

South Sydney Regional Council Annual Report 2007

(A report from the South Sydney Regional Council.)

Introduction

1. The Council met on five occasions during 2007, at St Andrew's Cathedral School in the city, preceded by a meal.

Membership

2. As at 31 December 2007 membership of the Regional Council was –

The Rt Rev Robert Forsyth	Mr Richard Arkell
The Ven Deryck Howell	Ms Sarah Blakelock
The Rev Antony Barraclough	Mrs Elisabeth Boyce
The Rev Geoff Broughton	Dr Robert Claxton
The Rev Francis Chalwell	Mrs Sarita England
The Rev Dr Tim Foster	Mr Robert Freeman
The Rev Tom Henderson-Brooks	Mrs Jeanette Glass
The Rev Andrew Katay	Mrs Paulette Gray
The Rev Andrew Moore	Mr Allan Pidgeon
The Rev Jeremy Tonks	Miss Alicia Watson

Ministry Report

3. Council has continued to work hard at the implications of the Diocesan Mission for churches and ministries in the South Sydney region. We are encouraged by the fact that each year at Synod another few of our parishes return to full parish status, a sign of the new life God is bringing to churches in the region. Council sees this as a satisfying result, in part, of its seed funding policy for parishes and ministries. We have moved much more to a pattern of funding which offers pre-defined amounts reducing over three years for new initiatives. This has meant the commencement of many new ministry positions as detailed below.

4. However, along with this has been the stalling of our two most recent church plants, at Green Square and Pymont. Council had driven these forward, but after giving them as much support as we could for as long as we could we are sad to report that neither has grown. In fact, the decision was made to close Pymont at the end of 2007, at least for the time being. We are grateful to God for that work, and the work at Green Square, which continues as part of South Sydney parish and express our thanks to the clergy and lay "pillars" who committed themselves so energetically to these two experiments. We are still assessing the effectiveness of Council's contribution and what we ought to learn.

226 **Report of Standing Committee & Other Reports & Papers**

5. In the course of the year discussions were held to bring about the amalgamation of the parishes of Ashfield and Five Dock/Haberfield. Council agreed to this in August and it became a reality on January 1 2008.

6. One of the ministries to commence in our region in 2007 is Maroubra Surfers' Church under the leadership of Rev Steve Bligh. This is primarily overseen by the Church Army, with support from several individual churches and the Regional Council. It has close links with St John's Maroubra. We are glad to support Steve in this ministry and look forward to what God will do through it.

7. On Saturday May 27 2007 Council held an extra meeting in the form of a Planning day , the results of which have been the subject of major items on the agenda since.

8. Council launched a Property Guidelines Manual for parishes undertaking property work. This folder of information has been given to all our parishes and is made available to others outside the region as well.

Ministry Partnerships 2006

9. Funds from the Synod, including various ordinances which have historically benefited the South Sydney region were distributed to parishes and ministries as follows –

Parish	Purpose	Amount \$
Ashfield	Apprentice	15,000
Broadway	Two chaplaincies	95,060
Concord West	Assistant Minister	35,000
Coogee	Children's worker	2,336
Cooks River	Youth worker	22,000
East Sydney	Street evangelist	25,000
Maroubra Surfers' Church	Minister	25,000
Lord Howe Island	Ministry airfares and expenses	20,207
Newtown	Children's worker	25,000
Peninsula Community Church (Pymont)	Minister	23,352
South Coogee	Assistant Minister	25,000
South Sydney	Aboriginal pastor	49,453
Surry Hills	Homework teacher	5,000
Unichurch (UNSW)	Chaplain, Asian worker, Asst minister	77,530
Other Disbursements		3,218
Total grant payments		448,156

10. Consideration of ministry partnerships for 2008 was completed at the August 2007 meeting and successful applicants were notified.

Other Matters

11. The Council's Ordinance Review Panel met throughout the year, again under the skilled leadership of Mr Allan Pidgeon dealing with ordinances for the parishes of York Street, East Sydney, Annandale and Paddington.

12. Council recommended the raising of the parishes of Coogee and Newtown to full parish status, and this was agreed to by the Synod.

13. Council has been kept informed of the progress of plans for the replacement of St Barnabas Church Broadway with a brand new and exciting building following the fire on May 10 2006.

For and behalf of the South Sydney Regional Council.

DERYCK K HOWELL
Archdeacon of South Sydney

24 July 2008