

Property priorities to progress Indigenous ministry 22/22 Indigenous Ministry in the Diocese of Sydney

(A report of the Standing Committee.)

Key Points

- By Resolution 22/22, the Synod requested a report back in 2023 with proposals to identify suitable property priorities to progress Indigenous ministry, along with the identified funding sources, for inclusion in the overall ministry infrastructure planning for the Diocese.
- The Anglican Church Growth Corporation (**ACGC**) continues to consult with the Sydney Anglican Indigenous Peoples' Ministry Committee (**SAIPMC**) to finalise characteristics and sizes of land needed.
- Additionally, ACGC is working with SAIPMC on a solution to enable ministry to continue on the existing Tregear site, potentially freeing up funds to be diverted to the Huskisson area for Indigenous ministry.
- \$2 Million in funds has been set aside for the purchase and development of property for use in Indigenous ministry.

Purpose

1. The purpose of this report is to report progress on Synod resolution 22/22.

Recommendations

2. Synod receive this report.

Background

3. By Resolution 22/22, the Synod, among other things –
 - (a) noting the importance of ongoing and appropriate capital support for Indigenous ministry in the Diocese in order to purchase further suitable properties in the future, requested the Standing Committee to –
 - (i) consider and prioritise the needs of the Sydney Anglican Indigenous Peoples' Ministry Committee (**SAIPMC**) in the allocation of funds for purchase of properties for new ministry infrastructure, and
 - (ii) report back to Synod in September 2023 with proposals to identify suitable property priorities to progress Indigenous ministry, along with the identified funding sources, for inclusion in the overall ministry infrastructure planning for the Diocese.
4. This request was referred to the Anglican Church Growth Corporation (**ACGC**) in consultation with the SAIPMC.
5. Accordingly, the following actions were included in ACGC's 2023-2025 Strategic Plan –
 - (a) undertake a needs analysis with SAIPMC to better understand the characteristics and size of land needed and the building requirements,
 - (b) purchase land in the vicinity of Huskisson for Indigenous ministry purposes, and
 - (c) undertake a feasibility study for provision of land and built form in the Mount Druitt/Tregear area suitable for Indigenous ministries.
6. Progress against these actions is reported on a monthly basis to the ACGC Board.

7. In November 2022, the Standing Committee passed an ordinance promoted by the Parish of Church Hill that transferred \$2,000,000 from its additional distributions from the 1 York Street lease to the ACGC, "towards the purchase and development of property for use in Indigenous ministry with not more than \$1,000,000 to be spent on any given property". We are grateful for the generosity of the parish for this support for indigenous ministry.
8. A workshop was facilitated by the ACGC CEO with SAIPMC members in April 2023 to commence the needs analysis and to develop ideas and priorities to assist in targeting land purchases in the vicinity of Huskisson and Tregear.
9. The workshop did not result in any definitive criteria with respect to characteristics and size of land. It was determined that further consideration was required by SAIPMC members.
10. The workshop did establish that if security and safety issues associated with an adjacent laneway to the Tregear property were able to be solved, retaining and refurbishing the Tregear site would be preferred to relocating somewhere else.
11. As a result, ACGC has undertaken investigations to prepare a proposal to take to Council to close the laneway based on security and safety issues. Further details of the frequency and severity of the security/safety issues are required from the SAIPMC before the proposal can be presented to Council.
12. The above has implications for the purchase of land in the vicinity of Huskisson. If funds are not required to purchase land in the vicinity of Tregear, then with the endorsement of the Standing Committee these funds could be used partially to refurbish the Tregear church and rectory to acceptable levels with the remaining funds diverted to land purchase in the Huskisson area.

For and on behalf of the Standing Committee.

BRIONY BOUNDS
Diocesan Secretary

14 August 2023