

Northern Regional Council Annual Report for 2009

(A report from the Northern Regional Council)

Introduction

1. The Council met four times during the year, in February at St David's, Forestville and the rest of the year at St Barnabas', Roseville East.

Membership

2. The membership of Regional Council consisted of –

Bishop Glenn Davies (Chairman)	
The Rev Roger Bray	Ms Jane McNamara
The Rev Ernest Chau	The Rev Ian Millican
Mr Fred Chilton	Mr Jim Peet
Ms Stephanie Cole	Mrs Pru Selden
The Rev Keith Dalby	Canon Rick Smith
The Rev Andrew Graham	Mr Ian Steward
Mrs Jan Hall	Dr Andrew Tong
The Rev Michael Kellahan	Mr Stephen Tong
Dr Rob Mackay	

3. At the August meeting the resignation of the Rev Richard James was received. No nominations for this position were received and at the November meeting it was resolved not to fill the vacancy.

Regional Events

Archbishop's Lectures

4. These lectures are a valued annual event in the Northern Region. For the last six years, Abbotsleigh School has hosted the three consecutive Wednesday evening meetings and the region appreciates this generous assistance from the school. The theme for 2009 was "Does God Exist? Does It Matter?". The first evening saw a record crowd exceeding 400 people in the Auditorium. The lectures were well received, and the question and answer time enlivened by the participation of some espousing an atheistic position. The availability of CDs and DVDs of the lectures was appreciated.

Regional Conference

5. The conference was held at Collaroy Conference Centre on May 11-12. There were 80 full-time attendees and 50 part-time.

6. The conference focus was upon multicultural ministry, "Winning the Nations on our Doorstep". The program was prepared by the region's Multicultural Ministry Committee. Anglicare kindly provided

statistical data for the region. There were four broad areas which were considered: "Resolving Cross-Cultural Confusion", "Integrating Cross-Cultural Ministry", "Engaging in Cross-Cultural Communication" and "Initiating Cross-Cultural Ministry". There was a drama presentation, interviews regarding different models of ministry, cultural games, an ESL spot with some testimonies from a Chinese couple who had come to faith in Christ through ESL ministry. We were fortunate to have Leigh Hatcher lead one session involving several interviews and thank him for his valued participation.

7. The Rev Simon Manchester commenced each day with a Bible study. The closing Lord's Supper was presided over by the Rev Ernest Chau and the preacher was Bishop Yong Chen Fah.

8. It was a busy, stimulating conference and those attending appreciated the work of the regional Multicultural Ministry Committee in organising it.

General Matters

Parish Matters

9. It was encouraging to be able to promote the Provisional Parishes of Artarmon and North Ryde to full parish status at Synod. This was a significant achievement for both parishes and their continuing growth is anticipated.

10. The Naremburn/Cammeray parish development was completed and officially opened on 14 February 2010. Berowra parish continues to move towards the commencement of its major parish project. The response of the parish is very encouraging.

11. It is encouraging to see some parishes addressing the issue of old and inadequate rectories by the building of new residences, the purchase of an existing residence or significant renovations. Rectories are typically both a private residence and a place of ministry. Both uses are important. In the midst of ministry a good functional rectory is important for the well-being of the rectory family. It is recognised that non-compliant rectories can be a difficult problem for parishes to resolve and sometimes long-term planning is the only practical way forward.

12. Following an Asbestos Audit by the Diocese a problem was identified at Frenchs Forest parish. The parish was financially extended due to the recent the erection of a new rectory and could not meet the full cost of removing the asbestos from their site. Regional Council responded to a request for financial assistance and made a special one-off payment of \$10,000 considering that the matter required immediate attention.

Regional Architectural Panel

13. The panel worked very hard this year with a number of projects. One major project required extended discussions and negotiation. The contribution of panel members with considerable expertise is significant and the region is very appreciative of their work and ministry-minded approach to their brief.

Multicultural Ministry

14. This committee is now under the chairmanship of the Rev Bruce Stanley of Waitara parish. Mrs Trish Bell continues to train staff for ESL and encourage parishes to be active in this strategically important ministry.

Regional Staff Changes

15. Early in the year, Ms Roslyn Allibone was retrenched as the EOS was restructured and the number of support staff reduced. Ros worked for seven years as the Bishop's PA and was most appreciated. A letter of thanks was sent from Regional Council together with a monetary gift.

16. Archdeacon Terry Dein retired from all duties on 31 July 2009, having worked part time since his 'retirement' at the end of 2008. The Bishop and Region have been most appreciative of Terry's assistance in the transition to the absence of a full-time archdeacon.

Regional Grants

17. Following the financial constraints resulting from the impact of the GFC upon the Diocese the funds available for regional grants were drastically reduced. Fortunately the region had some financial reserves and was able to minimise the impact upon parishes receiving ongoing grants and fulfil their commitments to most parishes in the course of the three years' funding cycle.

The Regional Council adopted the following budget for 2010.

Parish	Ministry to be funded	Amount \$
Eastwood	Stipendiary Lay Worker (Mandarin)	12,500
Hope Anglican Church (Chatswood East)	Assistant Minister	23,000
Hornsby Anglican Chinese Church	Mandarin ministry	40,000
Kirribilli	Church plant	10,000
Macquarie	Lay worker	5,000
Naremburn/Cammeray	Japanese ministry	40,000
Narrabeen (Warriewood)	Church plant	20,000
North Epping	Children's/ youth worker	10,000

Parish	Ministry to be funded	Amount \$
North Ryde	MTS worker	5,000
Putney	2 student ministers	11,000
Seaforth	Assistant Minister	7,000
Turrumurra	Seniors	4,000
MCM consultant		31,000
PA to Bishop		35,000
Assistant to Bishop		19,000
Insurances. misc		4,000
Total		\$276,500

For and on behalf of the Northern Region Council

GLENN N DAVIES
Bishop of North Sydney

24 June 2010