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New Minister for St Nicholas United Church

History and Background

St Nicholas United Church is situated in Beacon Bay, a suburb of East London, in the Eastern Cape Province. It consists of Christians from several denominations, of which Anglican, Methodist and Presbyterian are the predominant denominations. It has the official support of the Church of the Province of S.A. (Anglican), the Methodist Church of S.A. and the United Presbyterian Church in Southern Africa, with whom it has a covenant relationship in the ways which they work through the Church Unity Commission (CUC). The congregation aims to be under the guidance of all three of these authorities.

The Church has a history that stretches back to the mid-1980's but with the formation of the St Nicholas Church Trust in 1988 and appointment of Trustees, it started the joint ownership of property. The Trustees are appointed by the Anglican Bishop of Grahamstown, the Methodist Bishop of the Queenstown District, and the Moderator Presbytery of the Presbyterian Church. The Trust was provided a platform for the regulation of any issues arising out of the differing denominational backgrounds.

Each denomination provides ministers to turn, and presently St Nicholas United Church is served by an Anglican deacon in ministry. The minister is responsible for the overall leadership and mobility within the congregations. Other ministers from all three denominations may be invited to conduct services from time to time at St Nicholas United Church, and consultation on a denominational basis is available when it is required.

All services, sacraments and ordinances are conducted on the basis of the full recognition of ministry and in the name of Jesus Christ. St Nicholas United Church does not have Anglican Services, Methodist Services or Presbyterian Services, but uses more only approved patterns of worship based on the liturgical work of the CUC, or the CWM Sunday services and relevant lectionaries. The CWM service book can follow a formal liturgy. The Sunday morning 10 am eight service focuses on the giving of food. The services may be led by one or more ministers and lay preachers, depending on the schedule liturgy.