

Growing Mission with Community Food: A Practical Resource for Church Congregations

Prepared by the Uniting Earthweb Group

"Food and food ways are inseparable from an understanding of the mission to bring about God's kingdom of justice and peace here on Earth."
Ellen Teague (2010) *Vocation for Justice*

What are community food initiatives?

Food, who gets to share it, and how it is produced, are as important questions for the church today as they were for Jesus in his ministry. Our food system in Australia and worldwide is in crisis. Overuse of the Earth's resources, environmental degradation, and climate change threaten business as usual. Enormous amounts of food are wasted even as close to a billion go hungry. Farmers are walking off their farms and committing suicide. Community food initiatives – where communities work to feed themselves – are part of the answer. These initiatives include community gardens, farmers markets, food buying groups, community supported agriculture and more. And they are taking off in cities and towns across Australia.

What are the benefits of community food initiatives?

Do you want to reinvigorate your church's mission and purpose? By getting involved in a community food initiative, your church can:

- Build relationships with the local community
- Care for God's creation in a hands-on practical way
- Serve and equip the needy and marginalised
- Support farmers in your region
- Make responsible and creative use of church land



Photos: Judith Dalton (above), Alex Craig (below)



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What is in the “Growing Mission with Community Food” resource?

The resource includes:

- Information about community food initiatives
- Guidelines to help churches get involved in community gardens, community supported agriculture and food buying groups
- Suggestions for other initiatives such as garden share, food swaps and grow zones

Download your copy from:

www.unitingearthweb.org.au/files/CommunityFood.pdf. Case studies and photos of existing church-based community food initiatives are also available at www.unitingearthweb.org.au.

Who produced the resource?

The guide has been prepared by the Uniting Earthweb Group (UEG). Uniting Earthweb is a network of Uniting Church people within NSW and the ACT who work for a greater connection between ecology and Christian faith and practice. The UEG is a group that supports the development of Uniting Earthweb. Learn more about Uniting Earthweb and access resources at www.unitingearthweb.org.au. You can also sign up for our monthly e-bulletin.

Does the Uniting Earthweb Group offer any further support to help churches with community food initiatives?

UEG is able to provide phone support for your church as you consider and embark on a community food initiative. We may also be available to speak in person at Presbytery meetings. Contact us on 0447 730 772 or info@unitingearthweb.org.au.



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