

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

(A report from the Standing Committee.)

### **Initiation of Proposal**

1. The proposal was made to the Archbishop by the Churchwardens of St Barnabas, Fairfield.
2. The requirements of the Parishes Ordinance have been complied with.

### **Details of the Meeting**

3. A meeting of the Permanent Investigation Committee was held on 22 May 1996 when the following persons were present -

*Permanent Investigation Committee* - Archdeacon R.T. Platt (Chairman), Canon L.F. Bartlett, Canon R.C. Forsyth, Archdeacon G.R. Huard.

*Promoters* - The Rev D. Coy, Messrs J. Bass, S Gray, A. Lee and W. Whitaker

*In Attendance* - Mr K.R. Bowden (Secretary).

*Apologies* - The Rev P. Tasker, Mr H. Hinton.

### **The Proposal**

4. The proposal is to change the Parish to a Provisional Parish from 1 January 1996. The Parish Council by resolution consented to the Standing Committee provisionally changing the status of the parish to a provisional parish under clause 8(2) of the Ordinance.
5. The Parish of Fairfield was unable to pay its assessments for the first 3 months of 1996 so that arrears totalled \$3,945.90 at that time.

### **Parish Information**

6. There are 2,300 persons claiming adherence to the Anglican Church of Australia within the parish (NCLS). There has been a very strong change in the social composition of the population over the last 20 years or so and only 41% of the population was born in Australia. Anglo-Celtic people continue to move out and people of many other ethnic backgrounds (predominantly Vietnamese, Lebanese, Italian, Croatian and Spanish speaking people) move in.
7. Services are no longer held at St David's Church. Sunday services at St Barnabas's Church are shown below -

<i>Average Time</i>	<i>Period</i>	<i>Average Attendances</i>
8 am	Sundays Weekly	39
9.30 am	Sundays Weekly	32
11 am	Wednesdays Monthly	14

Attendance has been falling and ageing despite evangelistic meetings, door knocks, one-to-one Christianity explained courses, Bible studies and changes in time and format of services. The Italian ministry under Rocco Scarcella has moved to Bossley Park.

8. The parish recognises that it must build bridges into the ethnic community. An Arabic Presbyterian congregation and a Syrian Baptist congregation are using the church buildings. The Rev Ray Galea has established a multi-cultural Bible ministry to younger adults who are English speaking children of migrants which meets in the evenings. It is planned that this group, which has 70 people, will develop into a congregation which will become part of the St Barnabas' family.

9. The staff in the parish consists of the minister, assistant minister, catechist and part time assistant minister. Mr Coy advised that evangelistic strategies would continue but the parish needed some relief on its expenditures to remain financially viable. It is essential that the Anglican Church maintain a witness for the Gospel in Fairfield. It is the centre of a wider community and it is important that we continue to have a presence in this regional centre. Efforts to reach the ethnic community must continue and build upon some success in ministry to second generation migrants who speak English. A minister with an ethnic background has a substantial advantage in ministering to ethnic people. St Barnabas is the only Protestant supporter of scripture in Fairfield schools.

10. A summary of the financial position of the parish over the last 3 years is given below -

	1993	1994	1995	1996 Budget
<i>Receipts</i>	\$	\$	\$	\$
Offeratories	47,696	39,199	41,579	41,097
Interest & Rent	10,476	12,495	12,132	8,200
Investments Redeemed	-	-	4,000	-
Grants	44,000	33,834	38,000	34,000
Other	7,849	10,003	11,007	3,600
Total Receipts	<u>110,021</u>	<u>95,531</u>	<u>106,718</u>	<u>86,897</u>
<i>Payments</i>				
Stipends and Allowances	75,664	67,986	74,965	72,043
Assessments	6,927	4,000	10,327	8,853

Missions	4,142	4,511	2,664	-
Investments	-	4,000	-	-
Other	14,043	18,340	22,736	14,830
Total Payments	<u>100,776</u>	<u>98,837</u>	<u>110,692</u>	<u>95,726</u>
Surplus/(Deficit)	9,245	(3,306)	(3,974)	(8,829)

11. The following details have been supplied concerning real estate held by the Church Property Trust upon trust for the parish -

<i>Address</i>	<i>Value of Land &amp; Improvements \$</i>	<i>Condition of Buildings</i>
St Barnabas Church & Halls	870,000	Good
St Barnabas Rectory	120,000	Good
St Davids Church )	230,000	Good
St Davids Hall )		Poor
Curates Residence	85,000	Fair
Land value of all properties	828,500	

12. There are no debts on the property.

13. The parish has been receiving grants from HMS and the Bishop of Georges River.

14. Archdeacon Huard supports the application and comments that in the Fairfield area the Anglican Church is the only Protestant Church with a long term commitment to its congregation and the district and capable of maintaining a Biblical ministry. With the present social composition of Fairfield it is essential to present an ethnic face to this ministry.

#### **Action and Recommendation**

15. The Standing Committee provisionally changed the Parish of Fairfield to a provisional parish from 1 January 1996 and recommends that the Synod assent to this change of status.

For and on behalf of the Standing Committee

K.R. BOWDEN  
*Assistant Diocesan Secretary*

4 February 1997