



# ***St Nicholas United Church, Beacon Bay***

ANGLICAN METHODIST PRESBYTERIAN

Email: [stnicholas@absamail.co.za](mailto:stnicholas@absamail.co.za)

22 PELL STREET  
BEACON BAY 5241  
EAST LONDON  
PBO No: 930007125

## *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 Presbyterians 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 Uniting Presbyterian Church in Southern Africa, who initiated it as a concrete experiment in the unity which they seek 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 1960 but with the formation of the St Nicholas Church Trust in 1980 and appointment of Trustees, it enabled the joint ownership of property. The Trustees are appointed by the Anglican Bishop of Grahamstown, the Methodist Bishop of the Queenstown District, and the Amatola Presbytery of the Presbyterian Church. The Trust also provides a platform for the negotiation of any issues arising out of the differing denominational backgrounds.

Each denomination provides ministers in turn and presently St Nicholas United Church is served by an Anglican (soon to retire). The minister is responsible for the overall leadership and ministry 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 requested.

All services, sacraments and ordinances are conducted on the basis of mutual 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 mutually agreed patterns of worship based on the liturgical work of the CUC at the 07h30 Sunday services and midweek services. The 09h30 service does not follow a formal liturgy. The Sunday evening St Nics@6 service focuses on the young at heart. The services may be led by one or more ministers and lay persons sharing in the common liturgy.

Church Office:

22 Pell Street, Beacon Bay

Telephone (043) 748 6100

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Rev. Rory Middlecote Manse

3 Crestview Street, Beacon Bay

# *Notice to the Uniting Presbyterian Church in Southern Africa (UPCSA)*

The Trust and Council jointly give notice to the UPCSA that we are advertising for the **appointment** of a Presbyterian Minister to replace Rev. Rory Middlecote who is due to retire in April 2025. We are sensitive to the reality that due to schooling etc. some may wish to start in January 2025 and are open to work at meeting this objective if needed. The appointment will be until end December 2030. Appointments can be extended with consent from the incumbent minister, Trust and council who are sensitive to the congregation's needs. This request will be submitted to the next Presbyterian meeting which we believe will be held on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> February 2024. This will be done by Rev. Luzuko Qina who is a Trustee of St Nicholas United Church and has taken on the role of Interim Moderator for St Nicholas United Church.

Applications together with a curriculum vitae (CV), qualifications and three testimonials should be submitted to the Administrator at St Nicholas United Church by 19<sup>th</sup> April 2024. The email address is [stnicholas@absamail.co.za](mailto:stnicholas@absamail.co.za). Alternatively, the application and documents can be couriered to St Nicholas Church, 22 Pell St, Beacon Bay, East London.

Shortlisted candidates will be interviewed in June and July 2024.

The church manse will be offered to the incumbent minister.

## *Profile of the Church and Current Activities*

St Nicholas currently has one minister, Rev. Rory Middlecote, an Anglican minister who will be retiring in April 2025.

The minister is assisted with the spiritual and administrative leadership of the church by a Church Council consisting of six elected members from the congregation.

The church has a membership of approximately 240 members.

The St Nicholas United Church has many areas of involvement. These include Social Responsibility, Congregational Care, Fellowship, Discipleship, Worship, Asset Management, Youth and Youth Church and Finance. These focus areas are overseen by members of the congregation in the form of committees.

St Nicholas United Church has an active ministry to the people of a retirement home in the community and many of them are members of the congregation. The Church also has appointed two youth leaders for 2024.

# *The Vision of St Nicholas United Church*

In 2023 the Church Council sought a view of where they felt God was leading them and to help guide the church in its planning for the next few years and identified the following:

## 1. People Contact/ Personal Touch

Where people are considered important to one another and take a personal interest in each other, developing contacts and friendships with each other, helping, and caring where it becomes necessary.

## 2. Special

Though not specifically identified with an event, person or place, there should be a feeling of *"this Church is Alive!"* which emanates from the members, sanctuary, property, services, and ministries. It should *"say" God is here!*

## 3. Unique

People who are members, visitors or who hear about us should be patently aware that this Church has a unique personality. It should capitalize on its ecumenical character (Anglican, Methodist, Presbyterian), and any other characteristics that make it different from other churches. For example, it could be the church that has some visiting Christian worker on its staff each year- whether local or foreign. Or the church that helps people train and prepare to make a practical difference in society – whether pastorally, ministerially or trade skills

## 4. Co-Operative With Other Churches in The Community

Being ecumenical, this church will initiate and encourage cross-denominational activities in Beacon Bay and surrounds and strive to break down the barriers that exist between the various congregations.

## 5. Welcoming

The one thing that no one should ever sense is a feeling of "I am intruding." Though people may feel strange, new, unfamiliar, apprehensive, confused, and many other feelings associated with being with groups of people, they should always know that they are welcome to belong.

## 6. Develop People (Grow)

Anyone associated with this Church should have every opportunity to progress from their present experience in a holistic way which addresses their relation to the following – to Christ, to the Christian message and way of life, to a Christian Congregation, and to the world in love and mission. (George Hunter)

## 7. Take People's Gifts Seriously

Where there is teaching and practice of the charismatic (Holy Spirit) gifts in service to each other and the wider society, acknowledging that we are stewards of what God gives, and that we all work for God's Kingdom. The concept of gifts, call and associated ministry forms the basis of all ministries that we undertake.

## 8. Conversion Growth (of the Congregation)

The main source of the numerical growth of this congregation is conversion growth, by which is meant that people are brought into a relationship with Jesus for salvation and integrated into the congregation. This means that the congregation must be evangelical – proclaiming Jesus in word and deed. Every member of the church should have assurance about his/her own salvation and be able to share his or her own story (testimony) with anyone who enquires. Each one should know how to deal with an enquirer who asks to "become a Christian." Other forms of numerical growth will still exist, but be entirely secondary (biological, transfer and translocation growth). The church has run Alpha series courses over

the past few years. It is particularly important for us to attract families and younger people as the congregation is aging.

#### 9. Children Are Important

There will always be provision for ministry by and to children in this church. This should go beyond Youth Church and should include the support of parents in their parenting roles and assistance to children as they grow through adolescence to adulthood. Children and youth interests and needs should permeate every level of church activity. Our ability to reach children through the schools is a challenge due to education policies.

#### 10. Expectations of Membership

Members will be encouraged to take membership seriously and responsibly. Most important is the sense of belonging and love they should feel.

#### 11. Commitment and opportunities

Linked to other aspects of membership, those associated with this church should ideally be committed to the activities and ministries of the church. There will be appropriate opportunities for these commitments to be expressed regularly.

#### 12. Communicate Well

In this church no one will be expected to "simply know" what is happening. There will be suitable and sufficient means of communication in every direction between members, ministers, staff, and all others with an interest, to keep everyone properly informed. Tools like WhatsApp are used and opportunities to present during services are available.

#### 13. Active Lay Ministry

All members of the church are encouraged to be active in some way such as expressing their Christian faith, viz., commitment to Jesus Christ (personal salvation), commitment to worship (attending worship services), commitment to growth as a Disciple (bible study, prayer, cell group, courses), commitment to Service (ministry to others including sharing the Gospel), and commitment to Stewardship (use of God's gifts, including financial and material).

#### 14. Members Take Ownership of The Church

A strong sense of "this is our church" should be evident among all members, who will, as a result thereof, be concerned and involved in any matters that affect this church. Such matters may range from closing an open window or dripping tap, to explaining the style of services we offer to a visiting enquirer.

#### 15. Building maintenance

There will be a person or persons who will play a significant role in coordinating maintenance of the buildings and properties.

#### 16. Community Centre

Facilities will be as readily available as possible for events and activities in the local community, within reasonable requirements as laid down from time to time. Members of the church and the wider community will be encouraged to initiate and co-ordinate such activities.

#### 17. Joyful Place to Be

This church will be a place where people are happy to be, and where there is a clear sense of rejoicing in God. This will be expressed in attitudes and activities of people and by way of media in the buildings of the church.

# *Profile of Minister*

With the Vision of St Nicholas as a basis, Trust and Council believe the profile of the new minister should be:

1. A vibrant Minister with a good track record of attracting youth, young, middle aged and families with children.
2. A person with a strong emphasis on leading worship and preaching. Someone who is spirit filled and will lead the congregation into a deeper relationship with Jesus Christ. A person who will teach biblical truths in a dynamic way and to challenge and encourage and those seeking a deeper understanding of the way of Christ.
3. A person who will teach, train, and equip others in small groups, home cells and focus groups to be able to become leaders and trainers themselves.
4. A person who should give pastoral counselling and visiting to those in need.
5. A person who is expected to understand the three denominations, namely Presbyterian, Methodist and Anglican by having a network of ministers to consult and get guidance.
6. A person who should be an overseer of the daily functions of the church and church matters. The actual tasks should be done by the staff employed to do the administration or volunteers.
7. A person who fulfils the requirements of 1 Timothy 3.
8. A person with a vision for the future.

*Submitted on behalf of the Trust and Council of  
St Nicholas United Church*



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Jim Everard (Vice-chair council)

*4<sup>th</sup> March 2024*

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Date

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Rev. Luzuko Qina (Trust Chair)

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Date