

Report and Recommendation from the Parish Planning Morning for the Canberra Central Parish – 12th Feb 2011 -9.30am-12noon

Reflection from 2010

Certain areas were affirmed from the 2010 Planning Report by the 35 plus people attending the Parish Planning Morning.

1. Rev David Thiem would continue as the primary ministerial pastoral care giver and 'visioner' working with the 9am worship group.
2. Rev Gregor Henderson would continue as the primary ministerial pastoral care giver and 'visioner' for the 10.30am worship group.
3. Gregor and David would share the role with the St Aidan's congregation.
4. The practice of both David and Gregor having time to stay with the Wesley 9am and St Aidan's congregations after worship, as appropriate, was wholeheartedly endorsed.

Aspects of Church life which were done well in 2010

1. Worship was of a high standard in all services
2. The standard of music and in particular the Choir were appreciated by many. Also the Wesley Music Centre brings many people onto the property for music functions and some then come to worship.
3. The manner and content of the Extravagant Generosity (stewardship) Programme was seen as a success.
4. The solar panels placed on Lancaster Hall was a huge project by the Property and Social Justice Mission team which will have very positive impacts for the parish and our 'green approach',.
5. The Children's and Youth Ministry was positively commented upon along with the dedication of all the leaders involved.
6. The success of the occasional 9am Breakfast Service in the Wesley foyer was seen as a highlight for those who shared in this.
7. Some of our ecumenical services were seen as extremely worthwhile eg hosting the Parliamentary Service and the Australian National Council of Churches special service where two new denominations were recognised by the NCCA.
8. Restructure of the Parish Office (including staff and finances) which is still ongoing.
9. Lenten Study groups and the Ash Wednesday service
10. Pastoral Care Course run mid-year with approximately 25 people sharing in it.
11. Support for those with special needs was mentioned: - thanks to Nicky's Angels and those that bring people to worship/activities.
12. Upgrading children's courtyard (to meet current OH & S children's playground standards) along with refurbishment of youth room (Lancaster lounge)

Aspects of Church Life which were not done well in 2010

1. Outreach to the community close to the church - eg new units/work places etc
2. Limited social interaction within the parish – need to look at this
3. Theological reflection/teaching beyond sermons
4. Elders/Pastoral Care (seen as a transitional year with new ministry team).
5. Better follow-up of new people required

6. Using peoples gifts/talents and incorporating them into the parish in an appropriate way seen as not happening well.
7. Parish Mission Teams – some are defunct and some barely operating. Need to look further at these (Joint Church Council)
8. Rosters are not working well with too few people offering for these eg stewards roster needs a revamp and sound system needs more people to run it.
9. Request for people using our church facilities to share with the congregation(s) what they are doing was not followed up. However, we are placing in the notice sheets aspects of when there are special functions that the congregation can share in eg flower and art shows
10. Need to keep website updated and advertise relevant groups as there are more than 100 visitors per day to the site (over 5,000 pa). Already we are seeing some results of people attending the parish due to checking out activities on the website.

Rating for 2010

Those present were asked to rate the life of the Parish during 2010 using a percentage for performance. It varied from 50-80% looking at the results of the Planning Day from February 2010. Most were satisfied with the year but realised that there is more to do!!!

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Planning for 2011

Gregor and David shared some of their thoughts for the coming year.

1. There has been considerable development of a relational pastoral care programme from within the Elders Council. All people on the pastoral list will have an elder/pastoral visitor and this will happen in late February after the Elders' Meeting. The Rev Alistair Christie has agreed to co-ordinate these lists. There are six new elders who will be commissioned at the Parish Service on the 27th February.
2. During Lent we will host study groups and we will use the Lent Event material titled "Sacred Friendships". These can be used in groups or individually and are \$10 per copy.
3. Alongside of these the Elders will have available the devotional booklet "The Journey of Lent" by the Rev Phil Hoffman (a former member of this parish) to give out to those on their pastoral lists.
4. During the year Gregor will run a theological discussion series over a number of weeks.
5. Towards the end of the year a new Director of Music will be appointed as Graeme Brown steps down. Graeme has done a wonderful job but has indicated that he wishes to retire. Negotiations are almost finalised with his successor.
6. The Parish Camp is being held at Kooringa Coastal Retreat, Sunshine Bay, and people are encouraged to register for what will be a great weekend of fun, friendship and fellowship. This will be held 18-20th March and is our first camp for years. The theme is: "God in creation". Register now and enjoy a beach weekend!!!
7. The Extravagant Generosity Programme will generate a 16% increase in our funds or roughly \$42,000pa. The Joint Church Council needs to look at how we support the extra areas that the 140 returns prioritised for the parish. The top priorities were in order of votes:
 - Children's and Youth Ministry
 - Frontier Services
 - Meeting a local Welfare Group
 - Supporting an Overseas Mission Project (in Lent study)
 - Financially supporting our twinned country parish
Gunning/Goulburn

This is an agenda item for the April meeting of the Church Council!

8. The need for some Christmas Hampers was raised by the ministers. There were a number of families that could have used this help this past Christmas but we were not organised to do this in 2010.

This coming Christmas we will look to make 5-10 hampers as required.

Discussion and Recommendations

An open forum time followed after morning tea and out of these discussions the following recommendations along with a couple of groups of volunteers arose. (not all discussion points are recorded)

1. Family and Children's Mission Team look to appoint a part-time Children's/Youth Worker with a pastoral emphasis to support those already working in these areas

Action: Convenor

2. There is a need to better understand the work of the Verandah, our local community service programme that we share with the Baptists and the Anglicans. Request the ministers look at this and share with the parish.

Action: Ministers

3. Audio-visual use within Wesley. Request a small committee be formed to look at this using the skills present in some of our young adults/youth.

Action: Joint Church Council

4. Christmas Hampers

Action: Council of Elders

5. Outreach and Mission Group to look at our interaction within the community.

Volunteers: John Fletcher, Chris Emery, Les Flack, Jill Walker, Jan Sismey
(others may volunteer as this group meets)

It was suggested that we approach Rev Duncan Macleod (new presbytery Minister) for input into this area.

6. Social Interaction group be formed to look at social groups within the parish. This may include looking at fundraisers, social occasions, middle-aged singles group, restaurant outings, home fellowships etc

Volunteers: Jim Leedman, Helen Cowling, Lorraine Billingham along with co-opted others

7. An updated Parish Brochure reflecting the current life of the parish be produced for newcomers.

Action: Council of Elders

8. Continuation of the occasional Sunday afternoon informal speaker in the foyer area at Wesley

Action: David Thiem

Conclusion

This is an overview of a most productive Planning Session for 2011