

## **Proposal to Change the Parish of Westmead to a Provisional Parish**

(A Report from the Parramatta Regional Council)

### **Initiation of Proposal**

1. The proposal was made to the Acting Rector and Churchwardens of Westmead and the requirements of the Parishes Ordinance have been complied with. The matter was considered by Parramatta Regional Council on 17 June 1997.

### **Details of the Proposal**

2. St Barnabas' Westmead was formed in 1962. Prior to that from 1956 it was a branch church of St John's Parramatta.

3. It lost the right of presentation in 1991 and has been facing increasing difficulty in maintaining its financial viability over the past 7 or more years. Discussions have been held at the vestry level on at least 2 occasions to consider reclassification. At the 1997 Annual Vestry Meeting it was agreed that the incoming Parish Council pursue the reclassification.

4. Parish Council approved the request on 24 March.

5. The financial position is as follows -

<b>Receipts</b>	1994	1995	1996
	\$	\$	\$
Offeratories and Donations	39,362	38,882	33,467
Missionary	3,820	2,869	3,515
Interest and Rents	5,783	7,058	7,226
Redemption of Investments	13,500	-	-
Grants	5,000	-	-
Insurance claim	2,844	-	-
Other Receipts	4,442	2,573	1,296
<b>Total Receipts</b>	<b>74,751</b>	<b>51,382</b>	<b>45,504</b>
<b>Payments</b>			
Stipends & Allowances	36,730	22,381	25,491
Diocesan Payments	6,878	3,237	5,342
Printing, Stationery etc	1,558	958	209
Repairs, Maintenance	2,092	810	1,350
Electricity, Gas etc	2,435	2,545	2,740
Missions & other special purposes	6,955	3,569	3,515
Repayment of loans	-	-	6,381
Property Improvements	3,162	2,129	80
Investments	11,000	10,500	-
Insurance Claim	2,071	-	-
Miscellaneous	2,765	3,314	3,163
<b>Total Payments</b>	<b>75,646</b>	<b>49,443</b>	<b>48,271</b>

6. The Parish owes the Finance and Loans Board \$86,632.

7. The following details concern real estate held by the Property Trust for Westmead.

Building	Insured Value/ Improvements \$	Condition of Building	Contents \$
St Barnabas Church	1,300,000	Very good	145,000
Family Education Centre	245,000	Very good	21,500
Rectory	155,000	Good	17,300
Hall, Garage, Toilet	200,000	Fair	-

8. For the 3 years 1992-1994 the Parish paid a stipend to the Assistant Minister (at less than a full Rector's commitment) while the Archdeacon was voluntary Acting Rector (part-time). Since March 1995 the Church Army has based its activities at Westmead and the Parish has been paying a reduced stipend and allowances. Though it has not been responsible for the full stipend and allowances for the past 6 years the Parish has nevertheless struggled to be viable.

#### **Ministry Activities**

9. Average weekly attendances over 3 years have been 73, 76 and 70. Many parishioners are older. Two services are held each Sunday. There is -

- a small Sunday School
- a Creative Play and Learning Group
- a monthly Caring and Sharing Group
- 3 Bible study groups
- SRE at Westmead School.

10. A Korean Church meets weekly in the Church and Prison Fellowship/Kairos uses the hall. Church Army established its Resource Centre and office in the refurbished old hall. Plans are in hand to sell a portion of unused land to the Roman Catholic school next door. A "Cash-a-Can" project helps raise income to repay the Finance and Loans Board loan.

#### **Recommendation**

11. Parramatta Regional Council recommends that Synod confirm the reclassification of the Parish of St Barnabas' Westmead as a Provisional Parish from 1 January 1998.

For and on behalf of the Parramatta Regional Council.

ALAN DONOHOO  
*Archdeacon of Parramatta*

19 August 1997