology are encouraged to apply
- An understanding of the structure of the Uniting Church is an advantage

(b) SKILLS AND ABILITIES

- Ability to, have a passion for, recognise and respond to the needs of children, youth and young Adults, and develop a rapport with them.
- Ability to use initiative
- Demonstrated organisational skills
- Diverse communication skills including proficiency with social media. Communicating with young people using their language is very crucial in this role, the applicant should be willing to journey with young people and leaders in seeking their own answers and questions.
- Ability to work as a part of a team and to be collegial
- Ability to source relevant and useful resources
- Ability to relay Christian concepts and encourage the development of faith

among children, youth and young adults

- Acknowledging the multi/cross/inter-cultural issues is also significant as the Somers Camp campers and leaders are growing in this aspect.
- Recognise and encourage the leaders' ability to learn from the role of leadership. We believe it is important to give our leaders responsibility and to follow it up with support when they act out their responsibilities. Reflections and suggestions are always welcome.

5. KEY RESPONSIBILITIES, TASKS AND OUTCOMES

Key responsibilities	Tasks	Outcomes
<p>Coordination of Chaplaincy for the Somers Camp leaders and participants.</p>	<p>Join the leadership team in attending Somers Camp in the role of Camp Chaplain</p> <p>Support the leadership team in the organisation of Somers Camp</p> <p>Encouragement of faith and personal development</p> <p>Maintain safe and appropriate pastoral contact with Somers Campers and leaders between camps through catch up activities and pastoral care.</p>	<p>School aged children and youth have opportunities to be involved and grow in friendship and connection with the church.</p> <p>Youth and young adults have the opportunity to grow in discipleship</p> <p>Children have opportunities to grow in friendship and explore faith.</p> <p>Youth and leaders will maintain connection with each other and maintain and develop their faith.</p> <p>Boundaries to protect the safety and integrity of all are clear.</p>
<p>Child safe environment</p>	<p>Maintain a child safe environment in which children are cared for, nurtured and sustained.</p>	<p>Safety for children is assured.</p>
<p>Administration</p>	<p>Ensure, in conjunction with the Somers Core, that emergency contact information is available and appropriate UCA and legal forms are used where</p>	<p>Records, legal forms and processes are accurately kept and accessible when necessary</p>

	applicable	
Networking	Connecting with other youth ministry opportunities in the region and wider	Opportunities for working with other youth groups, particularly UCA youth groups, are explored

Team	<p>Report to the Presbytery through the Presbytery Ministers and the Minister at High Street Uniting Church</p> <p>Membership of Somers Leadership Team (Core)</p>	<p>Regular communication is maintained with Presbytery and High Street Uniting Church</p> <p>Open communication and planning is in place with leadership team members.</p>
------	--	--

Tasks:

- The Chaplain is encouraged to have plenty of conversations and build relations with both campers and leaders throughout the week of camp and training weekend.
- The main task of the Chaplain is to provide support to both the campers and leaders
- Support the leaders during the planning and preparation of Somers Camp, particularly in the preparation for worship as your knowledge and wisdom will be needed here.
- During study group discussions mingle with different groups and provide input 'if' needed. We encourage our leaders to give everything a go, knowing that sometimes we make mistakes but learn from them. Sometimes a gentle bit of encouragement or a small shuffle in direction is all that is needed
- Run a 'summary' message and communion on our final worship together on Friday morning. Messages should go for 5-10 mins
- You may be asked to provide a prayer or give input on a discussion at certain times throughout the week. It is always our intension to provide as much notice as possible but sometimes the nature of camp is that notice is a luxury that sometimes is not possible.

6. NOTES:

6.1 FOCUS

Funding for this position includes funding from grants which are based on ministering with "children in necessitous circumstances", "disadvantaged youth", and "young women at risk". The ways in which the ministry addresses these foci must be included in an annual written report to the Presbytery.

Grant sources include:

Craig, WJ Memorial Trust Children in necessitous circumstances (financial need)
Kilmany Trust Fund Disadvantaged youth
Sisterhood Bequest Young women at risk

6.2 REVIEWS

Aspects of the program included in these notes will be reviewed at least annually, as the particular shape of programs will vary according to the development of the ministry. This will include at least an annual review of the way in which the Somers Chaplain approaches the Key Responsibilities and Tasks. Such reviews are to be overseen by the Presbytery.

[Originally endorsed by Church Council: 19/11/2019; amended and reindorsed by Church Council and Somers Core November 2021]