

## IMMANUEL AS A SENDING CHURCH – WHERE HAVE WE BEEN?

### *2015 – Beginning of the Sending Church Journey*

Immanuel began a three-year process facilitated by the Lutheran Church of Australia (LCA), with mentoring from Dean Eaton (then the LCA Church Planting Mentor). This process included leadership tools, the *Renew Mission Life* sermon and bible study series (since revised) and the formation of missional communities.

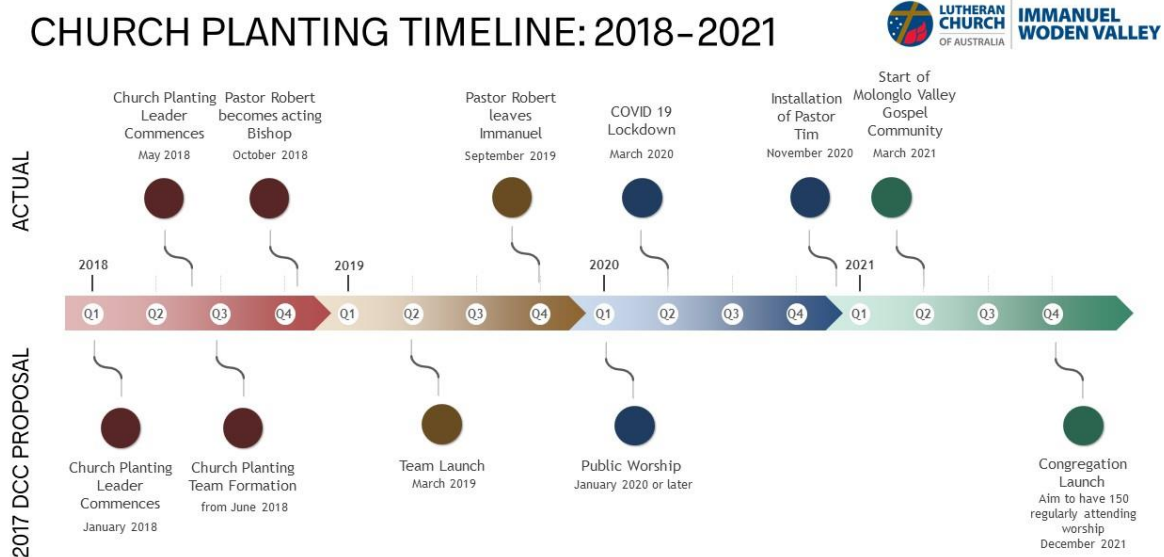
### *2016 – Two Missional Communities Established*

At the conclusion of the *Renew Mission Life* series, two groups decided to form missional communities, one led by Jacob Traeger and Andreas Mayer, and one focussing on youth.

### *2018 – Jacob Traeger called as Mission Facilitator & Church Planting Leader*

In November 2017, Immanuel decided to call me to a full-time position as Mission Facilitator & Church Planting Leader, with support from the LCA NSW/ACT District. I began this position in May 2018.

The below graphic shows the originally proposed timeline for church planting (bottom line), together with the events which transpired over these four years (top line).



### *2019/20 – Pastoral Vacancy & COVID-19 Pandemic*

My focus was largely on Immanuel from mid-2019 until the end of 2020, when Pastor Tim Muller arrived. God used this time to grow me in ministry, particularly in preaching and pastoral care. But it has also felt like the church planting project started again from scratch in 2021 – with COVID-19 continuing to impact on the activities we can undertake.

As a sending church, even during this time Immanuel has sent people from our part of the Body of Christ to bless communities around Australia and the world. We have baptised Aagi and Soyongiikh. We have welcomed numerous people into Immanuel, both Christians who have moved to Canberra and those who God has drawn back into the community of faith. Now we step back more fully into the journey of sending, equipping and supporting a church planting team.

### *Jacob Traeger – November 2021*