

Proposal to change the status of the provisional parish of Lidcombe to a parish

(A report from the Western Sydney Regional Council.)

Proposal

1. A proposal was made to the Archbishop by the minister and churchwardens of the provisional parish of St Stephen's Lidcombe under clause 4(1)(b) of the Parishes Ordinance 1979.

Details of Meeting

2. A meeting of the Western Sydney Regional Council held on 31 May 2007 considered the proposal under clause 5 of the Ordinance.

3. The Western Sydney Regional Council certifies that all procedural requirements under clauses 4 and 6 of the Parishes Ordinance have been complied with, and recommends that the Synod raise the status of the provisional parish to parish.

Proposal

4. The proposal is to change the provisional parish to a parish.

Parish Information

5. St Stephen's Lidcombe Church was built and opened for worship in 1875. In the last 25 years Lidcombe has undergone massive ethnic and social change. Today the area is home to many ethnic groups Chinese being the major one.

6. In 1986 Lidcombe was amalgamated with St. James Berala Church when both churches found it difficult to maintain their commitments to support a minister and ministry independently.

7. By the time the Rev Joseph Thiem was appointed to be the Curate-In-Charge of Lidcombe and Berala Parish in 1 July 1997, St Stephen's Church had 19 members. At that time the majority were at the age of 70 and above. A New Gospel Ministry Task Force was setup to face the challenge of declining membership and Gospel ministry in both church centres.

8. At Lidcombe church, the Chinese ministry and the Sydney University (Health Science Faculty) Cumberland Campus ministry were two of many ministries initiated at the time. The first Chinese service in Lidcombe Church was held on 7 December 1997 with 16 attendants and with 2 visitors. The USYD Cumberland Campus Chinese Student Fellowship was formed earlier in September the same year with 4 students attending the first meeting.

9. Seven years later, St Stephen's has grown in membership to a total of one hundred people regularly attending 2 morning services.

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The Cumberland Campus Chinese Student Ministry has increased to more than 60 students meeting weekly in church as well as on campus.

10. On 1 January 2004, St Stephen's Lidcombe Church was separated from St James Berala Church. In 2007 Lidcombe parish also started another Chinese University Student Ministry at Macquarie University.

11. The present time, the parish staff consists of one full time minister and one Student Pastor (Catechist). The Sunday offertories were sufficient to cover the full stipend of the minister for the last three years.

12. The population of the Provisional Parish stands at approximately 12,884.

13. The current year regular Sunday attendance at St Stephen's is 117 adults and 12 children as follow:

9am English Service:	20 adults	20 teenagers
11am Chinese Service:	97 adults	12 children

Particulars of Church property

14. Details of property held by the Anglican Church Property Trust upon trust for the Provisional Parish are as follows:

	Value of Land and Improvements	Condition of Building
Church	\$2,271,000	Good
Hall	\$989,000	Good
Rectory	\$616,000	Good

Insurance value

Summary of consolidated receipts and payments.

15. A summary of the financial position over the last three years and the budget for 2007 is set out below:

	2004	2005	2006	2007 Budget
Receipts	\$	\$	\$	\$
Offertories	83,170	93,376	111,888	120,300
Missions	8,789	9,158	3,620	3,000
Rent/Interest	6,235	7,195	8,717	7,000
Donations	19,235	20,788	6,353	2,000
Legacy	0	428,387	0	0
Investments	0	0	0	0
Grants (Uni Ministry)	4,860	7,000	0	0

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GST refunds	0	1,000	111	0
Others	701	1,097	0	1,000
Total	122,990	568,001	130,689	133,300

	2004	2005	2006	2007 Budget
Expenditure	\$	\$	\$	\$
Stipends/salaries	53,816	56,771	66,732	86,818
Cost Recovery	11,811	13,542	16,031	18,232
Printing & Stationary	3,782	4,314	6,374	4,700
Maintenance	4,677	2,672	7,205	9,200
Insurance	1,300	1,090	1,677	1,800
Electricity etc	3,737	4,312	5,552	8,250
Other ministries	400	2,749	4,280	4,300
Total	79,523	85,450	107,851	133,300

16. The parish has no outstanding debts.

17. This Bishop of Western Sydney and the Archdeacon strongly support this application.

Recommendation

18. The Western Sydney Regional Council recommends that the provisional parish of Lidcombe be reclassified as parish with effect from 1 January 2008.

For and on behalf of the Western Sydney Regional Council.

KEN ALLEN
Regional Archdeacon

26 July 2007