

Proposal to Change the Assisted Provisional Parish of Quakers Hill to a Provisional Parish

(A report from PARC.)

Initiation of the Proposal

1. With the encouragement of the Parish Support and Development Division of the Home Mission Society and the Regional Archdeacon, the Minister and Churchwardens of this Assisted Provisional Parish made application on 2 August 1995 in accordance with clauses 4 and 6 of the Parishes Ordinance 1979.

Details of Meeting

2. A meeting of the Parramatta Anglican Regional Council was held on 17 August 1995 to consider the proposal in accordance with clause 5 of the Ordinance. PARC certified that all procedural requirements had been complied with and noted no objections had been received.

History of the Assisted Provisional Parish

3. There has been an Anglican presence in the Quakers Hill district since at least 1927 when a small church building, St Stephen's, was erected in the village adjacent to the Railway Station. Until the 1980s the village was the service centre for a semi-rural market garden area although the urban sprawl of Blacktown/Marayong/Doonside adjoined the district. Until 1990 the Stephen's Quakers Hill ministry was an offshoot of Castle Hill, Riverstone, Blacktown and latterly Doonside parishes.

4. In 1989 the Rev S.P. Robinson was appointed as an Assistant Minister to Doonside Parish with a special responsibility for Quakers Hill. On 4 March 1990 regularly weekly services commenced with average attendances of 60 adults. On 1 January 1991 the Assisted Provisional Parish of Quakers Hill was created and the Rev S.P. Robinson was appointed as Curate in Charge. A new church site, funded by Vision for Growth, was purchased in the centre of the burgeoning urban subdivisions. A rectory was built on the site in 1992 and a new multi-purpose church/hall building was completed and occupied in 1993. The old site was sold at the initiative of the Minister and Churchwardens for \$253,000 (building and land for \$150,000 to North West Community Church, and land to Blacktown City Council for \$80,000).

5. The stated aim and philosophy of Quakers Hill Anglican Church is *To Reach People and Teach Them to Follow Jesus*.

Estimates of population

6. It is estimated that there are 35,000 people living in the assisted provisional parish of whom some 20% claim adherence to

the Anglican Church. It is expected that with further housing development the population will soon rise to 80,000 - 100,000.

7. The make-up of the population is predominately young middle class families, most of whom are purchasing their own homes. There is some public housing. There is also a significant and broadening ethnic mix.

Attendances

8. The following table shows the growth in attendances.

	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995
Average Sunday Services	90	132	183	245	277	273 +

9. In 1995 the numbers at Sunday School averaged 95 and in the weekly youth group (CEBS/GFS) 90. Average presence at weekly Bible Studies/small groups is currently 100.

10. Other regular activities conducted are a children’s playgroup, women’s outreach activities - coffee nights etc, men’s outreach - dinners etc, scripture teaching in 3 schools, missions in 1993 and 1995, ESL classes, folk art classes, “Christianity Explained” courses, part-time theological courses led by lecturers from Sydney Missionary and Bible College, Croydon, networking courses, personal counselling and the like.

Staff

11. The current paid ministry staff are -

- The Rev S.P. Robinson- Curate in Charge
- Canon D.M. Hewetson - Assistant Minister (part time)
- Ms Sarah Sherwood - Youth Pastor
- Mr P. Jones - Stipendiary Lay Assistant (part time)
- * Mr A. Wells - General Duties
- * Ms Joy Miletic - Office Duties

(* Supported by Government allowances - DSS Job Start.)

12. The activities of the parish are further enhanced by a large number of non-stipendiary part time workers.

Particulars of Church Trust Property

13. The 3.5 acre property has on it a multi-purpose building with seating capacity for 800 in the main auditorium, a side hall which seats about 180, offices, kitchen and creche area. There is a sealed carpark for 80 cars. The new rectory is built to diocesan standards with 4 bedrooms, study etc. There is also a 3 bedroom cottage which is present occupied by staff and also used for ministry. All buildings are in excellent condition except the cottage, which is in sound condition. The estimated value of the buildings and land are -

	\$
Church/hall	1,500,000
Rectory	120,000
Cottage	40,000
Land	2,000,000

14. The buildings are insured through the diocesan insurance scheme. The land is held on trust for the Property Trust's New Sites Fund.

Finances

15. Quakers Hill Anglican Church has been in a position to fully support their Curate in Charge since 1992. The Church is in a sound position as revealed in this summary of the progressive financial situation.

Note:

- A. Average weekly adult attendance growth rate 33% pa each year for 5 years.
 B. Average weekly income growth rate 47% pa each year for 5 years.

	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995 to 30/6/95
<i>Receipts</i>					
Offeratories	55,257	54,678	67,556	93,448	59,705
Missions	-	-	357	497	1,256
Grants	26,000	45,000	47,000	35,000	14,400
Donations	-	17,900	6,080	19,157	16,952
Other (from Government Funding, cottage rent etc)	3,866	8,937	74,042	19,792	15,459
Total	<u>85,123</u>	<u>126,515</u>	<u>195,035</u>	<u>167,894</u>	<u>107,772</u>
<i>Payments</i>					
Staff	35,749	73,070	135,591	147,012	87,165
Missions	-	4,800	4,934	600	1,374
Other	<u>41,715</u>	<u>52,371</u>	<u>63,398</u>	<u>28,483</u>	<u>12,826</u>
Total	<u>77,464</u>	<u>130,241</u>	<u>203,923</u>	<u>176,095</u>	<u>101,365</u>

16. The Curate in Charge is paid not less than the last recommended minimum stipend together with an adequate allowance for travelling expenses. These amounts have been met from local revenues.

17. By special arrangement (with the Churchwardens) the Curate in Charge lives in his own home and is paid a housing allowance

(the rectory is occupied by non stipendiary workers and is used for ministry purposes).

18. The Parish Support and Development Division of the Home Mission Society has secured and serviced a loan from the Finance and Loans Board for stage 2 of the development. It is expected this arrangement will continue even beyond the change of status.

Recommendation

19. That the Synod assent to the proposal for the Assisted Provisional Parish of Quakers Hill to become a Provisional Parish from 1 January 1996.

For and on behalf of PARC

ALAN F. DONOHOO
Archdeacon of Parramatta

August 1995