



Record of Service – Rev Ashley Davis

As a 21 year old dairy farmer Ashley was elected as an Elder at the inauguration of the Uniting Church in Australia in 1977. He served in the Glencoe Congregation within the Kalangadoo Parish as Youth and Sunday School leader. Through a variety of circumstances, he felt ‘called’ into something more. This eventually turned into a confirmed call into the ordained ministry. Moving from Glencoe to Adelaide with the family he entered Parkin-Wesley College in 1988 concluding full time study with ordination in 1992.

Ministry Placements are as follows:

1993 – 1997, Port Lincoln Parish which consisted of Coffin Bay, Lincoln Park, Poonindie, Port Lincoln Central and Wanilla congregations.

1998 – 2003, Rosefield with three congregations in the one facility.

2004 – 2010, Adelaide West with four congregations in the one facility.

2011 – 2020, Synod & Presbytery of SA Pastoral Relations Team as Rural and Remote ministry under a variety of titles – Pastoral Relations Officer, Pastoral Relations and Mission Planning Officer, Region Minister and Safe Church and Placement Project Officer.

Being a country person, the Port Lincoln ministry was enjoyed and relished as it was a wonderful place with wonderful people to share and grow in ministry together. Ashley enjoyed working in team ministry in this parish. He was part of the team that commenced the process which eventually developed the new Unity Hill Church building. He also appreciated the opportunity of serving the wider church, including four years on the Eyre Presbytery PRC, a great learning opportunity.

The Church’s call to Rosefield was, in Ashley’s words, “a bit of a surprise” but he was happy to do his “city stint”. Rosefield proved to be another place that gave much joy, as mission and ministry with others enabled growth in discipleship for all. Ashley’s own commitment to developing disciples found a rich context thanks to the strong small group ministry that already existed due to his predecessor and the resources of Mediacom through the Rev Dr Tony Nancarrow. While it was different to Rosefield, Adelaide West continued the model of ministry and mission that, by the grace of God, saw growth in discipleship. In both of these placements Ashley enjoyed the opportunity to develop leaders and build teams. Adelaide West was still a recent amalgamation in the new building when Ashley arrived so building teams and developing new systems was a key priority in this placement.

In 2010 the opportunity arose to be part of the developing model of ministry within the single Presbytery-Synod of SA as part of the Pastoral Relations Team. Commencing this role in 2011 he had oversight of more than 130 rural congregations. While city based this role enabled much rural ministry with the majority of weeks and weekends spent with leaders and congregations in rural SA. With changes to Frontier Services, ‘remote’ was added to the role as responsibly was given for the care of the Bush Chaplains. Even though several reviews of the role considered this ministry unsustainable, Ashley’s love for the Lord and people

including those in rural and remote SA, ensured that this ministry was carried out professionally with respect, integrity, good humour, courage and efficiency. At his farewell from the Synod Office the Executive Officer, noted Ashley's optimism, especially his seeing the best in people, his commitment to the role, that saw him do extraordinary kilometres across the state, and the strong relationships across the Synod.

Ashley's ministry has always been 'in response to God's astonishing grace' and he has received much joy in living this out with the words of the apostle Paul always in mind, "As far as it is up to you, live at peace with all people".