

APPENDIX

STANDING ORDERS

**ADOPTED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
MAY, 1965**

(amended 1970, 1971, 1972, 1975, 1979, 1984, 1985, 1987, 1988, 1997, 2000, 2003, 2009 and 2011)

GENERAL

1. The Holy Bible and the Book of Common Prayer shall lie on the table of the Synod Hall.
2. Each day's proceedings shall open with a reading from Holy Scripture and prayer, during which time the doors shall be closed.
3. The hours for the Synod when in ordinary session shall be as follows:

First day: 11.00 a.m. to 1.00 p.m.; 2.00 p.m. to 6.30 p.m. or, if the first and second readings of all Bills sent to the members with the summonses have not then been concluded, until such later hour as the Synod shall determine.

Second day: 10.00 a.m. to 1.00 p.m.; 2.00 p.m. to 6.30 p.m.

Third day: 10.00 a.m. to 1.00 p.m.; 2.00 p.m. to 4.30 p.m. or such other hour as the Synod may determine.

Provided that:

- (a) The Standing Committee may by Resolution determine that –
 - i. the number of days of the Synod; and/or
 - ii. the hour at which the Synod shall commence on any day shall be otherwise than as stated above.
- (b) The Synod by Resolution assented to by at least two-thirds of the members of the House of Representatives present and voting thereon may (unless the Bishops present by a majority object) prolong the period of any sitting to such hour as may be named in such Resolution.

The hours for the Synod when in special session shall be specified in the notice convening the meeting.

4. (a) Notice of each ordinary meeting of the General Synod shall be sent by post to every member thereof at least 21 days before the day fixed for such meeting.
- (b) Notice of each special meeting of the General Synod shall be sent by post to every member thereof at least 7 days before the day fixed for such meeting.
5. Every member shall be furnished with a card of admission by the honorary secretaries, to be presented at the door of the house: and without such card no person, save members of the Representative Body and its Chief Officer and Secretary, the assessors, and other officers of the Synod, and representatives of Churches invited by the General Synod or by the Standing Committee, shall be admitted to the body of the Synod Hall. Strangers may, on the introduction of a member, be admitted to the gallery, subject to such conditions in this behalf as may be laid down by the Synod. They shall not be admitted to the body of the Synod Hall unless by leave of the house.
6. Reporters shall be admitted to such part of the Synod Hall as the Synod may appoint except when the Synod shall exclude them by standing order or by an express vote.
7. Four honorary secretaries, two clerical and two lay, shall be elected by their respective orders from among their own members. Any casual vacancy may be filled by the Standing Committee provided always that the clerical or lay representative so elected by the Standing Committee shall be deemed to hold office only until the day previous to the next meeting of the General Synod.
8. On the first day of each ordinary session the President shall appoint as Assessor a person having legal qualifications and experience of the form of government of the Church. The Assessor shall hold office until immediately prior to the following ordinary session and shall be eligible for re-appointment.

9. When the President shall have taken the Chair, no member shall continue standing, except when addressing the Chair.
10. No member shall pass between the Chair and a member who is speaking.
11. If it appear on notice being taken that a quorum is not present, the President shall thereupon adjourn the Synod, without question put, until an hour to be named by the President, or until the next day of meeting, as the President shall think fit.
12. A motion to suspend Standing Orders may be moved without notice and to be passed such motion shall require the consent of three-fourths of the members present and voting.
13. All questions of order and relevance shall be decided by the President.
14. The President shall regulate the proceedings of the Synod in all matters not provided for in these Orders by analogy to parliamentary practice.

RULES OF DEBATE

15. Every member desiring to speak shall rise and address the Chair, and when two or more members shall rise simultaneously to address the Chair the President shall decide which of them shall speak.
16. The President shall confine each speaker to the subject-matter of debate; it shall not be in order for any member to interrupt the speaker, except through the medium of the President.
17. Whenever the President rises during a debate, any member speaking or offering to speak shall sit down so that the President may be heard without interruption.
18. No speech of more than five minutes' duration shall be permitted except
 - (a) the proposer of the reports of the Standing Committee and the Representative Body, who may speak for fifteen minutes each; and
 - (b) the seconder of the reports of the Standing Committee and the Representative Body and the proposer of any other report or of any bill, who may speak for ten minutes;

provided that the President, having regard to the circumstances, including the gravity or complexity of the subject of the debate and the time available for the disposal of business, may decide that compliance with the above restrictions ought to be waived in regard to a particular speech.

19. The President shall leave the Chair when desiring to take part in a debate.

(Note - Appointment to the Chair - see appendix)

20. The proposer of a motion shall have a right of reply, but otherwise a member shall not be permitted to speak more than once on the same question except on the committee stage of a bill. The seconder of a motion or amendment may reserve the right to make a speech to any period of the debate.
21. Members of the Representative Body and its Chief Officer and Secretary shall be entitled to address the House on any question before it. Ecumenical guests shall be entitled to address the House on reports and motions, but shall not be entitled to address the house on bills. Only those who are members of the House shall be entitled to vote.

BILLS

22. Notice of motion for leave to bring in bills for specified purposes may be sent to the honorary secretaries of the Synod with the proposed bill at any time not less than one week before the day appointed for the opening of the session of the Synod, and shall appear on the Agenda for the first day of such session; provided that any bill which is lodged with the honorary secretaries not less than six weeks before the first day of the session shall be printed and sent to the members with the summonses.
23. On leave being asked to bring in a bill, the name or names of the member or members proposing to bring in the bill shall be stated and the name or names shall be printed with the bill.

24. (a) At the first ordinary session of each Synod a Bills Committee consisting of six members with the Assessor *ex officio* shall be elected to hold office until immediately prior to the first ordinary session of the following General Synod.
- (b) The Bills Committee shall meet prior to each session of the General Synod to consider legal and drafting aspects of the Bills being presented. The proposer of each Bill shall be notified of the date and place of meeting, and the proposer or the proposer's nominee shall be entitled to participate during the consideration of such Bill.
- (c) It shall be competent for the Synod to refer to the Bills Committee any amendments which may be proposed during the progress of a Bill through the Synod.
25. Bills shall be considered in the order of lodgement thereof with the honorary secretaries, save that bills introduced at the request of the Synod or the House of Bishops or the Standing Committee or the Representative Body or the Pensions Board shall have priority over other bills.
26. Where there are for consideration two or more bills dealing with the same subject matter, the President, if of the opinion that it is advisable so to do, may direct that the question be not put on the second reading of any such bills until there shall have been a debate on the second reading of the other or others.
27. Notice of any amendment proposed to a bill shall be given in writing to the honorary secretaries. (And see S.O.s Nos. 34 to 39.)
28. In the case of any Ordinary Bill which has been printed and sent to the members with the summonses, no amendment shall be considered, save with the leave of the Synod, unless it has been notified to the honorary secretaries on or before the Friday next preceding the session of the Synod; and in the case of such bill (not being a bill to which Standing Order 30 refers) the Synod, if it thinks fit, may proceed on the day of the first reading to the second reading and consideration in committee.
29. Procedure on Ordinary Bills (Ch. 1 sec. 25 of the Constitution) shall be as follows:
- (a) Introduction and First Reading
- The member moving for leave to introduce a bill shall be permitted to make a brief explanatory statement of not more than ten minutes' duration, and if the motion is opposed, a member opposing may make a statement in opposition of not more than ten minutes' duration. The member moving for leave may postpone making a statement until after the member opposing has spoken.
- Only the one speech in support of, and one in opposition to, the motion may be made, and the question shall then be put without amendment or further debate; provided that in the case of a bill proposed to be introduced at the request of the Synod or the House of Bishops or the Standing Committee or the Representative Body or the Pensions Board the resolution giving leave to introduce it shall be put without debate unless notice of intention to oppose the resolution has been given to the honorary secretaries of the Synod on or before the Friday next preceding the meeting of the Synod.
- Leave to introduce having been given, the bill shall be read a first time, without debate, and an order made fixing a day for the Second Reading.
- (b) Second Reading
- On the motion "That the bill be now read a second time", the debate, if any, shall be confined to the question whether the Synod approves the proposal in principle, matters of detail being postponed to the committee stage. The only amendment which may be moved to this motion is one proposing to delete all or some of the words after "That," and the substitution of words which state some reason against the bill being read a second time forthwith.
- The bill having been read a second time, an order shall be made fixing a day for consideration in Committee of the whole Synod.
- (c) Consideration in Committee
- The Committee of the whole Synod shall consider the bill, clause by clause, together with any relevant amendments which may be proposed, the preamble being taken last. The bill, with or without amendments, shall then be reported to the Synod and an order made fixing a day for consideration on report.

(d) Consideration on Report

On the order for consideration of a bill on report being read, the Synod may consider amendments which arise out of consideration on the committee stage and of which notice has been given the previous day: Provided that amendments rejected in committee shall not be in order. Amendments may also be made without notice if in the opinion of the President they involve merely matters of drafting or the correction of grammatical or clerical errors.

When the bill has received any relevant consideration, an order shall be made fixing a day for the third reading; provided that such order, together with that made under para. (c) above, must permit, unless the Synod otherwise direct, for a clear day being interposed between consideration in Committee and the third reading.

(e) Third Reading

On the motion "That the bill be now read a third time and passed," any debate shall be confined to what is provided in the bill.

30. Procedure on Special Bills (Ch. 1 sec. 26 of the Constitution) shall be as for Ordinary Bills; provided that:

- AMENDED 2011**
- (a) Leave to introduce such a bill may only be given at an ordinary session of the Synod; leave having been given, the bill shall be deemed to have been read a first time, but it shall not be processed further until the next ordinary session when it will come before the Synod for second reading. No amendment to such a Bill may be moved at the first reading stage, but notice of any such amendment must be given at this stage provided that written notice of any such amendment if received by the Honorary Secretaries within one calendar month of the end of this Ordinary Session shall be deemed to have been given at the first reading stage. Amendments, of which notice has been given at the first reading stage, may be moved at the committee stage, and no other amendment may then be moved except any dealing with omissions, grammatical or clerical errors.
 - (b) Copies of the resolution giving leave to introduce shall be sent to each diocesan synod within one month after the ending of the session at which the resolution was passed.
 - (c) The consent of not less than two-thirds of each order, present and voting, shall be required to pass the motions (i) for leave to introduce the bill, (ii) that the bill be now read a second time, and (iii) that the bill be now read a third time and passed, and
 - (d) Debate on the motion that leave to introduce be given shall be governed by the rules of debate without the limitations imposed by S.O. 29(a).

MOTIONS

- 31. (a) A notice of motion (other than a notice of motion referred to in (d) or (e) of this Order) shall be delivered to the Honorary Secretaries not less than one month before the day appointed for the opening of the session of the Synod at which the motion is to be moved.
- (b) A notice of motion duly delivered to the Honorary Secretaries in accordance with (a) of this Order shall be sent to the members of the Synod with the Summons for the Synod at which the motion is to be moved. Such notice shall also be printed on the agenda for the 1st day of such Synod, and may be taken into consideration without further notice.
- (c) A notice of motion shall be signed by the intended mover or by some member on the mover's behalf.
- (d) A notice of motion received during a session of the Synod shall be read to the Synod by one of the Honorary Secretaries on such day as the President shall direct, but such motion shall not be taken into consideration until the next following session unless:
 - (i) it arises out of business already transacted at the session at which it is received, or
 - (ii) The President and a two-thirds majority of the members present and voting consent to its being taken into consideration at the session at which it is received.

If a motion is taken into consideration under (i) or (ii) it shall be taken into consideration on such day as the President shall direct.

- (iii) A Notice of Motion received during a Session of the Synod shall be signed by the intended mover with a written indication of support signed by five other members.
 - (iv) The full text of such a Motion shall be submitted in writing to the Honorary Secretaries, shall be read to the Synod by one of the Honorary Secretaries on such day as the President shall direct and printed copies of such Motion shall be made available for consideration by all members of the Synod as soon as possible after receipt from the person proposing the Motion and in any event not later than 12 noon on the final day of the Session unless in exceptional circumstances the President directs otherwise.
 - (v) All amendments to any such Motion shall be delivered in writing to the Honorary Secretaries and copies of such amendments shall be made available for consideration by all members of the Synod as soon as possible after receipt from the person tabling the amendment and in any event not later than 1.00 p.m. on the third day of the Synod unless the President shall direct otherwise.
 - (vi) Any such Motion which is not taken into consideration under (i) or (ii) above shall be sent to the members of the Synod with the Summonses for the next following Session.
- (e) A motion may be moved without notice by the unanimous leave of the Synod.
- 32.** Motions shall be set down in the order in which the notices were given, provided that motions relating to the same subject shall be taken consecutively and provided that motions relating to any committee or board or commission shall be taken in conjunction with the report of such committee or board or commission.
- 33.** A motion which does not propose that action be taken beyond its publication or transmission to certain persons shall not be moved unless the permission of the Synod has been previously obtained. When such a motion has been submitted the President shall put the question that leave be given to the member desiring to propose the motion to do so, and a vote shall be taken on this question without debate.
- 34.** No motion or amendment, except in Committee, shall be taken into consideration unless it be seconded; but, if seconded, it shall not be withdrawn without the leave of the Synod.

AMENDMENTS

- 35.** A question having been proposed may be amended (a) by leaving out specified words or (b) by inserting in lieu of specified words included therein other specified words, or (c) by adding or inserting specified words; provided that an amendment which is in effect a direct negative to the question may not be moved.
- All amendments shall be delivered in writing to the honorary secretaries.
- 36.** All amendments shall be put according to the priority of the words proposed to be inserted in or omitted from the clause under consideration, and, except by leave of the Synod, no amendment may be proposed in any part of a question after a later part has been amended.
- 37.** The question to be put in regard to any proposed amendment shall in all cases be whether the proposed amendment be made.
- 38.** (a) At any time before the question has been put in regard to any proposed amendment the mover thereof may with the leave of the Synod alter the terms thereof, but no other amendment to a proposed amendment shall be in order.
- (b) When an amendment has been made, the question thus amended becomes the substantive question and further amendments may then be proposed.
- 39.** Where amendments have been made, the main question as amended shall be put and where no amendments have been made the question shall be put as originally proposed.
- 40.** The Synod may order a complicated question to be divided.

ENFORCED CLOSURE OF DEBATE

- 41.** (a) At any time after a question has been proposed in the Synod, or in a Committee of the whole Synod, a member may claim to move "that the question be now put," and, unless it shall appear to the President that such a motion is an abuse of Standing Orders, it shall be put forthwith and decided without amendment or debate.

- (b) At any time after a question has been proposed in the Synod a member who considers that a vote on the question is undesirable may claim to move “that the Synod do now pass from this question to its next business,” and, unless it shall appear to the President that such a motion is an abuse of Standing Orders, it shall be put forthwith and decided without amendment or debate.
- (c) The proposer of a closure motion under (a) or (b) above may not interrupt a speaker to do so, and the President, before putting such motion, shall read the original motion (or the motion as amended as the case may be) which was being debated.
- (d) If a closure motion under (a) or (b) above is negatived this shall not of itself preclude the proposal of (i) further amendments and (ii), at the discretion of the President, further closure motions, upon the subject in debate.

MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT OF DEBATE OR OF THE SYNOD

- 42. No discussion shall be permitted on a motion for adjournment; but the question shall be put immediately from the Chair, and decided by a show of hands on such motion, or by a division, if called for.
- 43. No adjournment of a debate or of the Synod may be moved if a similar motion on the same subject has been made within the preceding hour.

VOTING PROCEDURE

- 44. (a) When any question is to be put to the Synod or to a Committee of the whole Synod, the President shall rise and announce that “The question is that ...”, thereupon reading or stating the question, and shall require that as many as are of that opinion shall say “Aye” and as many as are of the contrary opinion shall say “No”. The President shall judge from the answers to such requests and state the result, as an opinion, of the putting of the question.
 - (b) After the President shall have stated the result, as an opinion, of the putting of any question, any member may call for a vote upon that question. If a vote is not called for, the President shall forthwith declare the result to be that which had been previously expressed as an opinion.
 - (c) When a vote is called for, it shall be taken by show of hands unless 20 members request a division; and the President, before calling for a show of hands, shall afford sufficient opportunity for requests to be made for a division or for a vote by orders.
 - (d) A vote by orders shall be taken if ten members of either order or the provisions of Ch. 1 sec. 25 of the Constitution so require, and such vote shall be by show of hands unless a division is requested by the requisite number of members.
 - (e) When a division is to be taken, an interval of five minutes shall be allowed after which the doors shall be closed and the question put a second time. The President shall appoint two tellers for each side and order the House to divide; whereupon every member of the House of Representatives present, and wishing to vote, shall record an opinion by passing into the lobby with the “Ayes” or with the “Noes”. At the conclusion of the voting the tellers, having added their own votes, shall report the result to the President, who shall communicate it to the Synod.
 - (f) No question shall be deemed to be carried in the House of Representatives unless, in the case of both orders voting together, there is a majority in favour of the same of the representatives voting thereon, or in the case of the votes being taken by orders there is a majority in favour of the same of the representatives of each order voting thereon. (But see S.O. 29(c) in the case of Special Bills.)
- 45. When a division is called for, it shall be taken, notwithstanding that the time may have arrived at which, according to standing orders, the Synod ought to adjourn, or proceed to some other business.

(Note - Voting by bishops in Synod - see appendix)

COMMITTEES OF THE SYNOD

- 46. All committees of the Synod appointed at one session, and ordered to report at the following session of the Synod, shall lay their report upon the table within the first two days of the session, accompanied by such resolutions as may be necessary.

47. The Synod may order any resolutions, presented by committees upon the first day of the session, to be taken into consideration without further notice.
48. When a motion for the appointment of a committee is carried, the mover thereof shall then, or at the next meeting of the Synod, move the appointment of the members proposed to serve on the Committee, one of whom shall be named as convener. The name of the mover of the resolution for the Committee shall be included in the list of proposed members, provided that this shall not be obligatory when the resolution has been moved on behalf of the House of Bishops, the Standing Committee or the Representative Body.
49. No committee shall, without leave of the Synod, consist of more than fifteen members. Each Committee shall appoint its own chairperson.
50. Every report of a committee requiring action shall be accompanied by a resolution or resolutions for the consideration of the Synod, and the mere adoption by the Synod of a report of a committee shall not be an authority for the expenditure of money.

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

51. If any member ask for information with regard to the business of any committee, either of the Synod or of the Representative Body, it shall be the duty of the chairperson of such committee, or of some other member thereof or of the Chief Officer and Secretary of the Representative Body, if so requested, to reply: Provided that at least one clear day's notice of such question shall have been given. The terms of all such requests received by the Honorary Secretaries not less than one week before the first day of a session of the Synod shall be printed on the agenda for the said first day. Any such requests shall be answered on each day of the session at 2 p.m. or as soon thereafter as may be practicable.

ALLOCATION OF MONEY IN THE HANDS OF THE R.C.B.

52. No resolution relating to the allocation of money in the hands of the Representative Body other than (a) money to the credit of the General Purposes Fund, or (b) for the payment of the expenses of the Synod and its committees shall be put to the Synod until a report from the Representative Body on the subject shall have been first obtained.

SEPARATE CONSIDERATION BY BISHOPS OF ANY MATTER IN DEBATE

53. When the bishops shall express their wish to consider separately any matter in debate, and upon such separate consideration shall think fit to communicate to the Synod their opinion upon such matter, the communication so made shall be inserted in the printed orders of the day, and shall come before the Synod in due course for its consideration.
54. If the communication so made shall relate to a bill previously discussed in committee, and then awaiting its third reading, the publication as aforesaid of such communication shall of itself have the effect of re-committing the bill for further consideration upon the subject of such communication, but for no other purpose.

(Note - Voting by bishops in Synod - see appendix)

ORDERS OF THE DAY

55. Prior to each session of the Synod the honorary secretaries shall prepare an agenda paper which shall include (a) all items required by the Constitution or Standing Orders to be discharged by the Synod, (b) all items which the Synod at a previous session has directed to be included, and (c) all bills, reports and notices of intention to propose motions or amendments which have been received by them by the appointed date. Motions relating to any committee, board or commission shall be placed on the agenda paper in conjunction with the report of the appropriate committee, board or commission.
56. On the first day at such time as the President shall deem appropriate and in any event not later than 12 noon, the Synod shall consider a motion or motions to be presented by the honorary secretaries with the approval of the President to allocate the time available under Standing Order 3 between the items listed on the agenda paper. In allocating the Synod's time the Honorary Secretaries shall bear in mind that the first priority of the Church of Ireland is spiritual not material. On the adoption of such motion or motions (with or without amendments) business shall be conducted in accordance therewith. Such motion or motions shall include provision of not less than two hours each for consideration of the reports of the Standing Committee and the Representative Body.

57. The minutes of the proceedings of the session as certified by the honorary secretaries shall be presented to the next meeting of the Standing Committee and shall be confirmed by the signature of the chairperson.

CONSIDERATION OF THE GENERAL STATE OF THE CHURCH

58. On any day of meeting it shall be open to any member, at an hour when motions have precedence, to move that in priority to all other motions the Synod shall proceed to take into consideration the general state of the Church, its progress, prospects and needs. Such motion shall be put without discussion.
59. On such motion being passed, any subject then brought forward by any of the bishops shall have precedence of all others.
60. During such consideration neither strangers nor reporters shall be admitted to any part of the Synod hall or gallery.
61. Such consideration, if not sooner concluded, shall automatically cease at the expiration of one hour, unless prolonged by a special vote.
62. It shall not be necessary for a member bringing forward any subject to conclude with a resolution.
63. A separate record of the proceedings during such consideration shall be kept, and shall be authenticated by the signature of the President before the resumption of the business of the Synod.
64. During such consideration the discussion shall be regulated by the President, whose decision shall be final in all matters not provided for in the foregoing orders.

PETITIONS

65. A petition in writing may be made by any person or persons of the age of 18 years or upwards being a member or members of the Church of Ireland. Such petition shall be sent to the honorary secretaries of the Synod not later than one week before the day appointed for the meeting of the Synod. Any such petition shall be presented to the Synod by a member thereof and shall be referred to the Petitions Committee which shall be elected at the first session of each Synod.

APPENDIX

VOTING BY BISHOPS IN SYNOD

Procedure relative to voting by the bishops at meetings of the General Synod is in accordance with the provisions contained in the following sections of Chapter I of the Constitution:

20. If at any time the bishops express their wish to consider separately any matter in debate, the further discussion of that matter shall be postponed until the bishops shall have had the opportunity of so doing.
21. The bishops shall vote separately from the representatives, and no question shall be deemed to have been carried unless there be in its favour a majority of the bishops present, if they desire to vote, and a majority of the clerical and lay representatives present voting conjointly or by orders: Provided always, that if a question affirmed by a majority of the clerical and lay representatives present and voting, conjointly or by orders, but in favour of which there shall not be a majority of the bishops, shall be re-affirmed at the next ordinary session of the General Synod, by not less than two-thirds of the clerical and lay representatives present and voting conjointly or by orders, it shall be deemed to be carried, unless it be negatived by not less than two-thirds of the then members of the House of Bishops, the said two-thirds being present and voting, and giving their reasons in writing.
22. The bishops shall not vote until after the declaration of the votes of the clerical and lay representatives. If they desire to vote, the bishops may withdraw from the General Synod for that purpose, and may reserve the declaration of their vote until the following day.

APPOINTMENT TO THE CHAIR

Procedure relative to the appointment to the Chair at meetings of the General Synod is in accordance with the provisions contained in the following section of Chapter I of the Constitution:

- 18.** The President may exercise discretion in inviting any member of the House of Bishops to take the Chair for such period during a session as the President may determine; and the person so taking the Chair shall have, and may exercise, all the powers and functions conferred by Standing Orders on the President.

VENUE FOR THE MEETING OF THE GENERAL SYNOD

In the Standing Orders of the General Synod the expression 'Synod Hall', wherever it occurs, shall be deemed to include the room in any building in which, for the time being, the General Synod of the Church of Ireland is meeting in Ordinary or in Special Session.

**THE STANDING COMMITTEE OF THE
GENERAL SYNOD**

**The Constitution, Duties and Powers of the Standing Committee as provided by the resolution of the
General Synod dated the 9th May 1967, as amended
1972, 1974, 1975, 1980, 1989, 1992, 1996, 2011 and 2013.**

Rules

- (1) Defining the Constitution of the Standing Committee.
- (2) Prescribing its Duties and Powers.

Part I

CONSTITUTION

1. The word “diocese” shall signify any diocese or united diocese under the jurisdiction of one bishop and the words “in writing” shall include communication by email.
2. The Standing Committee shall consist of *ex officio*, elected, and co-opted members.
3. No person shall be eligible to be, or shall continue to be, a member of the Standing Committee who shall not be a member of the General Synod.
4. The *ex officio* members shall be:
 - (a) the archbishops and bishops; and
 - (b) the honorary secretaries of the General Synod, who shall act as honorary secretaries of the Standing Committee.
5. (1) The elected members shall consist of -
 - (a) one clerical and one lay member for each diocese, being in each case a member who is forty-five years or over at the date of election; and
 - (b) one clerical and one lay member for each diocese, being in each case a member who is under forty-five years of age on such date.

Provided that:

- (i) if on the 1st December immediately before any election date there are in any diocese four or fewer beneficed or licensed clergy under the age of forty-five years, and
- (ii) if the diocesan council of such diocese (or, if there is more than one diocesan council, all the diocesan councils of such diocese) represent to the Standing Committee not later than 1st March immediately before any election date that in relation to that election in respect of that diocese this sub-section should apply as if for the references therein to “forty-five years” there were substituted references to “fifty-five years”,

the Standing Committee shall have power to direct accordingly*.

* Under 2011, cap III, s5 it is provided that ‘In the year 2011 the representatives and supplementals elected under the provisions of Section 5(1) of Chapter I of the Constitution shall be elected for a period beginning on 1st January 2012 and terminating on the day preceding the first ordinary session of the General Synod 2015.’

- (2) Every elected member shall retire from office at the conclusion of business on the first day of the first ordinary session of each General Synod.
- (3) The vacancies so caused shall be filled by election by postal ballot in accordance with the following rules, the clerical representatives-elect of each diocese being entitled to nominate and to vote for the clerical members for that diocese, and the lay representatives-elect of each diocese being entitled to nominate and to vote for the lay members for that diocese:
 1. The Honorary Secretaries shall, not later than six weeks prior to the first ordinary session of each General Synod, send to each member-elect of the House of Representatives a copy of these rules.
 2. (1) Each clerical member-elect may nominate
 - (a) a clerical member-elect for the diocese who is forty-five* years or over on the first day of the forthcoming session of the General Synod; and
 - (b) a clerical member-elect for the diocese who is under forty-five* years on such date.
 - (2) Each lay member-elect may nominate
 - (a) a lay member-elect for the diocese who is forty-five* years or over on the first day of the forthcoming session of the General Synod; and
 - (b) a lay member-elect for the diocese who is under forty-five* years on such date.
 - (3) Nominations shall be in writing, shall indicate that the consent of each person being nominated has been obtained, shall be signed by the member-elect making the nomination and countersigned by the member-elect being nominated, and shall be sent to the Honorary Secretaries so as to reach them not later than three weeks before the first day of the forthcoming session of the General Synod.
 - (4) Where a member-elect nominates by email it shall only be valid where:
 - (a) the nomination and the confirmation of consent to the nomination provided for in (b) below are sent to an email address designated by the Honorary Secretaries (email nominations and confirmations sent to an Honorary Secretary's personal email address are not valid); and,
 - (b) the member-elect being nominated confirms by email (separately or forwarded with the nominator's email) that they consent to the nomination; and,
 - (c) where both the nomination and the consent are sent to the Honorary Secretaries at the designated email address so as to reach them not later than three weeks before the first day of the forthcoming session of the General Synod.
 3. (1) Where more than one person has been nominated for a particular place, the Honorary Secretaries shall prepare voting papers, setting out in alphabetical order the names of those persons who shall have been nominated, and shall fourteen days before the first day of the forthcoming session post a voting paper to each person entitled to vote for that place. The voting paper shall be accompanied by an envelope marked "voting paper" and addressed to the Honorary Secretaries.
 - (2) Where only one person has been nominated for a particular place, such person shall be declared elected.
 - (3) Where no nomination is received for a particular place, the Honorary Secretaries shall so report to the General Synod on the first day of the forthcoming session, and an election to fill such place shall be held on the second day of such session at the commencement of business.

AMENDED 2011

AMENDED 2013

* In the case of any diocese where the Standing Committee has so directed, for "forty-five" read "fifty-five".

4. The voting papers must be returned to the Honorary Secretaries so as to reach them not later than four days before the first day of the forthcoming session. The Honorary Secretaries shall thereupon count the votes and report the result to the General Synod on the first day of the forthcoming session.
 5. For each place the person who shall receive the greatest number of votes shall be declared elected. In the event of a tie, it shall be decided by lot under the direction of the Honorary Secretaries.
- (4) Any casual vacancy by death, resignation or otherwise occurring among the elected members not less than three months before the first ordinary session of each General Synod shall be filled by the clerical or lay representatives, as the case may be, of the diocese for which such vacancy shall have occurred, the election to be conducted in accordance with the following rules:
1. The honorary secretaries shall, within three weeks after they have been informed of the vacancy, send a list of eligible candidates to the clerical or lay representatives, as the case may be, of the diocese for which the vacancy shall have occurred.
 2. Each such representative may nominate one of the eligible candidates, such nomination to be in writing, indicating that the consent of the person being nominated has been obtained, and to be sent to the honorary secretaries so as to reach them not later than fourteen days following the date of issue of the list of candidates.
 3. Where only one person has been nominated for a particular place, the honorary secretaries shall report this to the next meeting of the Standing Committee, which shall declare such person to be elected.
 4. Where more than one person has been nominated to fill the vacancy, the honorary secretaries shall prepare voting papers, setting out in alphabetical order the names of those who have been nominated, and shall issue a voting paper to each of those entitled to vote with instructions to vote thereon for one person only. The instructions shall also state whether the casual vacancy has occurred amongst the members elected under section 5(1) (a) or (b). Section 3 of this Part shall be printed on the voting papers. The voting paper shall be accompanied by an envelope marked "voting paper" and addressed to the honorary secretaries.
 5. The voting papers must be returned to the honorary secretaries so as to reach them not later than fourteen days following the date of their issue.
 6. The honorary secretaries shall examine the voting papers so returned and report the result to the next meeting of the Standing Committee, which shall declare the person who shall have obtained the greatest number of votes to be elected.
 7. If the voting results in a tie for the first place between two or more persons, further voting papers, on which shall be set forth in alphabetical order the names of such persons, shall be issued by the honorary secretaries to those who are entitled to vote, with instructions to vote for one only of the persons named and to return the voting papers within fourteen days from the date of issue.
 8. The honorary secretaries shall examine and report on the second voting papers, and the Standing Committee shall declare the person who shall have obtained the greatest number of votes to be elected.
 9. If such second voting shall result in a tie between two or more persons, it shall be decided by lot under direction from the chair.
- (5) Any casual vacancy by death, resignation or otherwise occurring among the elected members less than three months before the first ordinary session of each General Synod shall not be filled pending the said session of the General Synod.
6. (1) There shall be seven co-opted members.
 - (2) Every co-opted member shall retire from office at the conclusion of business on the first day of the first ordinary session of each General Synod.

- (3) The vacancies so caused shall be filled by election by the *ex officio* and elected members by postal ballot in accordance with the following rules:
1. Prior to the first ordinary session of each General Synod the Standing Committee shall appoint the date by which nominations must be received and the date by which voting papers must be returned. On the conclusion of the session of the General Synod, the Honorary Secretaries shall inform each *ex officio* and elected member of the dates so appointed.
 2. Each *ex officio* or elected member may nominate not more than seven persons, being members of the General Synod. Such nominations shall be in writing, shall specify the diocese which each person being nominated represents in the General Synod, shall indicate that the consent of each person being nominated has been obtained, and shall be sent to the Honorary Secretaries so as to reach them not later than the appointed date.
 3. Each person who retired under section 6 (2) shall be nominated automatically unless such person has conveyed a contrary desire in writing to the Honorary Secretaries.
 4. Immediately after the close of nominations, the Honorary Secretaries shall prepare voting papers, setting out in alphabetical order the names of those persons who have been nominated under rules 2 and 3, and the dioceses which each such person represents in the General Synod. They shall post a voting paper to each *ex officio* and elected member. The voting paper shall be accompanied by (a) a statement setting out the record of attendance during the preceding triennial period of the persons nominated under rule 3 and (b) an envelope marked "voting paper" and addressed to the Honorary Secretaries.
 5. Each *ex officio* and elected member may vote for not more than seven of the persons whose names appear on the voting paper.
 6. The voting papers must be returned to the Honorary Secretaries, so as to reach them not later than the appointed date. The Honorary Secretaries shall thereupon count the votes, and the result of the count shall be attached to the agenda for the next meeting of the Standing Committee.
 7. The seven persons who shall have received the greatest number of votes shall be declared elected. In the event of a tie, it shall be decided by lot under the direction of the Honorary Secretaries.
- (4) Any casual vacancy by death, resignation, or otherwise occurring among the co-opted members shall be filled, as soon as conveniently may be, at a meeting of the Standing Committee by election by the members present.
7. Any member who shall have retired in accordance with section 5 or 6 shall be capable of being re-elected either to fill the vacancy occasioned by such retirement or any other vacancy then or at any future time occurring, for which such member shall be in other respects duly qualified.
 8. Any elected or co-opted member may, in writing addressed to the honorary secretaries, resign from the Standing Committee.

Part II

POWERS AND DUTIES

9. The Standing Committee shall exercise all such powers and duties as may from time to time be conferred upon it by the Constitution of the Church of Ireland.

(See Appendix)

10. The Standing Committee shall possess and may exercise such of the powers vested in the General Synod as shall from time to time be committed to it by the General Synod.

11. The Standing Committee may deliberate and confer upon all matters affecting the interests of the Church of Ireland and cognizable by the General Synod, may make such inquiries as it shall deem to be requisite, and may communicate with all such bodies and persons as it shall consider necessary; provided that any action taken by the Standing Committee, not already sanctioned by the General Synod, shall be submitted to the General Synod for approval at its next session.
12. The Standing Committee shall watch any legislation or proposals for legislation which may be brought forward in Oireachtas Éireann or in the Parliament of Northern Ireland or in the Parliament of the United Kingdom and which may affect the interests of the Church of Ireland, and may take such action with respect thereto as it may deem necessary.
13. (1) The Standing Committee shall act as a permanent committee on educational endowments with a view to preserving and regulating all such endowments connected with the Church of Ireland in all matters not sufficiently provided for by existing organisations; it may enter into communication with any commissioners or other body having jurisdiction to deal with educational endowments upon the management of which it may be deemed expedient that the Church of Ireland should be represented; it shall have full power in the name of the General Synod to arrange the principle and method according to which the representatives of the Church of Ireland shall be appointed or selected as members of any board or body constituted by any scheme dealing with educational endowments, provided that, as far as it rests with the Standing Committee, local trustees shall not be superseded without their own consent; and it shall have full power on behalf of the General Synod to take such action as may be deemed expedient before any court, commissioners or other body upon the occasion of the making or alteration of any such scheme.
 - (2) The Standing Committee shall take such steps as may be deemed expedient and as occasion may require in the case of the making or alteration of any scheme of educational endowment by any court or body having jurisdiction in that behalf to see that so far as possible bodies are incorporated such as would be satisfactory to the Church of Ireland for holding such educational property and endowments as it may be impracticable or undesirable to vest in the Representative Body.
 - (3) The Standing Committee shall present copies of any scheme, original or altered, in respect of which it has taken action, to the next ordinary session of the General Synod.
14. The Standing Committee shall make all necessary arrangements for meetings of the General Synod, shall defray the working expenses of the General Synod and of the Standing Committee, and shall pay such further sums as may from time to time be expressly authorised by the General Synod.
15. The Standing Committee shall, in respect of the synod hall,
 - (a) maintain the buildings, furniture and premises in good order and condition;
 - (b) pay all rents, rates, taxes, insurances and other charges necessarily or properly payable;
 - (c) make such additions and improvements as may from time to time be authorised by the General Synod;
 - (d) have power at its discretion to permit its use, in whole or in part, by other bodies, and to receive payment for same.
16. The Standing Committee is authorised to draw against the annual income of the General Purposes Fund for such extraordinary expenses as it may find to be absolutely necessary, any such expenditure to be submitted for confirmation and approval to the next ordinary session of the General Synod.
17. The Standing Committee shall pay to the Registrar of the Court of the General Synod all fees to which that Registrar shall be entitled according to the second schedule appended to the Rules of such Court.
18. The Standing Committee shall each year appoint an accountant or firm of accountants, duly qualified to audit the accounts of the Representative Body, and shall cause a copy of the report of such auditor to be submitted to the General Synod.
19. The Standing Committee is authorised to administer a Priorities Fund established in pursuance of a resolution of the General Synod, 16th May 1979; to receive contributions to such Fund; and to sanction on behalf of the General Synod payments out of such Fund. It shall report annually on such Fund, such report to include financial statements of the Fund showing receipts and payments therefrom together with the certificate of the Auditor appointed to audit the Accounts of the Representative Body.

- 20.** The Standing Committee shall, at a meeting to be held as soon as conveniently may be after each triennial election, appoint such number of persons as it shall decide, in addition to the honorary secretaries of the General Synod, to form a legal advisory committee, and may from time to time fill by election any vacancy which may occur on the said committee: provided that only persons qualified to hold the office of a diocesan chancellor shall be eligible for appointment to the legal advisory committee.
- 21.** The Standing Committee shall have power to:
- (a) determine the number of members which shall form a quorum;
 - (b) appoint sub-committees of its members and determine the quorum for each such sub-committee;
 - (c) appoint advisory committees and determine the quorum for each such committee;
 - (d) appoint delegates to represent the Church of Ireland at conferences;
 - (e) appoint and pay such officers and servants at it shall deem necessary, and obtain such other paid assistance as may from time to time be required;
 - (f) remove officers and servants, when it shall think proper to do so.
- 22.** The Standing Committee shall make to each ordinary session of the General Synod a report on its proceedings, which shall include a statement of its receipts and expenditure during the year, audited by an auditor to be appointed each year by the Representative Body.

APPENDIX**POWERS AND DUTIES CONFERRED UPON THE STANDING COMMITTEE
BY THE CONSTITUTION, 2003.****EXPERIMENTAL USE OF SERVICES**

1. Any form of Service and any Lectionary and any Catechism which a Liturgical Committee appointed by the General Synod has recommended for experimental use with a view to its permanent use being authorised by resolution and bill under the provisions of this section may be used without the enactment of a statute from such date and for such period, not exceeding fifteen years, as may be appointed by the House of Bishops and notified by it to the Standing Committee of the General Synod ... (Chapter I, section 26 (3)).

DIOCESAN BOUNDARIES

2. The power of transferring any portion of a diocese to another diocese or union of dioceses contiguous to such transferred portion may in any particular case be exercised on behalf of the General Synod by the Standing Committee, if it is requested to do so by the synod or synods of every diocese affected thereby. (Chapter I, section 31 (2)).

ARCHDEACONS

3. If the diocesan synod, with the consent of the Standing Committee of the General Synod, shall so determine, there may be two or more archdeacons in any diocese. (Chapter II section 38 (a)).

FEES FOR SEARCHES AND CERTIFICATES

4. for every search in a register of baptisms or of burials and for every single certificate of baptism or of burial the fees prescribed from time to time by the Standing Committee of the General Synod (Chapter III, section 25 (2)).

COURT OF THE GENERAL SYNOD

5. The Standing Committee of the General Synod shall forthwith after the first ordinary session of each General Synod elect ten lay judges, to constitute the list of lay judges, and shall also from time to time fill by election any vacancy or vacancies which may occur in the list of lay judges for the time being and shall report to the following session of the General Synod. (Chapter VIII, section 32).

THE CHURCH OF IRELAND PENSIONS BOARD

6. Any casual vacancy occurring by death, resignation or otherwise shall be filled by election, in the case of a member elected by the General Synod, by the Standing Committee of the General Synod (Chapter XIV, Section 16(b)).

**THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF THE
GENERAL SYNOD**

The Constitution and Duties of the Board of Education as provided by Resolution of the General Synod dated 12th May 1965, as amended 1972, 1987, 1988, 1991, 1993 and 1994.

BOARD

Para. 1.

The name of the Board shall be the Board of Education of the General Synod of the Church of Ireland.

The Board of Education of the General Synod shall consist of *ex officio* members, elected members and co-opted members. The *ex officio* members shall be the Archbishops and Bishops and the honorary secretaries of the General Synod, all for the time being. The elected members shall consist of one clerical and one lay member representing each diocese. The co-opted members shall be equal in number to the number of dioceses for the time being in addition to nine representatives of teachers of schools in connection with the Church of Ireland. The word "diocese" in this and the next two following clauses shall signify any diocese or united diocese under the jurisdiction of one Bishop. No person shall be eligible to be or shall continue to be an elected member of the Board of Education of the General Synod who shall not be a member of the General Synod. The honorary secretaries of the General Synod shall act as honorary secretaries of the Board of Education of the General Synod.

Para. 2.

The present elected members of the Board of Education of the General Synod shall retire from office at the conclusion of the triennial period for which the Diocesan Synod of the Diocese which they represent appointed them. Triennially thereafter every elected member of the Board of Education of the General Synod shall retire from office on the first day of the ordinary session of the said Diocesan Synod. The vacancies so caused shall be filled during the session in which they shall occur by the clergy or synod members in the diocesan synod of the diocese for which such vacancies shall have occurred the clergy present voting for the clerical members, and the synod members present voting for the lay members only: Provided always that in any united diocese in which there shall be no joint meeting of the diocesan synods, the election of clerical and lay members of the Board of Education of the General Synod may be carried out in such manner as may be determined by agreement between the diocesan councils.

Para. 3.

Any casual vacancy by death, resignation, or otherwise, occurring among the elected members shall be filled, as soon as conveniently may be, by the diocesan council of the diocese for which such vacancy shall have occurred, the clerical councillors present voting for a clerical member and the lay councillors present voting for a lay member only: Provided always that in any united diocese in which there shall be no joint council meeting such election may be carried out in such a manner as may be determined by agreement between the diocesan councils.

Para. 4.

The co-opted members of the Board of Education of the General Synod shall continue in office until the day prior to the November meeting of the Board of Education of the General Synod in 2003: at which meeting, and triennially thereafter, the proper number of qualified persons shall be chosen as co-opted members. Any casual vacancy by death, resignation, or otherwise, occurring among co-opted members, shall as soon as conveniently may be after the occurrence thereof, be filled at a meeting of the Board of Education of the General Synod by the members present.

Para. 5.

The Board of Education of the General Synod shall meet each year in February or March and at such other times as it may deem necessary. Special meetings shall be called by order of an Archbishop or upon a resolution of the Executive Committee.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**Para. 6.**

- (i) An Executive Committee consisting of ten members of the Board of Education of the General Synod shall be appointed annually not later than 15th March and shall hold office for one year from 1st April following its appointment. The members shall be:
 - (a) Two members of the House of Bishops, nominated by that House;
 - (b) Two of the Honorary Secretaries (one from the province of Armagh and one from the province of Dublin), to be nominated by the Honorary Secretaries;
 - (c) Three members of the Board of Education (Republic of Ireland), nominated by that Committee;
 - (d) Three members of the Board of Education (Northern Ireland), nominated by that Committee.
- (ii) The Secretary of the Board of Education of the General Synod and the Northern Ireland Education Organiser shall be entitled to attend and speak, but not to vote, at meetings of the Executive Committee.
- (iii) The Executive Committee shall have all the authority of the Board excepting:
 - (a) Final approval of the annual report to the General Synod;
 - (b) The election of the Executive Committee;
 - (c) The co-option of members to the Board of Education of the General Synod.
- (iv) The Executive Committee, in appointing sub-committees, shall have authority to appoint any member of the Board of Education of the General Synod.

Board of Education (Northern Ireland)**Para. 7.**

- (a) The Board of Education of the General Synod shall appoint a Board of Education (Northern Ireland) which shall consist of:
 - (1) The Archbishop of Armagh, the Bishops of Derry, Clogher, Kilmore, Down and Dromore and Connor.
 - (2) The representatives resident in Northern Ireland of the Dioceses of Armagh, Clogher, Derry, Down and Dromore, and Connor on the said Board of Education of the General Synod, elected as provided by Paragraphs 2 and 3: Provided that, if any of the elected members of the Board of Education of the General Synod representing any of the Dioceses of Armagh, Clogher, or Derry and Raphoe is resident in the Republic of Ireland, an additional person (being a member of the General Synod resident in Northern Ireland) may be elected in like manner as a representative of such Diocese on the Board of Education (Northern Ireland).
 - (3) The Honorary Secretaries of the General Synod for the time being resident in the province of Armagh.
- (b) The Board of Education of the General Synod shall have power to appoint to the Board of Education (Northern Ireland) not more than ten other members on the recommendation of the *ex officio* members and representatives of the above mentioned Dioceses.
- (c) The Board of Education (Northern Ireland) shall meet as often as it may deem necessary and at the time and place it shall appoint, and shall appoint two of their members to act as Honorary Secretaries.

Board of Education (Republic of Ireland)**Para. 7A.**

- (1) The Board of Education of the General Synod shall in February or March 2004 and thereafter triennially appoint from among its members a Board of Education (Republic of Ireland) which shall consist of
 - (a) the Archbishop of Dublin, who shall be chairperson of the Board of Education (Republic of Ireland);
 - (b) two other members of the House of Bishops appointed by that House whose diocese lie wholly or partly within the Republic of Ireland;
 - (c) the Honorary Secretaries of the General Synod for the time being resident in the Republic of Ireland;
 - (d) two elected members of the Board of Education of the General Synod, being resident in the Republic of Ireland;
 - (e) two representatives of primary education, of whom one shall be a teacher and one a chairperson of a board of management;
 - (f) two representatives of post-primary education, of whom one shall be a principal and one an assistant teacher;
 - (g) two representatives of third-level education;
 - (h) one representative of the Church of Ireland Youth Council;
 - (i) one representative of the Adult Education Council;
 - (j) one representative of the Sunday School Society for Ireland.
- (2) The Board of Education of the General Synod shall make appointments under (1) (d) to (j) upon receipt of nominations by the appropriate group of members of the Board of Education of the General Synod.
- (3) The Board of Education (Republic of Ireland) may at its discretion co-opt up to two additional members from among the members of the Board of Education of the General Synod resident in the Republic of Ireland.
- (4) The Board of Education (Republic of Ireland) shall elect a vice-chairperson.
- (5) The Secretary to the Board of Education of the General Synod shall act as Secretary to the Board of Education (Republic of Ireland).
- (6) The other Officers of the Board of Education of the General Synod shall be entitled to receive Board of Education (Republic of Ireland) documents and to attend and speak, but not to vote, at meetings of the Board of Education (Republic of Ireland).
- (7) The Board of Education (Republic of Ireland) shall meet as often as it may deem necessary and at the time and place which it shall appoint.

Para. 8.

It shall be the duty of the Board of Education of the General Synod to define the policy of the Church in education, both religious and secular, and, in promotion of this policy, to take such steps as may be deemed necessary to co-ordinate activities in all fields of education affecting the interests of the Church of Ireland. The Board of Education of the General Synod shall maintain close contact with government, Diocesan Boards of Education, and other educational and school authorities with a view to the most efficient and economical use of resources including funds, transport facilities and teachers.

Para. 9.

The Board of Education of the General Synod shall study any legislation or proposed legislation likely to affect the educational interests of the Church of Ireland and take such action with respect thereto as it may deem necessary. The Board of Education of the General Synod may deliberate and confer on all educational matters affecting the interests of the Church, may make such enquiries as it shall deem to be requisite and may communicate with government authorities and all such bodies and persons as it shall consider necessary: Provided that any action taken by the Board of Education of the General Synod, not already sanctioned by the General Synod, shall be submitted to the General Synod for approval at its next meeting.

Para. 10.

The Board of Education of the General Synod shall discharge such other duties and exercise such other powers as the General Synod may from time to time prescribe.

Para. 11.

The Board of Education of the General Synod shall make an annual report of its proceedings to the General Synod.

Para. 12.

The Board of Education (Northern Ireland) shall have power to represent the Board of Education of the General Synod in all educational matters affecting only Northern Ireland. The Board of Education (Northern Ireland) shall have full power in the name of the General Synod to nominate a representative of the Church of Ireland upon the Board of Governors of Stranmillis College, and to present the name of the person so nominated to the Archbishop of Armagh, who shall submit such name to the Minister of Education for Northern Ireland in accordance with the agreement dated 23rd March 1932.

The Board of Education (Republic of Ireland) shall have power to represent the Board of Education of the General Synod in all educational matters applying solely to the Republic of Ireland.

Para. 13.

The Board of Education (Northern Ireland) shall send reports of its proceedings to the Board of Education of the General Synod and shall prepare annually a Report relating to educational matters in Northern Ireland which shall be included as part of the annual Report from the Board of Education of the General Synod to the General Synod referred to in Para. 11 above.

The Board of Education (Republic of Ireland) shall send reports of its proceedings to the Board of Education of the General Synod and shall prepare annually a Report relating to educational matters in the Republic of Ireland which shall be included as part of the annual Report from the Board of Education of the General Synod to the General Synod referred to in Para. 11 above.

Para. 14.

The Boards may conduct religious education examinations and may work through Diocesan Boards of Education in matters relating to the religious education of children.

THE IRISH CHURCH ACT, 1869**SECTION 20**

- 20.** The present ecclesiastical law of Ireland, and the present articles, doctrines, rites, rules, discipline, and ordinances of the said Church, with and subject to such (if any) modification or alteration as after the first day of January, one thousand eight hundred and seventy-one, may be duly made therein according to the constitution of the said Church for the time being, shall be deemed to be binding on the members for the time being thereof in the same manner as if such members had mutually contracted and agreed to abide by and observe the same, and shall be capable of being enforced in the temporal courts in relation to any property which under and by virtue of this Act is reserved and given to or taken and enjoyed by the said Church or any members thereof, in the same manner and to the same extent as if such property had been expressly given, granted, or conveyed upon trust to be held, occupied, and enjoyed by persons who should observe and keep and be in all respects bound by the said ecclesiastical law, and the said articles, doctrines, rites, rules, discipline, and ordinances of the said Church, subject as aforesaid ...

**THE GLEBE LANDS, REPRESENTATIVE CHURCH BODY,
IRELAND, ACT, 1875**

SECTIONS TWO, THREE, FOUR, FIVE AND EIGHT

2. It shall be lawful for the said Representative Church Body to invest all monies vested in them for that purpose in the absolute purchase, or in procuring leases or fee-farm grants subject to annual or other rents, and with or without fines, of lands for the erection thereon of churches, or of glebes for the use of the clergymen of said church, or for schools or other buildings in connection with said church buildings, or for other church purposes, the lands so to be purchased not to exceed thirty acres for each glebe, or to permit such clergymen and congregations to occupy and use the same at such rent and upon such terms and conditions as the Representative Church Body shall think fit; and the Representative Church Body may execute all such deeds, grants, leases or other documents as may be necessary for the purpose aforesaid.
3. It shall be lawful for the trustees of any college, church building, schoolhouse, glebe or other real property, whether freehold or chattel, or any personal property held in trust for the said church or any congregation in connexion therewith, or any person or persons in whom the same may be vested, if they or he respectively shall think fit, to grant, assign, or otherwise vest in the said Representative Church Body, with their concurrence, such college, church building, schoolhouse, glebe or other real property, whether freehold or chattel, or any personal property, to be held by the said Representative Church Body upon such trust and subject to such rights as at the time of such grant, assignment, or vesting affected the same respectively, and the former trustees shall be thereupon released from the trusts thereof respectively.
4. It shall be lawful for any person whomsoever, entitled so to do, to give, grant, devise, bequeath, or assure, by any deed, will, or other instrument sufficient in law to create or convey an estate therein, any messuages, lands, hereditaments, or any estate therein, to the said Representative Church Body for any college, or for any church, glebe, building, or schoolhouse in connexion with any congregation or church: Provided always, that under the provisions aforesaid or otherwise not more than thirty acres shall be held in trust for any congregation, nor more than one hundred acres in trust for any college; Provided always, nevertheless, that any such gift, grant, bequest, or assurance of lands in excess of the acreage hereby authorised to be held as aforesaid shall be void as to the excess only.
5. The said Representative Church Body may from time to time sell, lease, exchange or otherwise dispose of, on such terms and in such manner as they think fit, or mortgage, any lands vested in them, and not being otherwise required for purposes of the said church or any of the colleges or congregations connected therewith, and may enter into, execute, and do all contracts, assurances and things necessary or proper in that behalf; and every such sale or lease as aforesaid may be made either absolutely for a sum in money, or for any annual rent or rents, to be made payable as the said Representative Church Body direct, or partly for a sum of money and partly for such rent or rents as aforesaid, as the said Representative Church Body think fit, and the said Representative Church Body may afterwards sell any rent so to be made payable.
8. The term "glebe" in this Act shall mean and include any house, with the piece or parcel of land attached thereto, occupied or to be occupied by any ecclesiastical person while having spiritual charge of any parish or district to which such house and land shall have heretofore belonged, or for which it shall be or shall have been granted or purchased or required as a residence for such ecclesiastical person whilst having such spiritual charge; and the term "ecclesiastical person" shall mean and include any archbishop, bishop, and clergyman of the said church.

THE TRUSTEE CHURCHES (IRELAND) ACT, 1884

1. It shall be lawful for the trustees or other governing body of any such *church or chapel as aforesaid, by instrument under their hands, to transfer to the representative church body of the said church (with its consent) all or any part of the property vested in them for the purposes of such church or chapel, and thereupon the same shall vest in and be held by the said representative body upon the trusts for the time being applicable thereto.
2. It shall be lawful for any such trustees or other governing body as aforesaid by any unanimous resolution to put an end to any trust now or for the time being subsisting with respect to such church or chapel, and to vest the same and any other property subject to such trust in the said Representative Body, or any other person or persons or body corporate, and to define the future trusts thereof, either by assimilating the same to the regulations affecting other similar property in the same diocese, or in any other manner for the benefit of the said Irish Church which may be sanctioned by the chief legislative authority for the time being of the said church.
3. No such resolution shall be valid until it shall have been accepted and recorded in such manner as the said chief legislative authority may direct; and no such resolution which affects or purports to affect any right of patronage or presentation to any such church or chapel shall be so accepted or recorded without the consent in writing of the patron or patrons thereof.
4. Every such resolution when duly accepted and recorded shall be applicable to the said church or chapel and the property and affairs thereof, and shall be valid and binding to all intents and purposes, anything in the said recited Acts of Parliament, or any of them, or in the instrument forming the trusts relating to such church or chapel or property, to the contrary notwithstanding.
5. Nothing contained in this Act shall affect any powers of revocation attached to any trust to which this Act applies, or prevent any person having such power, or having a right to take or resume the possession of any property affected by such trust, from exercising such power or right.

* The churches referred to in this Act are, as recited in the preamble thereto, those erected, prior to the passing of the Irish Church Act, 1869, either in accordance with certain private trusts, or under the provisions of the several Church Building Acts for the time being in force in that behalf.