

Proposal to reclassify the status of the provisional parish of Rouse Hill to a parish

(A report of the Western Sydney Regional Council.)

Proposal

1. The Proposal is to change the Provisional Parish of Rouse Hill to the Parish of Rouse Hill.

Details of Meeting

2. A meeting of the Western Sydney Regional Council held on Thursday 14 June 2018 considered the proposal under clause 5 of the *Parishes Ordinance 1979*.
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 Synod raise the status of the provisional parish to parish.

Parish Information

4. Anglicans have been meeting in Rouse Hill since 1862. Christ Church Rouse Hill was consecrated on the current church site in 1863. In the 1980's attendance dropped to the point of non-viability, and the assets of the Parish were transferred to the Parish of Kellyville. In 2004, in response to the significant growth of population in North West Sydney, Bishop Ivan Lee deaconed church planter Martin Morgan for the purpose of planting a new Anglican congregation in Rouse Hill. Assisted by the Rev Stephen Covetz, the then Assistant Minister of Kellyville Anglican, a new congregation was planted in the Rouse Hill Anglican College.
5. In 2008, with the assistance of the Mission Property Committee and the Vincent Fairfax Foundation, a new Ministry Centre was opened on the Corner of Windsor & Mile End Rds Rouse Hill, on the site of Christ Church Rouse Hill (the original church building).
6. Since its inception in 2004 the new congregation has continued to grow.
7. In 2008 an evening congregation was begun, and in the same year a new church plant was sent out from Rouse Hill Anglican to Stanhope Gardens, under the leadership of the Rev Stephen Reimer.
8. The Provisional Parish of Rouse Hill is a healthy, growing, sending church.

Attendance and Activities

9. In 2018 the Provisional Parish has a weekly attendance of 173 adults and 79 Children and Youth (across the two congregations).

| Congregation | Adults | Children (under 18's) |
|--------------|--------|-----------------------|
| 10am | 111 | 70 |
| 5pm | 62 | 9 |

10. Initially (2004-2007) Sunday Children's ministry was supported by Northmead Anglican church who generously supplied Children's leaders. In 2018 our Children's and Youth Ministry leaders are all members of RHAC.
11. In 2012, with the assistance of a grant from the Mother's Union, a weekly Kids Club was begun by our Families Outreach Worker, Natalie Walker. In 2018 the Kids Club leaders are all "home grown"; many having come through the Kids Club themselves. There is on average 40 Youth and 25 Primary Aged Children attending the weekly Youth Group and Kids Club on Fridays.
12. In 2016 the church began running School Holiday Kids Clubs, and many local families have been contacted through these. Scripture is taught in 3 local schools.
13. At present there are 14 Growth Groups meeting weekly. Since 2015 a consecutive string of able Student Ministers from Moore College have focused on discipling our Young Adults, and in that time they have grown our Young Adults from 1 – 3 Growth Groups. These Student ministers have also co-led our Christianity Explored courses with the Senior Minister. Over the past 2 years we have seen 7 people turn to Christ through this and the Welcoming follow-up ministry.
14. In 2012 the Parish began offering ESL once a week. In 2015 this increased to twice weekly. In 2016 we had students from ESL start attending church and a few a now active members.
15. In 2017 Parish Council made the decision to increase our staff team by appointing a Full-time Assistant for the specific purpose of leading, equipping and training our congregations in Outreach and local Mission.

16. In 2018 the Provisional Parish employs –
- a Rector,
 - a Full-time Assistant (Mission/Outreach) (begun 2018),
 - a Part-time Youth Minister (this position increased from 3 to 5 days pw in 2014)
 - a Student Minister.
17. Additionally, the Church is blessed with two further voluntary/honorary Staff members: a Families Ministry Worker (since 2012) and Office Administration worker (since 2016).

Summary of receipts and payments

18. A summary of the financial position over the past three years.

| Receipts | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 |
|---|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| Offeratories | 280,546 | 338,654 | 340,815 |
| Rental income | 11,990 | 12,685 | 20,703 |
| Other receipts (incl. grants & interest) | 30,784 | 26,496 | 30,159 |
| | | | |
| Total Income | 323,320 | 377,835 | 391,677 |
| | | | |
| Expenses | | | |
| Stipends/Salaries | 188,130 | 197,447 | 214,392 |
| PCR | 39,118 | 41,466 | 45,275 |
| Property / Maintenance | 49,616 | 46,790 | 37,902 |
| Parish Admin | 5,237 | 7,062 | 7,088 |
| Ministry Expenditure | 2,543 | 5,628 | 7,736 |
| Other (equipment professional services, etc) | 18,583 | 21,739 | 909 |
| | | | |
| Total Expenses | 303,227 | 320,132 | 313,302 |

Particulars of Church Property Held in Trust:

19. The main church building was completed in 2008.
20. In 2016 with the assistance of the Mission Property Committee the Provisional Parish was enabled to acquire a rectory.
21. The Current property of the Provisional Parish:
Church Complex, Church Hall & Contents, Rectory
22. Total Assets, including land: \$1,882,541.
23. There are loans totaling \$873,918 to the Mission Property Trust, relating to the Church Complex and Rectory. The repayments are fully serviced by congregational offertories, as per the arrangements with the MPC.
24. The Provisional Parish also has responsibility for a cemetery attached to the original/previous Parish of Rouse Hill. This responsibility is presently maintained by workers supplied by the Corrective Services Department.

Recommendation

25. The Western Sydney Regional Council recommends that the Provisional Parish of Rouse Hill become a Parish from 1 January 2019.

For and on behalf of the Western Sydney Regional Council.

THE REV CANON MARK WILLIAMSON

5 September 2018