

22/12 Church planting models for Greenfield Areas Strategy for ministry in Greenfield and Brownfield areas of the Diocese

Introduction

1. By resolution 22/12 the Synod requested that the Mission Board, together with the Mission Property Committee and Evangelism and New Churches and in wide consultation with other interested persons, report to the Synod in 2013 on the proposed ministry model or models – along with possible alternatives – which underlie the proposed land acquisitions and building plans in “Greenfield” areas of the Diocese.
2. The Mission Board appointed a Working Group to consider and report on a strategy for the promotion of ministry in Greenfield areas. The appointment of the Working Group followed the receipt by the Mission Board of 3 papers from Bishop Peter Hayward pointing out that although a strategy had been adopted for the acquisition of land in Greenfield areas there was a need for a more holistic strategy for ministry in such areas addressing, among other things, how ministry might be supported in the early years of a new centre.
3. The Working Group consisted of Mr Peter Kell (Chair), Bishop Peter Hayward, the Rev Bruce Hall, Mr Robert Mellor and the Rev Jono Squire.
4. The Working Group, as it considered the demographic data for projected population growth in the Diocese, first concluded that there was a need for strategies to be developed to support ministry in both Greenfield and Brownfield areas and, on further reflection, recommended that there be an holistic approach incorporating church planting for the promotion of ministry in those areas. The Working Group proposed that if its recommendation for such a holistic approach was adopted, the parish levy approved by the Synod for purchasing land in Greenfield areas might be expanded to include funding for the holistic strategy for 2015 and onwards.
5. The Working Group also recommended that a Church Planting Task Force (“CPTF”) be established to develop a detailed strategy.
6. The Standing Committee has considered the recommendations of the Working Group and –
 - (a) agrees that a holistic strategy for promoting ministry in Greenfield and Brownfield areas of the Diocese is needed,
 - (b) has agreed to appoint a Church Planting Task Force (CPTF) to develop a detailed strategy, taking into account comments received from Synod members.
7. However, the Standing Committee considers that the parish levy approved by the Synod should only be used for Greenfield land acquisitions.

Invitation to comment

8. Members of the Synod are invited to send comments on the proposal on the holistic strategy for promoting ministry on Greenfield and Brownfield areas of the Diocese to the Church Planting Task Force by 31 December 2013. Comments should be sent via the Diocesan Secretary.

Working Group’s proposal

Holistic strategy for ministry in Diocese

9. In 2012 the Synod passed the *Church Land Acquisition Levy Ordinance 2012* which raised \$2 million by a levy on parishes to be applied to the Mission Property Fund for the acquisition of land for sites for churches in Greenfield areas.
10. There were some members of Synod who spoke in favour of the levy being applied more widely than this purpose, and several raised the challenge to ministry posed by the forecasted growth in Brownfield areas over the next several decades as being an issue which should be addressed by Synod.
11. In a series of papers, Bishop Peter Hayward urged the Mission Board to consider the need for further strategies in addition to the acquisition of Greenfield church sites, namely placing church planters with housing provided early in the development of all Greenfield areas that are deemed suitable, irrespective of whether or not there will be a church building in that area.
12. The Mission Board appointed a Working Group to consider relevant material and report back with a suggested way forward.
13. The Working Group began by examining the demographic information available and sought the assistance of Anglicare which prepared a detailed report. That report together with information provided by Mr Robert Mellor estimates that for each year in the next 10 years 20,000 extra people will move into “Greenfield” areas of the Diocese and 40,000 extra will move into “Brownfield” areas of the Diocese.

14. As the Working Group considered its task and the challenges presented by the forecast growth of the population of the Diocese over the next few decades it became conscious that although the growth in Greenfield areas will be a tremendous challenge, the growth in existing or Brownfield areas will also be a stretch for us and there is a need for a holistic growth strategy. At present there are some strategies (around the work of Mission Property Committee ("MPC") for Greenfield areas, but no recognised articulated strategy for Brownfield areas.

15. The Working Group was well aware that the Diocese has very limited funds to apply to any strategy that might be developed to meet the challenge presented by the forecasted population growth. There is no money available from the Synod Appropriations for this purpose. The only potential fund is a continuation of the parish levy initiated in 2012. The funding of any part of the strategy beyond Greenfield land acquisition will require further work.

16. The Working Group proposed that a holistic approach be the basis of any strategy to meet this challenge, that it include funding for both Greenfield and Brownfield areas and be widened to include seed funding for the early years of new ministry in those areas.

17. The Working Group was of the opinion that the major part of any funds raised to support the strategy should still be applied in Greenfield areas as there is little or nothing available in these areas by way of plant and ministry, whereas there is in Brownfield areas both plant and ministry activity, although the former is often old and the latter sometimes patchy in effect.

18. For these reasons the Working Group recommended that the funds raised should be applied towards –

Greenfield areas: provision of land for churches; land and house for a minister, including in developing suburbs where a church site has not yet been acquired; seed funding for new ministries.

Brownfield areas: seed funding for new ministries.

19. The Working Group considered that the majority of the funds be applied for the acquisition of land for churches and housing for a minister in Greenfield areas, but that some of the money should be applied to seed funding start up ministries in both Greenfield and Brownfield areas.

20. The Working Group suggested one possible model for seed funding could be –

(a) Assumptions

- Optimal Church planting which is able to grow to viability within 3 years
- Ministry cost of church plant per year is ~\$110k
- School or other property available ~\$10k/year
- Total ~\$120k

(b) Minimum resources needed

- Willing and able planters
- Willing and able rectors to foster church planting in Parish context
- Mechanism to support church planting outside the Parish structure
- Seed funding
 - o Year 3 reducing funding arrangement; zero in 4th year
 - o Provide 50% first year and 50% other sources (working, fundraising, etc)
 - o Total required per church plant ~\$60k+40k+20k = 120k
- For 5 church plants per year ~\$600k with \$200k for Greenfields and \$400k Brownfields

Church Planting Task Force

21. The Working Group considered how the proposed holistic strategy should be managed by a sub-committee appointed by Standing Committee reflecting both the strategic importance of the work and the fact that the sub-committee would be responsible for administering a fund raised by a Synod levy for which Standing Committee would be accountable.

22. The Working Group proposed that the sub-committee be called the Church Planting Task Force (CPTF).

23. The CPTF should initially be responsible to develop a detailed strategy for Standing Committee for the proposed holistic Greenfields/Brownfields project, and thereafter administer the fund raised by levy in accordance with that approved strategy reporting regularly to the Standing Committee on its work.

24. The Standing Committee should report annually to Synod on the work of the CPTF.

25. The Working Group was aware that the proposed work of the CPTF will impact on the existing responsibilities of various Diocesan entities particularly the MPC and Evangelism and New Churches ("ENC"). Detailed work will be necessary to work through how that co-operative partnership should play out. It is partly for this purpose that the Working Group recommended that a representative of ENC and MPC should be appointed to the CPTF.

For and on behalf of the Standing Committee

PETER HAYWARD

29 August 2013