

## **Proposal to change the status of the provisional parish of Surry Hills to a parish**

(A report of the South Sydney Regional Council.)

### **Proposal**

1. The proposal is to change the provisional parish of Surry Hills to the parish of Surry Hills.
2. The Parish of Surry Hills became a provisional parish in 1 January 1997 due to insufficient local revenue subsequently a congregation of Evangelism and New Churches called Vine Church met on the premises of St Michael's at Surry Hills. In 2015, the then Rector resigned and the leader of the ENC congregation was appointed as Rector of the Provisional Parish of Surry Hills. Consequently Vine Church and St Michael's merged resulting in the Parish seeing significant growth in both attendance and offertories. In addition, the Parish is also supported with an extremely strong balance sheet, which includes multiple investment properties that are managed by the wardens.

### **Support of the South Sydney Regional Council**

3. On 29 May 2018 the South Sydney Regional Council resolved to support the request that the Provisional Parish of Surry Hills be classified as a parish under the *Parishes Ordinance 1979*.

### **Parish information**

4. St Michael's is based in Surry Hills which has an estimated population of over 18,000 people, of which only 5% claim to have affiliation with the Anglican Church. The church serves an area that is increasing secular. Surry Hills, according to the 2016 census shows that 44% of population has no affiliation to a religion. 56% of the Surry Hills population falls between 25-44 year olds with 65% of the total population renting and 70% employed fulltime.
5. Vine Church at the time of the merger was 4 years old, and had grown from 16 people at the start, to over 150 on a weekly basis. St Michael's had a 160-year legacy and property assets, but a small congregation of less than 20. Since the merge, the provisional parish has grown to over 200 attendees (including 25 children), across two services, and now has 4 employed ministers including the Rector Toby Neal.
6. The provisional parish provides a range of other ministries including –
  - (a) Bread of Life, which feeds over 50 homeless individuals in Surry Hills every Sunday.
  - (b) Christianity Explored, which introduces over 30 people a year to Christianity.
  - (c) Community Groups, meeting weekly to study the bible in 17 different locations comprising over 180 people.
  - (d) In 2017 the church delivered over 2,000 cupcakes to women in local brothels.
  - (e) Over 25 children attend kid's church weekly, and in 2018 a youth group was started on Friday nights.

### **Criteria for Parish Status (Section 6) as stated in the Parishes Ordinance of 1979**

7. In accordance with Section 6 of the *Parishes Ordinance 1979*, the wardens certify as follows –
  - (a) Local revenue in 2017 exceeded minimum threshold.
  - (b) The Rector was paid the necessary stipends and allowances, and provided with a residence.
  - (c) All cost recovery charges were paid.
  - (d) A residence approved as suitable by the Archbishop is available for the Minister.
  - (e) There are buildings available in the parish for use by a congregation meeting for worship and other proposes.
  - (f) These buildings are in good condition and suitable for purpose, and title is vested in the ACPT.
  - (g) The parish is able to service all its debts.
  - (h) The parish is in a sound financial condition.

### **Particulars of all church trust property**

8. Details of property held by the Anglican Church Property Trust upon trust for the provisional parish are as follows, all which are in good condition –

Property	Value of Land	Value of Building (at IRV)	Value of Contents (at IRV)
Church	3,320,000	13,055,250	1,234,964
Church Hall		1,156,710	34,758
Rectory	2,170,000	1,122,812	4,790
14 Arthur St	1,200,000	383,272	1,560
16 Arthur St	1,200,000	362,672	1,560
22 Marcel Ave	1,230,000	355,385	1,337
196 Albion St		696,188	3,119
<b>Total</b>	<b>9,120,000</b>	<b>17,132,289</b>	<b>1,282,088</b>

\* All information taken from 2017 audited Financial Statements

**Summary of consolidated receipts and payments**

9. A summary of the financial position over the past two years and budget for 2018. Note that Vine Church and St Michael's did not combine financial statements until the fiscal year 2016 –

	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018 (budget)</b>
<b>Income</b>			
Offertories and Donations	433,769	484,364	514,255
Grants	40,107		
Property Income	241,026	328,806	254,800
Finance Income	35,231	28,393	
Income from Trading	70,785	52,085	96,253
Other Income	2,887	5,855	24,840
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>823,805</b>	<b>899,503</b>	<b>890,148</b>
<b>Operating expenses</b>			
Ministry staff	504,656	440,502	611,731
PCR	34,371	27,798	30,000
Resources and Ministry	13,189	19,246	25,000
Parish Donations	14,696	56	
Parish Administration	132,765	131,886	64,028
Ministry Property Expenses	69,130	66,295	72,172
Leased Property Expenses	52,799	23,634	40,800
Trading Activity Expenses	820	948	
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>822,426</b>	<b>710,365</b>	<b>843,731</b>
<b>Surplus / (Loss)</b>	<b>1,379</b>	<b>189,138</b>	<b>46,417</b>

10. A summary of assets and liabilities as of end of fiscal year 2017 according to audited financial statements –

**Assets**

Total Current Assets	2,371,259
Total Non Current Assets	27,539,377
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>29,910,636</b>

**Liabilities**

Total Current Liabilities	83,518
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>83,518</b>

**Net Assets** **29,827,118**

**Recommendation**

11. The South Sydney Regional Council recommends that the provisional parish of Surry Hills be reclassified as a parish with effect from 1 January 2018.

For and on behalf of the South Sydney Regional Council.

MICHAEL STEAD  
*Bishop of South Sydney*

11 July 2018