

Northern Regional Council Annual Report for 2012

(A report from the Northern Regional Council.)

Introduction

1. The Council met three times during the year, in February, September and November at the parishes of Gordon, Forestville and West Ryde respectively.

Membership

2. The membership of Regional Council consisted of –

Bishop Glenn Davies (Chairman)	Mrs Jill Macleod
The Rev Terry Bowers	Ms Jayne McNamara
The Rev Ernest Chau	The Rev Ian Millican
Mr Fred Chilton	Mr Jim Peet
Ms Stephanie Cole	Mr Ian Steward
The Rev Keith Dalby	Dr Andrew Tong
The Rev Michael Kellahan	The Rev Peter Tong
The Rev Robin Kinstead	Mr Stephen Tong
Dr Rob Mackay	The Rev Mal York

3. During the year Mr Stephen Tong resigned to take up postgraduate study in the UK. It was resolved at the September meeting to leave the vacancy unfilled. The Council places on record its appreciation of Mr Tong's contribution to Council and thanks him for his valued contribution.

Regional Events

Archbishop's Lectures

4. These lectures continue to be a valued annual event in the Northern Region and we place on record our appreciation of the Archbishop's ongoing commitment to this ministry. It was noted that the 2013 lectures would be his tenth and final in the series. For the past nine years, Abbotsleigh School has hosted the three consecutive Wednesday evening meetings and the region appreciates this generous assistance from the school. The title for 2012 was 'The Prayers of Jesus'. About 370 people attended each week. The lectures were well received, as was the Archbishop's sensitive responses in the question and answer time. The lectures are available from the office in MP3 and DVD format.

Regional Conference

5. There was no Regional Conference this year as Bishop Davies was on Long Service Leave at the time when the conference is usually scheduled.

6. The Northern Regional Conference has been scheduled for 20-21 May 2013 with the Rev Mike Raiter as the speaker on the theme of Preaching and Pastoring.

7. During the Bishop's Long Service Leave (April-May) Bishop David Mulready conducted confirmations and exercised some pastoral care in the region. His ministry was well received and the Council wishes to place on record their appreciation of his ministry.

General Matters

Regional Matters

8. The Council earned a modest surplus for the year of \$17,786. This was primarily derived from a surplus of grant funds from Synod (\$75,000) over amounts paid by the Council to EOS to provide support staff to the Bishop's office (\$58,264). In 2013, the Synod grant is being paid direct to EOS.

9. The funding of Cross Cultural ministry in the region needed careful reconsideration, since funds which were previously allocated by Synod to regional councils for cross cultural ministry, from 2012 were directed to Evangelism and New Churches (ENC) to finance cross cultural evangelism throughout the diocese. As a result the Bishop negotiated with ENC so that while Mrs Bell (the NR Cross Cultural Coordinator) was paid by ENC, she would continue to operate under the direction of the Bishop. This arrangement has worked well.

10. At 31 December 2012 the Council had net assets of \$111,522, comprised primarily of cash balances with Glebe Income Accounts. Of this amount, the Council has allocated up to \$30,000 to a Church grant (paragraph 15). The full audited accounts for the Council are tabled at Synod.

11. Canon Rick Smith resigned as Mission Area Leader for the Lower North Shore in February and he was replaced by the Rev Michael Kellahan, Rector of Roseville East.

12. During the year a Mission Area Leader was invited to address Council at each meeting. The Revs Bruce Stanley, Kerry Nagel and Phil Wheeler each attended the Council meeting in February, September and November respectively. The Council welcomes the initiatives and outcomes of the Mission Area Leaders and recognizes the significant impact that they are making in the region and wishes to place on record their appreciation of their labours.

13. The Rev Phil Wheeler resigned as Northern Region representative on Standing Committee in February and was replaced by the Rev Craig Roberts, Rector of Neutral Bay.

Parish Matters

14. The Rev Adam Street resigned as the Rector of Northbridge and the Rev Simon Flinders was appointed Rector from 1st January 2013. Mr Flinders appointed Mr Street as Senior Assistant Minister from 1st January 2013. This marked a smooth strategic transition of leadership within the parish.

15. The Meadowbank International Church (a church plant from the parish of Gladesville) sought to be realigned with West Ryde parish. This proposed realignment was supported by both parishes and the Mission Area Leader. The parish of West Ryde sought financial assistance for 2013 and 2014 to facilitate this ministry relocation and Council agreed to provide a grant of \$20,000 for 2013 and, subject to a satisfactory review, a further grant of \$10,000 in 2014.

Church Plants

16. St Peter's Cremorne launched a more contemporary service at 11am on Sundays.

Regional Architectural Panel

17. The Regional Architectural Panel (RAP) continued under the chairmanship of the Rev Geoff Leader (Rector of Longueville) in 2012. The RAP worked consistently during the year with a number of parish projects. Some are large projects requiring extensive consultation with the parish while others are more modest. The region owes a great deal to the panel members who freely give of their time and expertise in assisting parishes to get the best possible ministry outcomes from their property developments.

Cross Cultural Ministry

18. The Rev Bruce Stanley resigned late in 2011 as chair of the Multi-cultural Ministry Committee and has been replaced by the Rev Chris Burgess.

19. Mrs Trish Bell continues to train staff for ESL and encourage parishes to be active in this strategically important ministry. The Council is very grateful for the ministry she provides across the region.

20. Three new ESL groups were commenced during the year and all are going well with the parish of Manly having a remarkable response from new members.

21. An encouraging end-of-year luncheon was held for all the ESL teams at Christ Church, St Ives where the Bishop spoke on 'Strangers, Sojourners and Refugees – God's grace to the outsider'.

22. The committee has the vision of 'serving the ministers and parishes of the Northern Region, and the wider diocese, through the strategic development of networks and resources for multi-cultural ministry.'

Regional Grants

23. As a consequence of continuing financial constraints, no regional grants were made for this year as the Council considered the best use of its remaining funds. The Council has been particularly concerned to ensure funds are available to support multicultural ministry and the provision of staff resources to the Bishop's office and training and professional development of Regional office personnel. For 2013 and, subject to satisfactory review, 2014 grants have been made to West Ryde (paragraph 15).

NSW Government Community Building Partnership Grants

24. Fifteen parishes had their grant applications approved in Dec 2011 for projects to be completed in 2012. These grants totalled \$336,098 and their details are as follows:

Asquith	\$15,000	Forestville	\$16,000	Neutral Bay	\$ 20,000
Becroft	\$15,000	Frenchs Forest	\$ 25,000	Nth Ryde	\$ 12,750
Chatswood	\$ 50,000	Killara	\$ 23,000	Ryde	\$ 18,000
Dee Why	\$ 25,000	Kirribilli	\$32,000	West Ryde	\$ 22,500
Eastwood	\$ 40,000	Macquarie	\$ 17,848	Willoughby East	\$ 4,000

25. It is encouraging to see these successful grant applications from the parishes in the region. These initiatives will result in improved church facilities with a direct beneficial impact upon parish ministry.

For and on behalf of the Northern Region Council

GLENN N DAVIES
Bishop of North Sydney

7 June 2013