

**GENERAL SYNOD  
OF THE  
CHURCH OF IRELAND**

**2016**

**BILLS**

**AND**

**EXPLANATORY MEMORANDA**

## INTRODUCTION

This pamphlet contains those Bills which were lodged with the Honorary Secretaries of the General Synod at least six weeks before the day appointed for the opening of the session of the Synod.

A Bill is a proposal for legislation which, if passed, will become a Statute, binding on all members of the Church of Ireland. The procedure is designed to ensure that the proposed legislation is considered carefully, both in principle and in detail, and that there is a day's interval for reflection before final approval is given.

The Bills will be taken into consideration in the order in which they appear in this pamphlet, unless the Synod directs otherwise. On the first stage, the proposer moves "That leave be given to introduce Bill no. \_\_," unless leave has been given in the previous session. This is a formal motion which is normally put to the Synod without debate, but, in certain circumstances, one speech in support of the motion and one in opposition to it may be permitted.

If that motion is passed, the Synod proceeds to the Second Reading, when the principles of the Bill are open to debate. At the conclusion of the debate on this stage, the motion "That the Bill be approved in principle and given a second reading" is put to the Synod. If this motion is passed, indicating that the Synod approved the Bill in principle, the Committee stage follows.

In the case of Special Bills leave to introduce such a Bill may be given only 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.

On the Committee stage, the Bill is considered in detail, the clauses being put to the Synod one by one for debate and decision. The clauses are taken first in their order; then, the schedules (if any); and, finally, the Preamble (the introductory matter). Amendments, notice of which was given to the Honorary Secretaries not later than the Friday before the session, will appear on the agenda paper for the first day; no other amendment may be moved on Committee stage except with the leave of the Synod. An amendment is taken on the clause to which it relates, and is disposed of before the clause itself is put to the Synod.

In the case of Special Bills, an amendment can be moved on Committee stage only if notice has been given in the previous session, except for any dealing with omissions or grammatical errors.

When the Committee stage has been concluded, the Bill is reported to the Synod, and a day – usually the third day – is fixed for the remaining stages.

On the third day the Report stage is taken. Any amendments which have been lodged with the Honorary Secretaries before the close of business on the second day will appear on the supplemental agenda paper for the third day. After these amendments have been disposed of – or immediately if there are not any amendments – the Synod proceeds to the Third Reading. At this stage, debate is confined to the provisions of the Bill, and at its conclusion the motion "That the Bill be now read a third time and passed" is put to the Synod.

A simple majority of the House of Representatives is required to pass any and every motion during the passage of a Bill through the Synod, except when

- (a) a vote by orders has been requisitioned by ten members of either order (which may be done on any motion), in which case a simple majority of each order, voting separately, is required.
- (b) a two-thirds majority of each order, voting separately, is required to pass the Second Reading and the Third Reading of a Bill which proposes a modification or alteration in the articles, doctrines, rites, rubrics or formularies of the Church.

For fuller information on Bill procedure reference should be made to Part II of Chapter I of the Constitution and to the Standing Orders. A leaflet on Bill procedure is available on application to the Honorary Secretaries.

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**Bill No. 1****EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM**

In the report of the Commission on Episcopal Ministry and Structures to the General Synod 2015, the Commission included as Appendix III a position paper on the election of bishops. A resolution was passed: “That General Synod welcomes the principles, analysis and approach to the election of bishops outlined in Appendix III to the report of the Commission on Episcopal Ministry and Structures, acknowledges that there is a need for change and requests the Commission to bring a Bill to the next General Synod to reform the procedure for electing Bishops along the lines proposed.”

Following further reflection and consultation with interested parties, including diocesan councils, the Commission presents this Bill, to give legislative effect to changes outlined in the position paper of 2015.

Arrangements for episcopal elections are contained in Part I of Chapter VI of the Constitution. The Bill substitutes a new Chapter VI, and, while some aspects of the process are unchanged, there is significant reform proposed. In summary, the main changes are:

- Either a member of the House of Bishops or a bishop of another Province of the Anglican Communion may be elected to the Archbishopric of Armagh and Primacy of All Ireland.
- Persons will be appointed as facilitators, to work with diocesan episcopal electors in preparing a diocesan profile and statement of needs for each diocese (including Armagh) as the election process begins.
- In addition to the President (normally the archbishop of the province where the see is vacant), Electoral Colleges shall have two members of the House of Bishops, one from each province, rather than three as at present.
- There will be two and potentially three meetings of the College; at the first meeting members will nominate persons for consideration and those names will be referred to a Shortlisting Committee; the College will give directions on how the Committee is to carry out its functions of considering the academic career, ministerial service, qualities of heart and mind and suitability for election as bishop and preparing a shortlist of 3-5 persons.
- At the second meeting of the College, members will consider the report of the Shortlisting Committee and may proceed to election.
- If the College does not elect at the second meeting, additional names may be nominated by members of the College at that meeting for reference to the Shortlisting Committee and a third meeting may be held, with a new shortlist for consideration.
- There is a change in the voting process in that if any person receives a simple majority of the votes of members of each order present and voting, that name is put to the College alone to determine whether it reaches the requisite two thirds majority in each order.

Amendment of Part I of Chapter VI means that renumbering of later sections of the Chapter is required. A cross-reference in Chapter IV of the Constitution has been amended to reflect this renumbering.

REV STEPHEN FARRELL  
MR ROY TOTTEN

**BILL**

**(At the Request of the General Synod)**

**To Amend, Consolidate and Replace Chapter VI of the Constitution and to Make Minor  
Consequential Amendment of Chapter IV of the Constitution**

WHEREAS it is desirable to amend the provisions relating to episcopal elections in Part I of Chapter VI of the Constitution following the recommendations of the Commission on Episcopal Ministry and Structures;

AND WHEREAS for such purposes it is necessary to replace Chapter VI of the Constitution with an amended and consolidated Chapter VI as set out in the Schedule to this Statute and to make minor consequential amendment of Chapter IV of the Constitution;

BE IT ENACTED by the Archbishops and Bishops and the Clergy and Laity of the Church of Ireland in General Synod assembled in Dún Laoghaire in the year 2016 and by the authority of the same as follows:

1. In this Statute “Chapter VI” means Chapter VI of the Constitution of the Church of Ireland.
2. For Chapter VI there shall be substituted a new Chapter VI as set out in the Schedule to this Statute.
3. This Statute shall come into effect upon enactment thereof and the provisions of Part I of Chapter VI as substituted under section 2 shall apply to episcopal elections in a see, including the See of Armagh, on or after that date: Provided that where an episcopal election process has begun but has not been concluded before that date, then that process shall continue as arranged, notwithstanding the enactment of this Statute and the substitution of a new Chapter VI.
4. In consequence of the amendments to and consolidation of Chapter VI, Chapter IV of the Constitution of the Church of Ireland shall be amended as follows:

In section 13(2), for the words “and the liability under section 35 of Chapter VI of the Constitution in future” there shall be substituted the words “and the liability under section 38 of Chapter VI of the Constitution in future”.

## Schedule

### CHAPTER VI

#### ARCHBISHOPS AND BISHOPS

##### Part I

#### EPISCOPAL ELECTIONS

##### **Election to a vacant See**

1. Throughout Part I of this Chapter the word “diocese” shall signify a single diocese or united dioceses under the jurisdiction of one bishop and the word “synod” shall signify the synod of a single diocese or the joint synods of united dioceses.
2. (1) Whenever the See of Armagh shall become vacant or shall be about to become vacant under the provisions of Part IV of this Chapter, the House of Bishops shall appoint a person to assist the diocesan episcopal electors elected under the provisions of section 5(1) below (including those filling vacancies therein under the provisions of section 7(3) below) in preparing a diocesan profile and statement of needs.  
  
(2) The diocesan profile and statement of needs so prepared shall be submitted to the House of Bishops as soon as practicable after the occurrence of the vacancy in the See of Armagh.  
  
(3) As soon as may be convenient thereafter, the House of Bishops shall meet and shall by a majority of the votes of those present and voting elect one of its members or a bishop of another Province of the Anglican Communion to the Archbishopric of Armagh and Primacy of All Ireland. The House of Bishops shall determine the date, within a period of three months from the date of the election, upon which such translation shall take effect.
3. Whenever any see, other than the See of Armagh, shall become vacant or shall be about to become vacant under the provisions of Part IV of this Chapter, an Episcopal Electoral College shall be constituted for the purpose of the election of an Archbishop of Dublin or of a bishop, as the case may be.
4. An Episcopal Electoral College shall consist of:
  - (a) the President of the College, who shall be the archbishop of the province which includes the diocese of which the see is vacant or, if the archiepiscopal see be vacant or the archbishop thereof be unable to act, the bishop next in order of precedence in the province who may be able to act: Provided that for the purpose of the election of an Archbishop of Dublin the President of the College shall be the Archbishop of Armagh or, if that Archbishop be unable to act, a bishop nominated by the House of Bishops;
  - (b) two members of the House of Bishops nominated by that House, being one bishop from each province;
  - (c) twelve diocesan clerical and twelve diocesan lay episcopal electors from the diocese of which the see is vacant;
  - (d) (i) when the diocese of which the see is vacant is situated in the Province of Armagh, and subject to paragraph (e) below, two diocesan clerical and two diocesan lay episcopal electors from each of the other dioceses in the Province;  
  
(ii) when the diocese of which the see is vacant is situated in the Province of Dublin, three diocesan clerical and three diocesan lay episcopal electors from each of the other dioceses in the Province;
  - (e) in the case of an election in either province to fill a vacancy in a see due to the archbishop or bishop thereof having been elected to the Archbishopric of Armagh, six diocesan clerical and six diocesan lay episcopal electors from the Diocese of Armagh.

### **Diocesan Episcopal Electors**

5. (1) The diocesan synod of Armagh shall, in the year 2017 and triennially thereafter at the first session of each successive synod, elect from among its members, in the manner hereinafter provided, six clerical and six lay episcopal electors and such number of supplemental clerical and lay episcopal electors as it may determine.
  - (2) The synod of every other diocese shall, in the year 2017 and triennially thereafter at the first session of each successive synod, elect from among its members, in the manner hereinafter provided, twelve clerical and twelve lay episcopal electors and such number of supplemental clerical and lay episcopal electors as it may determine.
  - (3) The episcopal electors and supplemental episcopal electors so elected by each synod shall be the episcopal electors and supplemental episcopal electors of the said dioceses until the first day of the first session of the succeeding synods as elected triennially for each such diocese respectively: Provided that the episcopal electors and supplemental episcopal electors in office at the time of a see becoming vacant, or one month prior to the see becoming vacant in accordance with the provisions of Part IV of this Chapter, whichever be the earlier, shall be the episcopal electors and supplemental episcopal electors respectively for the purpose of the election of a bishop to fill the vacant see.
6. (1) Subject to the provisions of sub-section (4) of this section, the election of episcopal electors and supplemental episcopal electors in each synod shall be by the members thereof by voting papers. The voting shall be by orders, the clerical members voting for clerical episcopal electors and the lay members voting for lay episcopal electors.
  - (2) Every case of equality of votes shall be determined by lot.
  - (3) Additional supplemental episcopal electors, if required, may be elected at any meeting of the synod of a diocese.
  - (4) In any united diocese in which there shall be no joint meeting of the diocesan synods the election of clerical and lay episcopal electors may be carried out (i) in such manner as may be determined by agreement between the diocesan councils, or (ii) by a joint committee appointed by the diocesan councils over which the bishop shall preside, and in which the bishop shall in the case of equality of votes have a casting vote.
7. (1) The names of the persons elected to be clerical episcopal electors, supplemental clerical episcopal electors, lay episcopal electors and supplemental lay episcopal electors respectively for each diocese shall be placed on separate lists in order of the number of votes received by them respectively. In the event of two or more persons receiving an equality of votes, the order in which they shall be placed on lists shall be determined by lot.
  - (2) The lists of episcopal electors and supplemental episcopal electors for each diocese shall be sent immediately after each election to the archbishop of each province by the secretary or secretaries of the synod, who shall also inform them from time to time of any amendments to the lists which may be necessary.
  - (3) Whenever any episcopal elector shall die or resign or be, in the opinion of the archbishop of the province which includes the diocese for which such person is an episcopal elector, permanently unwilling or unable to act or shall cease to be a member of the synod by which such person was elected or shall permanently cease to be resident in Ireland or, being a clerical episcopal elector, shall cease to be one of the beneficed or licensed clergy of the diocese for which such person was elected, that person's place on the list shall become vacant. A vacancy shall be filled by the clerical or lay episcopal elector, if any, whose name stands next highest in order on the relevant list of episcopal electors or, where the circumstances so require, the supplemental clerical or lay episcopal elector whose name stands highest on the relevant list of supplemental episcopal electors.
  - (4) For the avoidance of doubt, the provisions of subsection (3) above apply should a person's place on the list become vacant between the first meeting of the Electoral College and any subsequent meeting of the same College. Any clerical or lay episcopal elector filling a vacancy that occurs between the first meeting of the College and any subsequent meeting of the same College shall be summoned to attend the subsequent meeting or meetings of the same College.



### **Procedure for Convening and Holding an Episcopal Electoral College**

8. (1) Whenever any see, other than the See of Armagh, shall become vacant, or shall be about to become vacant in accordance with the provisions of Part IV of this Chapter, the President of the Electoral College shall, as soon as may be convenient:
- (a) appoint the Registrar of the Province in which the College is to meet, or other fit person, to act as secretary of the College;
  - (b) appoint a person to assist the diocesan episcopal electors elected under the provisions of section 5(2) above from the diocese of which the see is vacant or about to become vacant (including those filling vacancies therein under the provisions of section 7(3) above) to prepare a diocesan profile and statement of needs for submission to the first meeting of the College;
  - (c) notify the House of Bishops of the intention to convene and hold meetings of the College and request the House of Bishops to nominate one bishop from the same province as the President and one bishop from the other province to be episcopal electors of such College;
  - (d) appoint the place, date and time for the first meeting of the College to take place without undue delay and in any case within four months of the see becoming vacant;
  - (e) appoint the place, date and time for the second meeting of the College to take place within three months of the first meeting of the College;
  - (f) appoint the place, date and time for a third meeting of the College to take place within one month of the second meeting of the College in the event that the College requests it under the provisions of section 15(1) below;
  - (g) summon to attend the meetings of the College as episcopal electors:
    - (i) the two bishops nominated by the House of Bishops;
    - (ii) twelve diocesan clerical and twelve diocesan lay episcopal electors from the diocese of which the see is vacant;
    - (iii) when the diocese of which the see is vacant is situated in the Province of Armagh, and subject to (iv) below, the first two diocesan clerical and the first two diocesan lay episcopal electors on the respective lists of each of the other dioceses of the Province; or  
 when the diocese of which the see is vacant is situated in the Province of Dublin, the first three diocesan clerical and the first three diocesan lay episcopal electors on the respective lists of each of the other dioceses of the Province;
    - (iv) in the case of an election in either province to fill a vacancy in a see due to the archbishop or bishop thereof having been elected to the Archbishopric of Armagh, six diocesan clerical and six diocesan lay episcopal electors from the Diocese of Armagh:  
 Provided however that if any such diocesan episcopal elector shall, in the opinion of the President of the College, be unable or unwilling to act, the clerical or lay episcopal elector, if any, whose name stands next highest in order on the relevant list of episcopal electors or, where the circumstances so require, the supplemental clerical or lay episcopal elector whose name stands highest in order on the relevant list of supplemental episcopal electors shall be summoned in place of the diocesan episcopal elector so unable or unwilling to act.
- (2) When a see, other than the See of Armagh, is about to become vacant under the provisions of Part IV of this Chapter, the President of the College for the see may fulfil the requirements of sub-section (1) of this section before the see becomes vacant in order that the College may meet as soon as may be convenient after the vacancy occurs.
- (3) The President of the College, together with the two nominees of the House of Bishops and the diocesan episcopal electors summoned as aforesaid, shall be the members and episcopal electors of the said College.

### **Episcopal Electoral College Meetings and Procedure**

9. On each day appointed for the meetings of the Electoral College, members shall assemble in a cathedral or church, as determined by the President, for a celebration of the Holy Communion. On the first such occasion, at the place of the sermon the President, or a bishop or priest appointed by the President, shall give a charge to the College declaring the office and work of a bishop in the Church of God and the qualities of heart and mind required in those who are called to that sacred office.
10. (1) No person may be present at a meeting of the Electoral College except the members of the College, the secretary of the College, and a legal assessor nominated by the President.
- (2) Before any member of a College shall do any act therein such member shall sign a declaration in the words following: I, A.B., bearing in mind how important it is that the sacred office of a bishop should not be conferred unworthily, do solemnly declare that I shall record my votes at this election for such person or persons only as I, in my conscience, believe to be of such learning and soundness in the faith, and of such virtuous and godly character, as to be fitted and qualified for the holy office of bishop. I solemnly declare that I shall not act herein through favour or affection, but in singleness of heart, for the glory of God, the good of his Church, and the welfare of his people; and I further solemnly declare that I shall not disclose to any person whatsoever any information regarding the election other than that which may be agreed upon by the Electoral College.
- (3) No information regarding proceedings of the College (including any voting therein) shall be given to the press, radio, television or social media or disclosed to any person save to the House of Bishops, except such information as may be agreed upon by the College.
11. At the first meeting of the Electoral College, the College shall:
- (a) consider the diocesan profile and statement of needs submitted by the episcopal electors from the vacant see;
- (b) nominate bishops or priests of not less than thirty years of age to be considered by a Shortlisting Committee;
- (c) elect from its members a Shortlisting Committee of eight members, consisting of equal numbers of clergy and laity and equal numbers from the vacant see and from outside the vacant see together with such reserve members as it may deem necessary; Provided however that no person nominated for consideration shall be a member of the Shortlisting Committee unless he or she rejects their own nomination;
- (d) With the assent of the President, agree directions on the procedure to be followed by the Shortlisting Committee.
12. Between the first and second meetings of the Electoral College, the Shortlisting Committee shall consider the academic career, ministerial service, qualities of heart and mind and suitability for election as bishop by this College of persons nominated by the College and produce a shortlist of at least three and not more than five persons for the College to consider at its second meeting.
13. At the second meeting the Electoral College shall consider a written report of the Shortlisting Committee and vote on the names of those shortlisted: Provided that any member of the College who is shortlisted shall withdraw from the meeting.
14. (1) All voting at the Electoral College shall be by orders, the bishops if they wish to vote voting as members of the clerical order. The President shall be entitled to vote in the same way as other members of the College. The voting shall be conducted in such manner as the President may determine, and may be repeated once or more often. Informal discussion may likewise precede the taking of any repeated vote. The President's decision regarding any dispute as to the voting shall be final. The President may adjourn the meeting from time to time.
- (2) If, on the taking of any vote, any person shall receive two-thirds of the votes of the members of each order present and voting, that person shall thereupon be declared elected.

- (3) If, on the taking of any vote, any person shall receive a simple majority of the votes of the members of each order present and voting, the name of that person shall be put to the College alone, to determine whether it reaches the requisite two thirds majority of each order present and voting and if it does so, that person shall thereupon be declared elected.
- 15.** (1) If after the taking of several votes no person has received the requisite majority, the Electoral College may by a simple majority pass a resolution that a third meeting of the College should take place on the date appointed by the President.
- (2) The President shall invite members of the College to nominate additional bishops or priests of not less than thirty years of age for the consideration of the Shortlisting Committee.
- (3) Between the second and third meetings of the College the Shortlisting Committee shall produce a new shortlist of at least two and not more than five persons for consideration by the College at the third meeting along with the persons shortlisted for the second meeting.
- (4) Alternatively, the College may by a simple majority pass a resolution that no further vote be taken, and the appointment shall pass to the House of Bishops.
- 16.** (1) On the date appointed for a third meeting of the Electoral College, the College shall consider the written report of the Shortlisting Committee and vote on the names of those shortlisted: Provided that any member of the College who is shortlisted shall withdraw from the meeting.
- (2) If at a third meeting after several votes have been taken no person has received the requisite majority, the College may by a simple majority pass a resolution that no further vote be taken, and the appointment shall pass to the House of Bishops.
- 17.** (1) The bishop or priest elected as aforesaid by the Electoral College shall immediately thereafter be notified of the fact by the President or secretary of the College, and upon such person's acceptance that person's name shall be transmitted to the House of Bishops which, if satisfied of that person's fitness to be duly ordained and consecrated, shall confirm the election and shall take the necessary steps to give effect to such election, including in the case of a translation the determination of a date, within a period of three months from the date of election by the College, upon which such translation shall take effect.
- (2) If the bishop or priest elected as aforesaid shall decline, the President shall again fulfil the requirements of the procedure for convening and holding an Episcopal Electoral College under section 8 of this Chapter: Provided that section 8(1)(b) (appointment of a person to assist and preparation of a diocesan profile and statement of needs) shall not apply and Provided also that the time limits specified in section 8(1)(d), (e) and (f) shall not apply and the President shall set dates for meetings to take place as soon as may be practicable.
- (3) The first meeting of the College convened and held under subsection (2) of this section shall be considered the first meeting of the College for the purposes of this Chapter.
- 18.** Failure to summon any episcopal elector to a meeting or the absence of any episcopal elector so summoned as aforesaid shall not preclude the Electoral College from proceeding to election, but, if more than one diocese in the province in which the see is vacant be entirely unrepresented at the meeting, the meeting shall be adjourned to such date and time as the President shall decide, of which written notice shall be sent to each episcopal elector, and such adjourned meeting shall proceed to an election.
- 19.** A grant towards the expenses of each episcopal elector who shall have attended a meeting of the Electoral College shall be paid out of the General Purposes Fund of the General Synod in accordance with a scale to be fixed by the Standing Committee.
- 20.** The Archbishops of Armagh and Dublin may jointly from time to time make, rescind and vary regulations for such matters relating to the convening, holding and procedure of Electoral Colleges as are not provided for herein.

### **Election by House of Bishops**

- 21.** Whenever the appointment of an Archbishop of Dublin or a bishop shall have passed to the House of Bishops under the foregoing provisions, the House of Bishops shall, as soon as conveniently may be, by a majority of the votes of the archbishops and bishops present and voting at a meeting duly convened for the purpose, elect such person, being a bishop or priest of not less than thirty years of age, as it may think fit, to the vacant see. In the case of a translation, the House of Bishops shall determine the date, within a period of three months from the date of the election, upon which such translation shall take effect. At such meeting there shall be laid before the House of Bishops a record of the proceedings of the Electoral College.

## **Part II**

### **GUARDIANSHIP OF THE SPIRITUALITIES OF A SEE DURING A VACANCY**

- 22.** If and so often as a vacancy shall occur in the Archbishopric of Armagh the guardianship of the spiritualities of the Diocese of Armagh shall, so far as no other provision has been made therefor by the Constitution, devolve upon the Dean and Chapter of the cathedral church of St Patrick, Armagh, who shall forthwith proceed to elect an official administrator to carry out and execute the duties of the office.
- 23.** If and so often as a vacancy shall occur in the Archbishopric of Dublin, the guardianship of the spiritualities of the United Dioceses of Dublin and Glendalough shall, so far as no other provision has been made therefor by the Constitution, devolve upon the Dean and Chapter of the cathedral of the Holy Trinity (commonly called Christ Church), Dublin, who shall forthwith proceed to elect an official administrator to carry out and execute the duties of the office.
- 24.** (1) The guardianship of the spiritualities of a vacant see shall devolve on the archbishop of the province in which the said see is situated.
- (2) During a vacancy in the Archbishopric of a province, the guardianship of the spiritualities of a vacant diocese in the province shall devolve on the Chapter of such diocese or, in the case of a united diocese, on the Chapters of the several dioceses of which it is composed; and the Chapter or Chapters jointly shall elect an official administrator to carry out and execute the duties of the office.
- 25.** Each of the said official administrators shall have power to direct the summoning of Boards of Nomination to fill any cures which may be or may become vacant, to accept returns from Boards of Nomination, to receive the nomination of a member of the clergy to any vacant cure, to institute or decline to institute any nominated member of the clergy, to appoint curates in charge for any vacant cures, to grant licences to curates assistant, and generally to exercise the powers of the bishop in regard to the provisions of Chapter IV, save and except that no such official administrator shall exercise any right of patronage or appointment to any dignity or office in any cathedral or to any cure of souls which may accrue to the see by lapse or otherwise. The official administrator shall have power to suspend any member of the clergy who may have been convicted of any criminal offence by any of the temporal courts of the state, and also such powers of granting dispensations, licences, certificates for superannuation, and similar matters as may lawfully be exercised by any person not in episcopal orders.

## **Part III**

### **TEMPORARY DISCHARGE BY ANOTHER BISHOP OF DUTIES OF A BISHOP OR ARCHBISHOP**

- 26.** It shall be lawful for an archbishop or bishop, with the consent, in the case of a bishop, of the archbishop of the province, to arrange with another bishop of the Church of Ireland to discharge the duties of the see for a period not exceeding twelve months, and such bishop shall, for that time, have the authority and jurisdiction of the bishop of the see.

## Part IV

## RESIGNATION OF ARCHBISHOP OR BISHOP

- 27.** In this Part “normal retirement age” and “episcopal service” shall have the meanings given to them by section 1 of Chapter XIV.
- 28.** (1) An archbishop or bishop who has reached the age of 65 years may resign.
- (2) Notice of resignation shall be given in the case of an archbishop to the House of Bishops or in the case of a bishop to the archbishop of the Province, and such notice shall specify the date on which it is to take effect which date shall not be less than two, nor more than four, months after the date of such notice.
- (3) Notice of resignation may be given before reaching the age of 65 years, to take effect upon reaching it.
- 29.** (1) An archbishop or bishop who has not reached the normal retirement age, but who desires to resign by reason of ill health and to receive an ill health early retirement pension, shall send a letter of request in the case of an archbishop to the House of Bishops or in the case of a bishop to the archbishop of the province, who shall communicate it to the House of Bishops.
- (2) Every such letter of request shall be accompanied by a certificate from the Medical Panel, appointed in accordance with section 32 of Chapter XIV, that the applicant is permanently disabled by infirmity from the efficient discharge of episcopal duties.
- (3) The House of Bishops, having considered the letter of request and the certificate from the Medical Panel, shall determine whether the resignation should be accepted and, if so, shall appoint a date on which it shall take effect.
- 30.** (1) An archbishop or bishop who has reached the age of 60 years but has not reached the normal retirement age, and who desires to resign for reasons other than ill health and to receive a pension, shall send a letter of request in the case of an archbishop to the House of Bishops or in the case of a bishop to the archbishop of the province.
- (2) The House of Bishops or the archbishop (as the case may be) shall determine whether the resignation should be accepted and, if so, shall appoint a date on which it shall take effect.
- 31.** (1) An archbishop or bishop who has not reached the normal retirement age, but who desires to resign without receiving a pension, shall send a letter of request in the case of an archbishop to the House of Bishops or in the case of a bishop to the archbishop of the province.
- (2) The House of Bishops or the archbishop (as the case may be) shall determine whether the resignation should be accepted and, if so, shall appoint a date on which it shall take effect.
- 32.** The House of Bishops or the archbishop (as the case may be) shall
- (a) notify the applicant of the determination reached under section 29(3), section 30(2) or section 31(2);
- (b) notify the Representative Body and the Church of Ireland Pensions Board of the receipt of a notice of resignation under section 28(2) and of a determination to accept a resignation under section 29(3), section 30(2) or section 31(2).
- 33.** Each archbishop and bishop shall be deemed to have resigned on the day on which such archbishop or bishop would have been deemed to have resigned if the provisions of section 36 of Chapter IV had applied, and such resignation shall be deemed to have been accepted forthwith: Provided always that section 36(3) of Chapter IV shall apply *mutatis mutandis* in the case of any such archbishop or bishop.

- 34.** If at any time it appears to the House of Bishops, upon such evidence as it may deem sufficient, that any archbishop or bishop is incapacitated by permanent mental infirmity from the due performance of archiepiscopal or episcopal duties, and also from tendering a valid resignation, the House of Bishops may certify the same to the authority empowered to convene the Court of the General Synod, and the said Court shall thereupon be convened in manner prescribed by the Constitution; and if upon due enquiry and such evidence as the Court may deem sufficient and upon such notice to the archbishop or bishop aforesaid as the Court may deem just the Court shall by judgment pronounce such archbishop or bishop to be incapacitated as aforesaid, the judgment of the Court so pronounced shall have the same effect, and the same proceedings may be taken thereon, for the purpose of vacating the see and for the purpose of providing a pension for such archbishop or bishop as if such archbishop or bishop had given notice of resignation under section 28(2) or sent a letter of request under section 29(1).

#### Part V

#### FINANCING OF THE EPISCOPACY

- 35.** From 1st January 1984 each diocese shall contribute towards the cost of the episcopacy of the Church of Ireland at a rate to be determined by the Representative Body not later than 30th November in 1983 and each year thereafter: Provided that a rate determined for any one year being more than twenty five *per centum* in excess of the rate for the year immediately preceding shall become operative only on the passing of an affirmative resolution of the General Synod.
- 36.** (1) The contributions from each diocese shall be the sum of the number of cures, including vacant cures, in such diocese at the preceding 30th June (as agreed between the Representative Body and the diocesan council) multiplied by the minimum approved stipend of an incumbent as fixed from time to time by the General Synod in accordance with section 51(1) of Chapter IV and operative on 1st January of the year to which the contribution relates multiplied by a rate *per centum* determined by the Representative Body in accordance with section 35 of this Chapter.
- (2) In the case of a diocese, part of which is situated in the Republic of Ireland and part of which is situated in Northern Ireland, account shall be taken of the differing figures for minimum approved stipend fixed in respect of incumbents resident in each jurisdiction, and the contributions shall be sub-divided accordingly.
- (3) In the event of disagreement between the Representative Body and the diocesan council as to the number of cures in any diocese, such shall be determined by the decision of the archbishop of the province in which such diocese is situated.
- 37.** Contributions shall be payable quarterly in arrears by each diocesan council on 31st March, 30th June, 30th September and 31st December each year or in such other manner as the Representative Body may approve.
- 38.** Each diocesan council shall be at liberty to recover in whole or in part the contribution so charged by direct assessment on the individual parishes, unions or groups of parishes, or churches, within its jurisdiction in whatever manner it deems appropriate.
- 39.** For the purposes of this Part the term “cure” shall have the same general meaning as contained in Chapter IV, and shall include:
- (a) A parish, union or group of parishes under the care of an incumbent appointed under Part III of Chapter IV;
- (b) A parish, union or group of parishes under the care of a bishop’s curate appointed under section 42 of Chapter IV;
- (c) A parish, union or group of parishes assigned to the immediate care of a vicar appointed under Part X of Chapter IV;

- (d) A parish, union or group of parishes in respect of which a certificate has been issued by the Representative Body under section 52 of Chapter IV;
  - (e) A “light-duty parish” as defined by section 62 of Chapter IV;
  - (f) A cathedral which is non-parochial.
- 40.** The Representative Body shall at the ordinary session of the General Synod in 2003 and quinquennially thereafter, and may at any other session, present a report on the implementation of this Part, specifying any amendment which may appear to be necessary or expedient.

## Part VI

### GENERAL PROVISIONS

- 41.** During a vacancy in any see the expenses properly incurred in carrying out any duties normally performed by the bishop of the diocese may be paid by the Representative Body out of the income of the Episcopal Endowment Fund accruing during the vacancy.
- 42.** Rules for carrying the provisions of this Chapter into effect may be framed from time to time in manner provided by Chapter VIII, section 11.

**Bill No. 2****EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM**

By Statute Chapter II of 2012, the General Synod established the Commission on Episcopal Ministry and Structures to prepare proposals for the provision of episcopal ministry and structures adequate for the needs, and compatible with the resources, of the Church of Ireland. The Statute Chapter II of 2014 extended the time available for the Commission to do its work until the termination of the ordinary meeting of the General Synod in 2016.

Section 5 of the 2012 Statute stated that, “For the purposes of the final scheme presented to the General Synod, as provided by this Statute, there shall be vested in the General Synod as regards all dioceses affected by the scheme, all the powers and functions of the respective diocesan synods concerned under section 31 of Chapter I of the Constitution.”

Having consulted widely and considered all aspects of its remit carefully and prayerfully, the Commission now proposes this Bill providing for alterations in the territorial arrangements of provinces and dioceses and for the establishment of an Implementation Committee to assist in bringing the new arrangements into operation. This is the final scheme presented to the General Synod by the Commission.

The Bill proposes changes in provincial and diocesan boundaries, summarised as follows:

- There will be eleven dioceses rather than twelve, six in the Province of Armagh and five in the Province of Dublin.
- In accordance with section 31 of Chapter I of the Constitution, the Archbishops of Armagh and Dublin have given their consent to the alterations in provinces: the transfer of the Dioceses of Tuam and Killala from the Province of Armagh to the Province of Dublin.
- The Dioceses of Tuam and Killala (without Achonry) will be united with the Diocese of Limerick and Killaloe to form a new diocese in the West, under one bishop. This union will come into effect when either the See of Tuam, Killala and Achonry or the See of Limerick and Killaloe is or becomes vacant after the end of the meeting of the General Synod in 2017, with the remaining Bishop assuming episcopal duties for the newly united dioceses at that date. This diocese will be in the Province of Dublin.
- At the same date, the Diocese of Achonry will be separated from the United Dioceses of Tuam, Killala and Achonry (as it now is) and will be joined with the United Dioceses of Kilmore, Elphin and Ardagh. This diocese will be in the Province of Armagh (as are its constituent parts at present).
- Six cures – Leixlip and Lucan; Celbridge and Straffan with Newcastle-Lyons; Blessington and Manor Kilbride with Ballymore-Eustace and Hollywood; Donoughmore and Donard with Dunlavin; Narraghmore and Timolin with Castledermot and Kinneigh; and Athy, Kilberry and Fontstown with Kilkea) – will be separated from the Diocese of Glendalough (Dublin and Glendalough) and join the Diocese of Kildare (Meath and Kildare). This will come into effect on or after the end of the meeting of the General Synod in 2017, on a date to be determined.



MRS ETHNE HARKNESS  
MR EDWARD HARDY

**BILL**

**(At the request of the General Synod)**

**To Alter the Existing Territorial Arrangements of the Two Provinces Under the Government of their Respective Archbishops and of the Several Dioceses Under the Government of their Respective Bishops and for Associated Matters**

WHEREAS by Statute of the General Synod, Chapter II of 2012, the Commission on Episcopal Ministry and Structures was appointed to prepare proposals on episcopal ministry and structures for submission to the General Synod;

AND WHEREAS for the purposes of the final scheme presented to the General Synod, as provided by section 5 of that Statute, there are vested in the General Synod as regards all dioceses affected by the scheme, all the powers and functions of the respective diocesan synods concerned under section 31 of Chapter I of the Constitution of the Church of Ireland;

AND WHEREAS the said final scheme comprises the arrangements and associated matters contained herein;

AND WHEREAS the Archbishop of Armagh and the Archbishop of Dublin have consented to the transfer of the dioceses of Tuam and Killala from the Province of Armagh to the Province of Dublin;

BE IT ENACTED by the Archbishops and Bishops and the Clergy and Laity of the Church of Ireland, in General Synod assembled in Dún Laoghaire in the year 2016, and by the authority of the same, as follows:-

**PART 1**

1. In this Statute, “the effective date” shall mean such date after the termination of the ordinary meeting of the General Synod held in the year 2017 upon which a vacancy shall exist in either the See of Tuam, Killala and Achonry or the See of Limerick and Killaloe.
2. On the effective date, the Diocese of Achonry shall be separated from the United Dioceses of Tuam, Killala and Achonry and joined with the United Dioceses of Kilmore, Elphin and Ardagh, under one Bishop.
3. On the effective date, the Dioceses of Tuam and Killala shall be transferred from the Province of Armagh to the Province of Dublin.
4. (1) On the effective date, the Dioceses of Tuam and Killala shall be united with the United Dioceses of Limerick, Ardfert, Aghadoe, Killaloe, Kilfenora, Clonfert, Kilmacduagh and Emly under one Bishop who shall be the remaining Bishop of the two former united dioceses, that is to say, the Diocese of Limerick and Killaloe and the Diocese of Tuam, Killala and Achonry.  
(2) Subject to any agreement to the contrary by the diocesan synod or synods concerned, the See constituted under subsection (1) of this section shall be generally known as “Tuam, Limerick and Killaloe”.
5. (1) If the See of Limerick and Killaloe shall become vacant before the termination of the ordinary meeting of the General Synod held in 2017, the Archbishop of Dublin shall make such arrangements as he may deem necessary for the supervision and pastoral care of the vacant dioceses until the succession of the Bishop of Tuam, Killala and Achonry on the effective date in accordance with section

4 of this Statute, and no episcopal election for the See of Limerick and Killaloe shall be held pending that succession.

(2) If the See of Tuam, Killala and Achonry shall become vacant before the termination of the ordinary meeting of the General Synod held in 2017, the Archbishop of Armagh shall make such arrangements as he may deem necessary for the supervision and pastoral care of the vacant dioceses until the succession of the Bishop of Limerick and Killaloe on the effective date in accordance with section 4 of this Statute, and no episcopal election for the See of Tuam, Killala and Achonry shall be held pending that succession.

6. (1) On a date to be determined in accordance with subsection (2) of this section, the following parishes and cures in the Diocese of Glendalough shall be transferred from that Diocese to the Diocese of Kildare: Leixlip and Lucan; Celbridge and Straffan with Newcastle-Lyons; Blessington and Manor Kilbride with Ballymore-Eustace and Hollywood; Donoughmore and Donard with Dunlavin; Narraghmore and Timolin with Castledermot and Kinneigh; and Athy, Kilberry and Fontstown with Kilkea.
- (2) The date of transfer for the parishes and cures named in subsection (1) of this section shall be such date after the termination of the ordinary meeting of the General Synod held in 2017 as may be determined by the Standing Committee, having consulted with the Archbishop of Dublin and Glendalough and the Bishop of Meath and Kildare.
7. (1) An Implementation Committee (“the Committee”) shall be established to provide assistance and advice to the Standing Committee and to Bishops, diocesan synods and diocesan councils affected by the provisions of this Statute.
- (2) The Standing Committee shall draw up terms of reference and appoint the members of the Committee and the Honorary Secretaries of the General Synod shall convene the first meeting of the Committee as soon as may be practicable.
- (3) Casual vacancies on the Committee shall be filled by the Standing Committee.
- (4) The Committee shall report to the ordinary meeting of the General Synod held in 2017 and at such meeting the General Synod may reappoint, reconstitute or dissolve the Committee.

## PART 2

8. From the effective date, each Province of the Church shall contain the following dioceses or groups of dioceses and each such diocese or group of dioceses shall be united under the jurisdiction of a single bishop:

### *Province of Armagh*

Armagh  
 Clogher  
 Derry and Raphoe  
 Down and Dromore  
 Connor  
 Kilmore, Elphin, Ardagh and Achonry.

### *Province of Dublin*

Dublin and Glendalough  
 Meath and Kildare  
 Cashel, Waterford, Lismore, Ossory, Ferns and Leighlin  
 Cork, Cloyne and Ross  
 Tuam, Killala, Limerick, Ardfert, Aghadoe, Killaloe, Kilfenora, Clonfert, Kilmacduagh, and Emly.

**Bill No. 3****EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM**

The role of Select Vestries is outlined in Chapter III of the Constitution of the Church of Ireland and, on the basis of the responsibilities identified there, the charities regulators in both jurisdictions concluded that where a parish is registered as a charity, the members of the select vestry of a parish are the charitable trustees for the purposes of charities legislation. The role of the Select Vestry at the parish level is a key component of the governance of the Church of Ireland, bringing together clergy and laity in a shared decision-making body. The Select Vestry performs a range of governance functions including: providing support for Christian ministry and mission; acting as stewards of financial activity; acting as employer; and maintaining parish buildings and infrastructure.

The joint Representative Body/Standing Committee Working Group dealing with issues arising as a result of the new Charities legislation received several queries on the subject of trustee responsibilities of Select Vestry members. The Working Group believes it is desirable that the legal obligations of members of Select Vestries to comply with charities legislation should be made clear by means of decision of General Synod. To this end, the Working Group has prepared a bill for the consideration of the General Synod in 2016.

**Bill No. 3**

MR SYDNEY GAMBLE  
MR KENNETH GIBSON

**BILL**

**(At the request of the Standing Committee)**

**To amend Chapter III of the Constitution**

WHEREAS for the purposes of the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008, or as the case may be, the Charities Act 2009, the members of a Select Vestry are to be regarded as the charity trustees of the parish;

AND WHEREAS it is desirable that neither parishioners, nor incumbents nor other members of the clergy officiating in a parish should be entitled to act as members of a Select Vestry if they are unwilling or unprepared to comply with their obligations under the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008 or the Charities Act 2009, as the case may be;

BE IT ENACTED BY the Archbishops and Bishops and the Clergy and Laity of the Church of Ireland in General Synod assembled in Dún Laoghaire in the year 2016, and by the authority of the same, as follows:-

1. In this Statute “Chapter III” means Chapter III of the Constitution of the Church of Ireland.
2. In Chapter III, after Section 18, the following sections shall be inserted:

18A. If, within twenty-one days of being duly called upon to do so, a lay member of the Select Vestry, shall fail, refuse or neglect to execute any documentation that may be required of him or her, as a charity trustee, under the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008 or the Charities Act 2009 (as applicable), that person shall automatically vacate office as a member of the Select Vestry and the casual vacancy thereby arising shall be filled in accordance with the provisions of Section 22 or 23, as applicable, of this Chapter.

18B. If, within twenty-one days of being duly called upon to do so, a member of the clergy who is a member of the Select Vestry, shall fail, refuse or neglect to execute any documentation that may be required of him or her, as a charity trustee, under the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008 or the Charities Act 2009 (as applicable) that person shall be liable to disciplinary action pursuant to Part IV of Chapter VIII and shall not be entitled to receive notice of, or to attend or vote at meetings of the Select Vestry for so long as he or she shall fail, refuse or neglect to execute the said documentation.

**Bill No. 4****Explanatory Memorandum**

In 1930, the General Synod passed a statute (Chapter I of 1930) which established the Church Fabric Fund. The terms of the Fund are set out in Part IV of Chapter X of the Constitution. The Representative Body is trustee of the Fund. The capital of the Fund comprises (i) monies received from the sale or compulsory alienation of certain pre-1869 church property theretofore vested in the Representative Body, (ii) statutory or other insurance compensation monies relating to churches or chapels and (iii) donations, subscriptions and bequests to the Fund. Since its formation, the Fund has been held for the repair of certain church buildings on terms specified in Part IV of Chapter X.

The proposed Bill seeks to rename the fund as the *Church Fabric and Development Fund* and to widen the terms on which the capital and income under the provisions of Part IV of Chapter X of the Constitution may be applied.

MR ROBERT NEILL  
THE BISHOP OF CONNOR

**(At the Request of the Representative Church Body)**

**BILL**

**To Amend Chapter X of the Constitution**

WHEREAS in 1930 the General Synod established the Church Fabric Fund, whose terms are contained in Part IV of Chapter X of the Constitution of the Church of Ireland;

AND WHEREAS it is desirable to widen the terms of the Fund to enable the Fund's assets to be applied for purposes in addition to those heretofore permitted by Part IV of Chapter X;

AND WHEREAS it is desirable to rename the Fund to encourage and develop the use of the Fund;

AND WHEREAS for such purposes it is necessary to amend Chapter X of the Constitution;

BE IT ENACTED by the Archbishops and Bishops and the clergy and laity of the Church of Ireland, in General Synod assembled in Dún Laoghaire in the year 2016, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1. The Church Fabric Fund established by the Statute, Chapter I of 1930 is hereby renamed "The Church Fabric and Development Fund".
2. In Chapter X of the Constitution of the Church of Ireland, for section 20 there shall be substituted:

"20. The Church Fabric and Development Fund ('the Fund'), established by the Statute, Chapter I of 1930, shall be held in trust for (i) the restoration or repair of the fabric of any church or chapel, whether cathedral, collegiate or parochial, used for public worship and vested in the Representative Body and (ii) for the development of initiatives supporting the long term mission of the Church."

3. In Chapter X, for section 24 there shall be substituted:

"24. Subject to the provisions of sections 25, 26 and 27, the income of the Fund may be applied at the discretion of the Representative Body for the following purposes:

- (a) The income of the Fund which has accrued up to 30<sup>th</sup> June 2016 may be applied for the restoration or repair of the fabric of any church or chapel, whether cathedral, collegiate or parochial, used for public worship and vested in the Representative Body;
- (b) The income of the Fund accruing from 1<sup>st</sup> July 2016 may be applied for (i) the restoration or repair of the fabric of any church or chapel, whether cathedral, collegiate or parochial, used for public worship and vested in the Representative Body and/or (ii) the development of initiatives supporting the long term mission of the Church.

The Representative Body shall formulate rules and regulations for the administration and application of the Fund and shall present all rules and regulations to the Standing Committee of the General Synod for approval."

4. In Chapter X, for section 27 there shall be substituted:

"27. In any case where sections 25 or 26 do not apply, not more than 80% of the sale proceeds or compensation shall be held in trust by the Representative Body as an endowment for the Parish

and (i) the income applied for such purposes in connection with the Parish as the select vestry with responsibility for the Parish, with the consent of the Diocesan Council and the Representative Body, shall decide and/or (ii) the capital made available for the development of such initiatives supporting the long term mission of the Church as the select vestry with responsibility for the Parish, with the consent of the Diocesan Council and the Representative Body, may propose. The Representative Body shall formulate rules and regulations for the administration and application of the capital of all endowments held under this section and shall present all rules and regulations to the Standing Committee of the General Synod for approval.’

**Bill No. 5****Explanatory Memorandum**

New defined contribution (DC) clergy pension schemes for Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland were established in 2013 to provide for clergy pensions into the future, as the Clergy Pensions Fund (CPF) closed to new members and to future accruals. The DC schemes were established with the same objective as the CPF, to create a fund for the retiring member of the clergy that is accessible at the earliest normal retirement age, currently 66 years and increasing to 68 years. As with the CPF, standard pension contributions by the ‘employer’ – in the Church context, the parish – currently cease at that age for all scheme members.

As DC schemes by their nature cannot be guaranteed to provide a certain outcome at a set future date, the Representative Church Body (RCB), as sponsor of the DC schemes, considers that both ‘employer’ and member contributions should continue until actual retirement, whether that occurs at the earliest normal retirement age or at a later date up to the compulsory retirement age of 75, unless the individual member elects to cease contributions. The proposed Bill seeks to amend Chapter XIV of the Constitution of the Church of Ireland to this effect.



**Bill No. 5**

Mr Robert Neill  
Mr William Oliver

**(At the request of the Representative Church Body)**

**BILL****To amend Chapter XIV of the Constitution**

WHEREAS it is desirable that, with effect from 1 January 2017, contributions required to be paid to a member's pension fund should continue to be paid until the member retires, unless the member upon or after attaining his or her Normal Retirement Age requests the cessation of pension contributions;

AND WHEREAS for such purposes it is necessary to amend Chapter XIV of the Constitution of the Church of Ireland;

BE IT ENACTED by the Archbishops and Bishops and the Clergy and Laity of the Church of Ireland in General Synod assembled in Dún Laoghaire in the year 2016 and by the authority of the same as follows:

1. In this Statute "Chapter XIV" means Chapter XIV of the Constitution of the Church of Ireland.
2. With effect from 1 January 2017 for Section 8 of Chapter XIV there shall be substituted:

‘8. (a) Member's pension fund

Unless a member, upon or after attaining his or her Normal Retirement Age, requests the cessation of pension contributions, contributions required to be paid to the member's pension fund until the member retires shall be as follows:

- (i) a member contribution of 9% per annum of the relevant Minimum Approved Stipend or Episcopal Stipend by a monthly deduction from the stipend of each member concerned; and
- (ii) a Parish / Diocesan Council / Other contribution of 8% per annum of the relevant Minimum Approved Stipend or Episcopal Stipend by assessment on that Parish / Diocesan Council / Other concerned for paying that member's stipend.

(b) Death in Service insured benefit

Until a member attains his or her Normal Retirement Age contributions to Death in Service insured benefit is payable by a Parish / Diocesan Council / Other contribution at a contribution rate determined by the Representative Body to meet the cost of the benefit by way of assessment on that Parish / Diocesan Council / Other concerned for paying that member's stipend.’

**Bill No. 6****Explanatory Memorandum**

In 1999, the General Synod by statute made it possible, in certain circumstances, for members of the clergy to serve in part-time stipendiary deployment. However, they were required to have already served for at least three years in full-time ministry. The effect of this provision was that persons could not be ordained in the context of nomination to a part-time post.

The present Bill seeks, in the light of experience, to delete the three-year restriction. A number of persons have trained for ordination, often on a part-time basis, and have obtained the MTh degree. They aspire to continue to serve, at least initially, in a part-time situation as priests but are precluded from doing so under the present arrangements. They must make a choice either to serve full-time or in a completely non-stipendiary capacity.

The present Bill aspires to remove this anomaly and is consonant with the spirit of flexibility and innovation that has surrounded training for ordained ministry in more recent years.

THE BISHOP OF CASHEL, FERNS AND OSSORY  
VEN LESLIE STEVENSON

**BILL**

**(at the request of the Commission on Ministry)**

**To amend Chapter IX of the Constitution**

WHEREAS it is desirable, in certain circumstances, to make provision for the admission into holy orders of persons who have been nominated to a post certified as suited to part-time deployment;

AND WHEREAS for such purposes it is necessary to amend Chapter IX of the Constitution;

BE IT ENACTED by the Archbishops and Bishops, and the Clergy and Laity of the Church of Ireland, in General Synod assembled in Dún Laoghaire, in the year 2016, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1. In this Statute “Chapter IX” means Chapter IX of the Constitution of the Church of Ireland, and “Canon 34” means Canon 34 of the Canons of the Church of Ireland as contained in Chapter IX.
2. In Paragraph 4 of Canon 34 (The occupations of clergy) the following words shall be deleted:  
  
“who, for a period of not less than three years, has held ecclesiastical office or served as a curate assistant, and”.

**Bill No. 7****EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM**

Following the introduction of new charities legislation in the Republic of Ireland, a review of the Constitution of the Cathedral of the Holy Trinity, commonly called Christ Church, Dublin, brought to light an anomaly requiring amendment to ensure that the Cathedral Board should be identified as the trustee body for the Cathedral.

The requisite decisions to effect this clarification have been approved by the Dean and Chapter and by the Cathedral Board. A bill has been prepared to seek the approval of the General Synod to amend Chapter I of 1902 (as amended) to bring the regulation of the Cathedral into line with other Cathedrals of the Church of Ireland and with requirements necessary to register the Board as the trustee body for the purposes of the Charities Act 2009 (Republic of Ireland).

**Bill No. 7**

VEN RICHARD ROUNTREE  
MR GEOFFREY PERRIN

**BILL****To amend Chapter I of 1902 as amended**

WHEREAS it is expedient to make better provision for the regulation and management of the Cathedral of the Holy Trinity, commonly called Christ Church, Dublin;

AND WHEREAS for this purpose it is necessary to amend Chapter I of 1902 as amended;

BE IT ENACTED by the Archbishops and Bishops and the Clergy and Laity of the Church of Ireland in General Synod assembled in Dún Laoghaire in the year 2016, and by the authority of the same, as follows:-

1. In this Statute "Chapter I of 1902" means the Statute of the General Synod, Chapter I of 1902.

2. For section 4 of Chapter I of 1902 there shall be substituted the following:-

The Chapter shall consist, with the Dean, of the Precentor, Chancellor, Treasurer, Archdeacon of Dublin, Archdeacon of Glendalough, and twelve Canons, eight of whom shall be appointed from the beneficed or licensed Clergy of the Diocese of Dublin, and four of whom shall be appointed from the beneficed or licensed Clergy of the Diocese of Glendalough. Of such twelve Canons the first three in seniority of appointment shall bear respectively the name and style of Prebendary of St. Michael, Prebendary of St. Michan, and Prebendary of St. John.

3. Chapter I of 1902 is hereby amended by the insertion after section 4 of the following section:-

4A Save to the extent otherwise provided for herein, the Dean and Chapter, with the consent of the Ordinary, shall be responsible for and may make regulations for the conduct of Divine Service in the Cathedral.

4. For Section 15 of Chapter I of 1902 there shall be substituted the following:-

The Cathedral Board shall have power to make rules and regulations for the times and conduct of its meetings; it shall be presided over by the Dean, or, in his absence, by the member of the Chapter next in rank, who shall be present, and the President shall have both an ordinary and a casting vote. A meeting of the Board may be summoned at any time by the Dean or, in his absence, by his Deputy, and shall be summoned at any time on the written requisition of four members of the Board, addressed to the Dean, or to his Deputy, as the case may be. The elected members of the Board shall retire from office at the Easter Vestry in every third year, but shall severally be capable of re-election.

5. For section 19 of Chapter I of 1902 there shall be substituted the following:-

19(A) Save where otherwise provided for herein, the registration of vestry persons, the election of synods persons, the filling of vacancies and the business of the Cathedral Board, shall be conducted in the same manner as for parishes under the provisions of the Constitution of the Church of Ireland, or as near thereto as circumstances will permit.

(B) The Dean, or his Deputy, shall have the powers and duties of an Incumbent.

(C) The Cathedral Board shall have the powers, functions and duties of a Select Vestry and of Churchwardens and, without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing, shall have the control, charge and management of the following:-

- (i) The preservation, restoration, and repair of the fabric of the Cathedral and all permanent structures therein.
- (ii) The lighting, heating and cleaning of the Cathedral.
- (iii) The ornaments of the Cathedral, the monuments, the tablets, windows and brasses to be placed in the Cathedral: provided that none shall be erected or placed in the Cathedral or removed therefrom without the consent or approval of the Dean and Chapter and of the Ordinary.
- (iv) The collections and all financial matters relating to the Cathedral, including the regulation of all salaries and pensions payable by the Board.
- (v) The appointment and removal of all lay officials of the Cathedral and all officers of the Cathedral whose appointment is not vested in the Archbishop, or in the Dean and Chapter, excepting the Verger (who shall be appointed and may be removed by the Dean).