

Wollongong Regional Council Annual Report 2000

Introduction

1. During 1999, Wollongong Regional Council held 5 bi-monthly meetings. Below is a summary of the major issues dealt with by Council during the year.

Disbursement of Regional Grants

2. Regional Council spent a significant proportion of time during the year considering applications for Regional grants. Applications were made for grants totalling \$542,000 and those finally approved amounted to \$428,000. Regional Council funded this from -

- Grants received from Synod \$367,000
- Previously unspent grants \$37,000
- WRC general funds \$24,500.

3. Special efforts were made in 1999 to set up procedures to help those who receive grants evaluate the effectiveness of programs. Regional Council also resolved during the year to reconsider the criteria used to allocate Synod funds to ensure that grants work towards the achievement of the goals of the Archbishop and the Region.

Strategic Planning

4. The first meeting of Regional Council in 1999 was addressed by the Archbishop and was encouraged to think on a world wide scale as well as about ministry opportunities within our Region. Towards the end of 1999 Council agreed to fund one member of a Regional delegation to the Diocese of Sabah. This delegation was asked to investigate opportunities for Wollongong Region to strengthen links between Wollongong and Sabah.

5. The Archbishop also outlined NCLS data in relation to the Wollongong Region and suggested that Council make use of these statistics as it allocated resources. The annual Regional Planning Day looked further at statistical data for our part of the Diocese and has recommended strategies for deaneries to pursue.

Dissemination of Information

6. Regional Council has promoted activities such as Deanery dinners, Information Days for newly-elected Churchwardens and Pre-Synod Briefing Sessions so that information can be better disseminated within the Region. The Pre-Synod Briefing Day at Dapto, for example, discussed Parish Cost Recoveries, Amendments to Standing Orders and Clerical Tenure. Deanery meetings were also held to further discuss the Synod agenda items.

Specialised Ministries

7. Regional Council continued to support a variety of specialised ministries during the year. These ministries have included the Cross Cultural Ministry in Wollongong, the Chinese Ministry at Minto, the ministry of Anglican Schools and the work of University and Hospital Chaplains. As well as assisting with funding some of these activities, Council where appropriate made appointments to governing bodies.

Indigenous Ministry

8. Wollongong Regional Council actively promoted an Indigenous Awareness Day at the University of Western Sydney in July 1999. Following this Conference, Council agreed to appoint an Indigenous Ministry Committee to encourage and promote ministry opportunities amongst aboriginal people. This committee is considering a number of fund raising schemes. One of these, it is proposed, would involve a "tax" on church owned commercial property sales and commercial rental income.

Proclaiming the Gospel

9. Further details of initiatives taken by the Wollongong Regional Council can be found in the minutes of meetings tabled at this session of the Synod. Members of the Council have sought, under God, to facilitate a broad range of ministry initiatives aimed at effectively proclaiming the gospel in the Wollongong Region. They praise God for the gracious way he has blessed the endeavours of faithful people during the year.

For and on behalf of the Wollongong Regional Council.

RON WEBB
Secretary

27 June 2000