

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

(A report of the Western Sydney Regional Council.)

Proposal

1. The proposal is to change the provisional parish of Westmead to the parish of Westmead.
2. The parish has seen steady growth in membership, ministry and Christian maturity.

Support of the Western Sydney Regional Council

3. On the 18 February 2016 the Western Sydney Regional Council resolved to support the request that the Parish of Westmead be classified as a parish under the *Parishes Ordinance 1979*.

Parish information

4. Anglicans have been meeting in Westmead since 1914 with the current church dedicated in 1956, at which time the parish became independent.
5. In 1990 the parish became provisional. In 1996 the Church Army moved their head office from Belrose to Westmead and the Rev. William Murray Harris, the director of Church Army, became the acting rector of the parish as well. In 1997 the church came to an agreement with the Church Army board that the two roles the director of Church Army had assumed had become very challenging and demanding. An agreement was reached between the church and the Church Army board that the two roles should be separated. The church needed a leader who would devote his time entirely to the parish ministry. In 1998 the Rev. George Kazogolo was appointed to be the Curate in Charge of the church. The parish has slowly grown in recent years in God's goodness, and has been self-supporting since 2002.
6. Due to the great commitment of many in the church, the parish has been able to develop ministry to children and youth. Specific ministries that have been established are as follows: Kids Plus- an after school program for K-6 which is run every Friday during school term. Supa Club- a Scripture Union program for primary school is run during lunch time. Play time for mothers and preschool children is run at the church twice a week. 99% of the people attending are not Christians. In 2007 the parish started ESL classes with three teachers. At present the parish has six teachers and 2 classes each week.
7. Members of the congregation have exercised their stewardship remarkably by using their God given gifts and resources for his glory. This has been through their finances, time, and using their gifts.

Future Plan

8. Due to the demographic changes of Westmead, last year the parish employed a part time cross cultural worker. It is the parish's plan to make this position full time. The parish has a large number of people who attend Play time who are not Christians. Due to cultural sensitivity, the cross cultural worker's specific areas of focus is first to engage with the men, secondly to seek to target the second generation beginning with children. Though this is still in its second year, the signs are good.
9. This last year the cross cultural worker put together a team of six people most of whom are of subcontinent background. They organized carols in three different languages. The first mission was to sing carols at one of the block of units. This was very successful and this year the parish plans to expand this ministry. The other area that the cross cultural worker is doing is training the young people of subcontinent background to reach their peers.

Size of congregations

10. Average attendance are currently –

9:30am	65 Adults 23 Children
5:30pm	18 Adults 10 Youth

Particulars of all church trust property

11. Details of property held by the Anglican Church Property Trust upon trust for the provisional parish are as follows –

Value of the Land and Improvements	\$1,060,000
Value of Buildings:	
Church	\$5,301,900
Rectory	\$476,000
Church Hall	\$495,700
Hut	\$334,000
Church contents	\$131,700

Summary of consolidated receipts and payments

12. A summary of the financial position over the past three years is set out below –

	2012	2013	2014
Receipts			
Offeratories	108,161	125,081 *	104,191
Received for other/ donations	1,057	776	1,250
Received for building fund			6,680
Grants		10,000	35,000 **
Rental Income (Land)	33,537	33,698	34,608
Ministry Activities Income			8,014
Other	28	119	602
Total income	142,783	169,674	190,345
Operating expenses			
Ministry staff	94,029	110,309	85,808
PCR	18,857	21,694	20,954
Resources for Ministry	6,339	5,580	571
Parish donations	4,811	350	12,803
Parish admin/general	4,081	3,246	10,226
Parish property	40,759	29,402	43,621
Ministry activities	-	-	739
Other	13	-	400
Total Expenses	168,889	170,581	175,122

* In 2013 the parish had a special offertory to support an MTS worker.

** The grant was for renovation of the Church Hall from CBP.

Recommendation

13. The Western Sydney Regional Council recommends that the provisional parish of Westmead be reclassified as a parish with effect from 1 January 2017.

For and on behalf of the Western Sydney Regional Council.

IVAN LEE
Bishop of Western Sydney

11 May 2016