JOURNAL

of

THE THIRD ORDINARY SESSION

of the

FORTY-NINETH

GENERAL SYNOD

of the

CHURCH OF IRELAND

HELD IN LIMERICK

anno domini

MMXVII

with

AN APPENDIX

containing

STATUTES PASSED, REPORTS OF COMMITTEES &c., &c.

Edited by

KENNETH MILNE

Published by the Authority of the General Synod
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JOHNSTON, PROF PM (TUAM, KILLALA & ACHONRY)
JOHNSTON, REV TS (CONNOR)
JONES, MR D (KILMORE)
JONES, REV PB (ARMAGH)
JONES, REV CANON RW (CONNOR)
KAVANAGH, MR R (ARMAGH)
KAY MBE, MR R (CONNOR)
KEATING, MR JH (CLOGHER)
KEATINGE, MRS PJ (DUBLIN)
KEE, MR JCH (RAPHOE)
KELLS, MR W (KILMORE)
KENNEDY, MR WAI (DERRY)
KENNY, MR D (MEATH & KILDARE)
KENNY, MRS FW (KILLALOE)
KERR, MR DJ (DOWN)
KERR, REV CANON DP (CONNOR)
KERR, MRS H (CLOGHER)
KERR, MRS KM (ARMAGH)
KERR, MR VWB (ARMAGH)
KEYS, MR JE (CLOGHER)
KIDD, MS C (CASHEL)
KILROY, MR CTE (TUAM, KILLALA & ACHONRY)
KILROY, MR L (GLENDALOUGH)
KINGSTON, MRS C (TUAM, KILLALA & ACHONRY)
KINGSTON, MRS CJ (CORK, CLOYNE & ROSS)
KINGSTON, REV MT (ARMAGH)
KINKEAD, REV JAH (DUBLIN)
KIRK, MR H (CONNOR)
KIRK, MRS JH (DUBLIN)
KNOX, MISS OI (CLOGHER)
KYLE, MRS C (CONNOR)
LEATHEM, MRS J (CLOGHER)
LECKEY, MISS ME (DROMORE)
LEIGHTON, MRS J (ARMAGH)
LENOX, REV MBW (DERRY)
LEONARD, DR EJ (DOWN)
LEWIS, MR D (KILLALOE)
LINDSAY, REV CANON AJ (KILMORE)
LINDSAY, MRS CH (CONNOR)
LINTON, REV BI (ELPHIN & ARDAGH)
LITTLE, MS C (CONNOR)
LOCKHARTE, REV D (CONNOR)
LOCKHART, MR M (ARMAGH)
LODGE, PROF AE (DUBLIN)
LOGUE, MR CG (CONNOR)
LOUGHERY, MR SR (DERRY)
LUCY, MR GRE (CONNOR)
LUMBY, VEN SJ (ARDFERT & AGHADOE)
LUTTON, MS LEI (DOWN)
LYNCH, REV CANON EEM (CORK, CLOYNE & ROSS)
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REA, MR EJ (CORK, CLOYNE & ROSS)
REID, MR J (MEATH & KILDARE)
REID, MR PJ (CONNOR)
RICHARDS, CANON G (DUBLIN)
RICHARDSON, MR D (CASHEL)
RICHARDSON, MISS H (DERRY)
RICHARDSON, MR J (CONNOR)
ROBERTS, MRS IN (KILMORE)
ROBERTS, MR JK (CORK, CLOYNE & ROSS)
ROBINSON, MR AG (MEATH & KILDARE)
RODGERS, MRS KM (CONNOR)
RODGERS, THE HONOURABLE MR JUSTICE RF (CONNOR)
RODGERS, MR TL (CONNOR)
ROGERS, REV CANON VH (TUAM, KILLALA & ACHONRY)
ROOKE, MR PJ (DUBLIN)
ROWNTREE, MRS H (MEATH & KILDARE)
RUDDOCK, REV LW (GLENDALOUGH)
RUSK, MS S (DUBLIN)
RUSSELL, REV BR (RAPHOE)
RUTHERFORD, CAPTAIN JJ (DOWN)
RUTHERFORD, REV PM (MEATH & KILDARE)
RUTTER, REV JEC (CONNOR)
SANDERS, MR JAF (KILLALOE)
SARGENT, MR T (CASHEL)
SCHOLES, DR AM (CONNOR)
SCHOLES, MR DW (CONNOR)
SCHUTZ, MR PR (LIMERICK)
SCOTT, DR JA (ARMAGH)
SCOTT, MR NG (CLOGHER)
SCOTT, VEN T (ARMAGH)
SELFRIEDE, MRS AMR (DERRY)
SHANNON, MR J (TUAM, KILLALA & ACHONRY)
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SHARPE, MR WK (ARMAGH)
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SHERIDAN, MS A (DUBLIN)
SHERWOOD, REV CANON NJW (GLENDALOUGH)
SHORTEN, MRS A (ELPHIN & ARDAUGH)
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SKUSE, REV A (CORK, CLOYNE & ROSS)
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SNELL, REV C (KILMORE)
SPARLING, MR KJ (LIMERICK)
SPIERS, MR DN (CONNOR)
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ST Leger, DR AE (CORK, CLOYNE & ROSS)
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STACEY, REV VG (DUBLIN)
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SUITOR, MRS IR (ARMAGH)
SUITOR, MR WV (ARMAGH)
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SYME, MR RG (CASHEL)
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TEMPLETON, MR AL (DOWN)
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WOOLINGTON, MR J (GLENDALOUGH)
WRIGHT, VERY REV WS (CONNOR)
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WYNNE, MR DJ (DUBLIN)
YOUNG, MR WA (CASHEL)
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
ARRANGED ACCORDING TO DIOCESES
NUMBERS INDICATE DAYS ATTENDED AT THE 2017 SESSION.

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**Journal 2017 – List of Representatives of each Diocese**

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## MEATH & KILDARE

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### CORK, CLOYNE & ROSS, LAY

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COMMITTEES OF THE GENERAL SYNOD
(as on 1 July 2017)

STANDING COMMITTEE

Ex-officio Members

THE ARCHBISHOPS AND BISHOPS

THE HONORARY SECRETARIES OF THE GENERAL SYNOD

Ven George Davison
Rev Canon Gillian Wharton
Mr Kenneth Gibson
Ms Hazel Corrigan

Elected Members

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Diocese of:</th>
<th>Rev Malcolm Kingston</th>
<th>Rev Matthew Hagan</th>
<th>Mr Paul Bruce</th>
<th>Mr Adam Metcalfe</th>
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<tr>
<td>Armagh</td>
<td>Rev Canon Ian Berry</td>
<td>Rev Canon Brian Harper</td>
<td>Mr Walter Pringle</td>
<td>Mr Glenn Moore</td>
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<td>Clogher</td>
<td>Rev Canon Henry Gilmore</td>
<td>Ven Robert Miller</td>
<td>Mr Martin Montgomery</td>
<td>Mrs Kaye Nesbitt</td>
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<td>Derry</td>
<td>Ven Roderic West</td>
<td>Rev Joanne Megarrell</td>
<td>Mrs Hilary McClay</td>
<td>Mr Andrew Brannigan</td>
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<td>Down</td>
<td>Rev Dr Alan McCann</td>
<td>Rev Trevor Johnston</td>
<td>Mr Roy Totten</td>
<td>Mrs Pauline High</td>
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Kilmore
Rev Canon Patrick Bamber
Rev Hazel Hicks
Mrs Brigid Barrett
Mr Alan Williamson

Tuam
Rev Adam Pullen
Ven Alan Synnott
Mr Neville Bagnall
Mr Denzil Auchmuty

Dublin
Ven Richard Rountree
Rev Stephen Farrell
Mr Lyndon MacCann SC
Dr Éimhín Walsh

Meath
Rev Peter Rutherford
Rev Canon Lynda Peilow
Mrs Joan Bruton
Mr Ronan McKenna

Cashel
Rev Nicola Halford
Rev Canon Susan Green
Mr Thomas Cosby
Mr Richard Codd

Cork
Rev John Ardis
Ven Adrian Wilkinson
Mr Wilfred Baker
Ms Síle Hunt

Limerick
Rev Lucy Green
Ven Simon J. Lumby
Mr Adrian Hilliard
Mr Edward Hardy

Co-opted Members
Rev Canon Dr Maurice Elliott
Ven Andrew Forster
Ven Gary Hastings
Mrs Judith Cairns

Rev Gary McMurray
Rev Stephen Neill
Rev Alison Calvin

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The Archbishops and Bishops

His Honour Judge Tom Burgess Mr Patrick Good QC
His Honour Judge Alistair Devlin Mr Lyndon MacCann SC
Mr Charles Galloway The Hon Mrs Justice Catherine McGuinness
The Rt Hon Sir Paul Girvan Mr Ronald Robins
The Hon Mr Justice Benjamin Stephens

Registrar: Rev Stephen Farrell, Zion Rectory, 18 Bushy Park Road, Rathgar, Dublin 6, D06 F6N4

THE ARCHBISHOPS AND BISHOPS

THE HONORARY SECRETARIES OF THE GENERAL SYNOD

Elected Members

Diocese of:

Armagh  Rev Matthew Hagan
         Mr Thomas Flannagan

Clogher  Vacant
         Mrs Hope Kerr

Derry    Rev Canon Henry Gilmore
         Mr Des West

Down    Rev Canon John Howard
         Mr James Bunting

Connor  Rev Ian Magowan
         Dr Ken Dunn

Kilmore Very Rev Nigel Crossey
         Mrs Cynthia Poyntz

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Journal 2017 - Committees of the General Synod

Tuam
Rev Canon Doris Clements
Professor Paul Johnston

Dublin
Rev Dr William Olhausen
Mr David Wynne

Meath
Rev Canon JDM Clarke
Ms Rosemary Maxwell-Eager

Cashel, Ferns and Ossory
Rev Canon Patrick Harvey
Mrs Avril Forrest

Cork
Ven Adrian Wilkinson
Mr Wilfred Baker

Limerick and Killaloe
Ven Susan Watterson
Mrs Margaret Brickenden

Co-opted Members
Mrs Rosemary Forde
Mrs Helen McClenaghan
Mr Roy McKinney
Mrs Patricia Wallace
Ms Amy McCrea (CIYD)
Rev Brian O’Rourke
Rev Canon Niall Sloane (Sunday School Society)
Rev Prof Anne Lodge (Third Level)
Mr Michael Hall (ISA)

Mr Simon Thompson (ISA)
Mr Andrew Forrest (ISA)
Vacant (ASTI)
Mrs Susie Hall (ASTI)
Mr Simon Henry (CIYD)
Mrs Joyce Perdue
Ms Rachel Fraser
Mr Barry Williams (TUI)
Mr Adrian Oughton

PETITIONS COMMITTEE
Mrs Pauline High
Canon Graham Richards

The Honorary Secretaries of the General Synod

[xxi]
ELECTIONS COMMITTEE
Rev Canon Simon Doogan       Canon Graham Richards
The Honorary Secretaries of the General Synod

BILLS COMMITTEE
The Assessor (ex officio)     Ven George Davison
The Rt Rev Dr Paul Colton     Rev Brian O’Rourke
Mrs Ethne Harkness           Canon Lady Sheil
Mrs Pauline High             The Honourable Mrs Justice Catherine
                             McGuinness (consultant)

COMMISSION FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY AND DIALOGUE
Rt Rev Alan Abernethy        Rt Rev John McDowell
Mr Wilfred Baker             Mr Philip McKinley
Ms Janet Barcroft            Dr Kenneth Milne
Rt Rev Michael Burrows       Rev Canon Dr Daniel Nuzum
Rev Canon Patrick Comerford  Rt Rev Patrick Rooke
Ms Georgina Copyt            Rev Kenneth Rue
Rev Suzanne Cousins          Rev Canon Niall Sloane
Rev Canon Dr Maurice Elliott Rev Helene Tarneberg Steed
Rev Canon Dr Ian Ellis       Ms Catherine Turner
Rt Rev Dr Kenneth Kearon    Rev Canon Gillian Wharton

LEGISLATION COMMITTEE
Rt Rev Dr Kenneth Kearon    Canon Lady Sheil
Rev Canon Simon Doogan       Ms Claire Bruton BL
The Rt Hon Sir Anthony Campbell
The Honourable Mrs Justice Catherine
McGuinness
The Honorary Secretaries of the General Synod
RECORD COMMITTEE

Rev Stephen Farrell
Ven Richard Rountree
The Honorary Secretaries of the General Synod

STANDING ORDERS COMMITTEE

Rev Stephen Neill
Mr Trevor Sargent
The Honorary Secretaries of the General Synod

CHURCH OF IRELAND PENSIONS BOARD

Mr Owen Driver
Rt Rev John McDowell
Mrs Cynthia Cherry
Mr Geoffrey Perrin

CHURCH OF IRELAND COUNCIL FOR MISSION

Rt Rev Ferran Glenfield
Rev Cliff Jeffers
Ms Johanne Martin
Ms Julie Currie
Rev Adam Pullen (Hon Chair)
Mrs Ruth Mercer
Vacant
Vacant
Ms Lydia Monds
Rev Dr Laurence Graham
Ms Emma Lynch
Ms Jenny Smyth
Rev Colin Hall-Thompson
Dr Trevor Buchanan
Rev Patrick Burke (Hon Sec)
Rev Eileen Cremin
Rev Ian Jonas
Very Rev Kenneth Hall
Rev Andrew Quill
Vacant
Ven Wayne Carney
Rev Stephen McWhirter
Rev Canon Derek Quinn
Rev Paul McAdam
House of Bishops
General Synod
General Synod
General Synod
General Synod
Mothers’ Union
CIYD
CTI
Bishops’ Appeal
Methodist Church
AMS
AMS
AMS/Connor
Down and Dromore Alternate
Cashel
Cork
Cork Alternate
Clougher
Kilmcore
Meath & Kildare
Limerick
Tuam, Killala and Achonry
Derry & Raphoe
Armagh
Journal 2017 - Committees of the General Synod

Mr Thomas Stevenson  
Armagh Alternate

Mr Derek Neilson  
Dublin

CHURCH OF IRELAND YOUTH DEPARTMENT

Executive

President  
Most Rev Patricia Storey

Chairman  
Rev Malcolm Kingston

Treasurer  
Mr Edward Hardy

Secretary  
Mrs Judith Peters

Mr Alan Williamson

Central Board – Executive (above) and the following:

Mr Steven Brickenden
Rev Ruth West
Rev Gary McMurray
Ms Emma Rothwell
Rev Ruth Noble
Mrs Christina Bailie
Mr Tim Burns

Co-options

Ms Sarah Lowry
Rev Lesley Robinson
Standing Committee
Rev Nicola Halford
Mrs Brigid Barrett

MEMBERS AND COMMITTEES OF THE REPRESENTATIVE BODY OF THE CHURCH OF IRELAND (See pages 5-13 of Representative Body Report)

HONORARY SECRETARIES OF THE GENERAL SYNOD

Ven George Davison  
The Rectory, 12 Harwood Gardens, Carrickfergus, Co Antrim, BT38 7US

Rev Canon Gillian Wharton  
The Rectory, Cross Avenue, Booterstown, Blackrock, Co Dublin, A94 W7R6

Mr Kenneth Gibson  
11 Magheralave Court, Lisburn, Co. Antrim, BT28 3BY.

Ms Hazel Corrigan  
Liscolman House, Tullow, Co Carlow, R93 C899.

Assistant Secretary:  
Mrs Janet Maxwell

Synod Officer:  
Dr Catherine Smith

Office:  
Church of Ireland House
Church Avenue
Rathmines
Dublin 6, D06 CF67
STANDING ORDERS

ADOPTED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
MAY, 1965


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.

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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 he 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:-

(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 putting 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 previously been 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)
Journal 2017 – Standing Orders

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.

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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 reaffirmed 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.
Journal 2017 – Standing Orders

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, at his discretion, invite any member of the House of Bishops to take the Chair for such period during a session as the President may determine; any 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.
This pamphlet contains those Bills which were lodged with the honorary secretaries at least six weeks before the first day of the session.

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.
The following Bills were lodged with the Honorary Secretaries of the General Synod before Thursday 23\textsuperscript{rd} March 2017:

**BILL NO. 1**

MR GEOFFREY PERRIN  
THE BISHOP OF CLOGHER  
(at the request of the Representative Church Body)

Explanatory Memorandum  
To amend Chapter XIV of the Constitution

**BILL NO. 2**

THE BISHOP OF CLOGHER  
VEN ADRIAN WILKINSON

Explanatory Memorandum  
To amend Chapter III of the Constitution.

**BILL NO. 3**

VEN GEORGE DAVISON  
MS HAZEL CORRIGAN

Explanatory Memorandum  
To amend Chapter I of the Constitution

**BILL NO. 4**

REV CANON GILLIAN WHARTON  
MR KENNETH GIBSON

Explanatory Memorandum  
To amend Chapter IV and Chapter XIV of the Constitution

**BILL NO. 5**

VERY REV DERMOT DUNNE  
REV CANON ADRIENNE GALLIGAN

Explanatory Memorandum  
To amend the Statute of the General Synod, Chapter I of 1902, as amended by the Statutes of the General Synod Chapter V of 1920, Chapter VI of 1920 (Special Session), Chapter IX of 1971, Chapter II of 1997, and Chapter IV of 2006.
BILL NO. 6

VERY REV NIGEL DUNNE
THE BISHOP OF DOWN AND DROMORE

Explanatory Memorandum
To amend The Table of Readings in The Book of Common Prayer

BILL NO. 7

VERY REV NIGEL DUNNE
THE BISHOP OF DOWN AND DROMORE

Explanatory Memorandum
To amend The Table of Readings and The Collects in The Book of Common Prayer
Bill No. 1

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

Under Section 33 of the Pensions Act 1990, defined benefit pension schemes in the Republic of Ireland are required annually to revalue the preserved benefits of deferred members by the rate prescribed annually by the Minister for Social Protection.

Each year the Minister for Social Protection issues a regulation in relation to the rate of revaluation of preserved benefits of deferred members, being the lesser of the rate of inflation as calculated by the Minister, and 4%. The ‘Occupational Pension Schemes (Revaluation) Regulations 2016’ specified a 0.3% revaluation of preserved benefits for 2015 in respect of deferred member pensions. This was the first occasion on which a negative revaluation rate had been prescribed.

There are currently 54 deferred members of the Clergy Pensions Fund (CPF) who have preserved benefits under the CPF related to service in the Republic of Ireland. These are members who have left service prior to reaching their normal retirement age.

The Church of Ireland Clergy Pensions Trustee DAC (the Trustee) considered the implications of the 2016 Regulations in relation to the CPF and received actuarial advice indicating that, as Section 39(2) of Chapter XIV of the Constitution refers only to pensions being “increased”, an amendment to the wording is required to allow any downwards revaluation of preserved benefits of deferred Republic of Ireland members. The Trustee also considered the fact that Section 39(2) of Chapter XIV requires that increases in preserved benefits be applied “by the same percentage as that applied to pensions in course of payment, as provided by Section 61 of this Chapter” (which relates to increases in pensions already in payment).

The Trustee considered that, in future, the preserved benefits of deferred members ought to be treated in the manner prescribed by Ministerial regulation. Accordingly the Trustee recommended to the Representative Body that proposals be brought to General Synod to amend Chapter XIV of the Constitution to provide that future revaluations of deferred pensions be applied in accordance with the relevant statutory provision, rather than by applying the same percentage increase as is applied to pensions in payment.

The Representative Body agreed with the recommendations of the Trustee and accordingly proposes the attached Bill to General Synod. The proposed changes would take effect from 1 June 2017.

Northern Ireland position (for information)

[xlii]
Under UK pension regulations, the rates of revaluation of a deferred member’s pension are based on the member’s date of leaving service and the date from which his/her service was earned. The rates of revaluation of such preserved benefits are prescribed by statute.

MR GEOFFREY PERRIN
THE BISHOP OF CLOGHER

(At the request of the Representative Church Body)

BILL

To amend Chapter XIV of the Constitution

WHEREAS it is desirable that preserved pension benefits in the Church of Ireland Clergy Pensions Fund, relating to deferred members of the Fund, be revalued in accordance with the relevant statutory provision;

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 Limerick in the year 2017 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 1st June 2017 for Section 39 (2) of Chapter XIV there shall be substituted:

‘39 (2) When a member ceased on or after 1st January 1977 to be a contributing member and has not received a withdrawal benefit or a transfer in pursuance of sub-section (1)(b) of this Section, the portion of that member’s accrued pension accumulation attributable to the contributions paid on or after 1st January 1976 (or if that member was enrolled after 1st January 1976 the accrued pension accumulation) subsisting on 31st December 1998 and each subsequent year shall be revalued with effect on and from 1st January of the following year in accordance with the relevant statutory provision.’
Bill No. 2

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

The Constitution of the Church of Ireland requires parishes to have, and to keep, registers of baptisms and burials, as well as a Marriage Record Book.

No similar requirement exists in relation to records of Confirmations which take place in a parish. Many, but not all, parishes do keep records of Confirmation or maintain a Confirmation Register. Many do not. It appears that the pattern of practice varies between dioceses and within dioceses of the Church of Ireland.

Certification of Confirmation may be required at times in life including, for example, when someone offers him or herself for training for ordained ministry, or for training as a reader. Members of the Church of Ireland who have lost the Confirmation Certificate issued at the time of their Confirmation frequently turn to clergy, bishops and/or diocesan offices seeking certification of their Confirmation. This may or may not be available depending on the practice of or within particular parishes and dioceses.

The purpose of this Bill is to ensure that records of Confirmation which take place in a parish are recorded within that parish and uniformly in parishes throughout the Church of Ireland.

Accordingly clause 2 seeks to make the necessary amendment to Chapter III by inserting into Chapter III a new section 25(1B) which would require the Select Vestry in each parish to provide a Confirmation Register in which are recorded confirmations by the Bishop in that parish;

Clause 3 seeks to make the consequential amendments by substituting a new section 25(2) into Chapter III to include reference to registers of confirmation.

THE BISHOP OF CLOGHER
VEN ADRIAN WILKINSON

BILL

To amend Chapter III of the Constitution.

[xliv]
WHEREAS it is desirable that Confirmation Registers should be provided in parishes to enable records to be maintained of those who are confirmed;

AND WHEREAS for such purposes it is necessary to amend Chapter III 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 Limerick in the year 2017 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. Immediately after section 25(1A) of Chapter III there shall be inserted:

25(1B) The select vestry shall also provide in each parish a Confirmation Register in which the incumbent or other member of the clergy officiating in the parish shall maintain records of those who are confirmed by the Bishop in that parish.

3. For section 25(2) of Chapter III there shall be substituted:

(2) Every incumbent or other member of the clergy officiating in the parish, who shall have the custody for the time being of any registers of baptisms, or of confirmations, or of marriages, or of burials, shall at all reasonable times, on demand, allow search in such registers, and shall give a signed certified copy of any entry or entries in the same, on payment of the fee hereinafter mentioned; that is to say, for every search in a register of baptisms, or of confirmations, or of burials, and for every single certificate of baptism, or of confirmation, or of burial the fees prescribed from time to time by the Standing Committee of the General Synod; and for every search in a register of marriages, and for each certified copy of an entry therein, the statutory fees prescribed by the State in which is situated the church to which the relevant register of marriages pertains.
Bill No. 3

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

At present, lay representatives who, during their membership of General Synod, become deacons serving in an internship, may retain their membership until the end of the triennium. This Bill (if passed) will provide that a lay person who becomes a deacon serving in an internship shall be deemed to have resigned his or her membership of General Synod.

VEN GEORGE DAVISON
MS HAZEL CORRIGAN

BILL

To amend Chapter I of the Constitution

WHEREAS it is expedient that lay representatives who become deacons serving in an internship should not continue to hold their seats as members of General Synod;

AND WHEREAS to reflect this change it is necessary to amend Chapter I 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 Limerick in the year 2017 and by the authority of the same as follows:

1. In this Statute “Chapter I” means Chapter I of the Constitution of the Church of Ireland.

2. For Section 7 of Chapter I there shall be substituted:

“7. Every lay person who, on 1st January preceding election, had attained the age of seventeen years and had not attained the age of seventy-four years, being a member of the Church of Ireland and a communicant of the said Church and not being a deacon serving an internship, shall be qualified to be elected as a lay representative or supplemental lay representative for any diocese; provided that clergy residing in the diocese who are neither beneficed nor licensed shall be deemed to be lay persons for the purpose of this section and provided that a lay person who has become a deacon serving in an internship since election as a lay representative or supplemental lay representative should not continue to hold their seats as members of General Synod;
representative for any diocese shall be deemed to have resigned from General Synod as a lay representative or supplemental lay representative for any diocese.”
Bill No. 4

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

Statute Ch I of 2016 consolidated and replaced Chapter VI of the Constitution of the Church of Ireland. Following this, amendment of Chapters IV and XIV is required to ensure that all cross-references to Chapter VI are correct.

REV CANON GILLIAN WHARTON
MR KENNETH GIBSON

BILL

To amend Chapter IV and Chapter XIV of the Constitution

WHEREAS Statute Chapter I of 2016 amended Chapter VI of the Constitution of the Church of Ireland;

AND WHEREAS in consequence of the amendments and consolidations of Chapter VI it is necessary to amend Chapter IV and Chapter XIV of the said Constitution;

BE IT ENACTED by the Archbishops and Bishops, and the clergy and laity of the Church of Ireland in General Synod assembled in Limerick in the year 2017 and by the authority of the same as follows:

1. In this Statute “Chapter IV” means Chapter IV of the Constitution of the Church of Ireland and “Chapter XIV” means Chapter XIV of the Constitution of the Church of Ireland.

2. In Section 13 (2) of Chapter IV, for the words “or has failed to meet its liabilities under section 35 of Chapter VI of the Constitution” there shall be substituted the words “or has failed to meet its liabilities under section 38 of Chapter VI of the Constitution”.

3. In Section 13 (2) of Chapter IV, for the words “section 35 of Chapter XIV of the Constitution” there shall be substituted “sections 8 and 36 of Chapter XIV of the Constitution”.

[xlviii]
4. For section 31 (1) (b) of Chapter VI there shall be substituted the following “a decision of the Church Panel as defined in section 34 of this Chapter or a judgment of the Court of General Synod under section 34 of this Chapter or an order made by a Disciplinary Tribunal under section 33 (d) (v) or (vi) of Chapter VIII or an order made by an Appeal Tribunal under section 36 of Chapter VIII, or”

5. In Section 68 of Chapter XIV, for the words “Section 25 of Chapter VI” there shall be substituted the words “Section 28 of Chapter VI”.

6. In Section 69 of Chapter XIV, for the words “Section 27 (2) of Chapter VI” there shall be substituted the words “Section 30 (2) of Chapter VI”.

7. In section 71 of Chapter XIV, for the words “Section 26 (3) of Chapter VI” there shall be substituted the words “Section 29 (3) of Chapter VI” in both occurrences.

8. In section 77 of Chapter XIV, for the words “Section 25 of Chapter VI” there shall be substituted “Section 28 of Chapter VI”.

9. In Section 78 of Chapter XIV, for the words “Section 27 (2) of Chapter VI” there shall be substituted “Section 30 (2) of Chapter VI”.

10. In Section 79 of Chapter XIV, for the words “Section 26 (3) of Chapter VI” there shall be substituted “Section 29 (3)” in both occurrences.
Bill No. 5

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

Christ Church Cathedral lies at the heart of church life in the city of Dublin. Having a unique position, given its location at the top of one of Dublin’s main thoroughfares, Christ Church is an icon of faith in a context that has become multi-cultural and consequently multi-faith in composition. The ministry of the cathedral reaches out across the city, not only as the mother church of the united dioceses of Dublin and Glendalough but further to churches of other denominations and other faiths. The cathedral is rich in its ecumenical expression and is much enhanced by the involvement of gifted lay people from across the community. The purpose of this Bill is to expand the Chapter of the Cathedral to reflect its mission and ministry in a changing city and a changing ecumenical culture. Through the appointment of Ecumenical and Lay Canons to the Chapter, the cathedral is enabled to engage in a tangible way in furthering ecumenical dialogue and recognising the contribution gifted lay people have given to the cathedral, the Church of Ireland and the wider community.

Clause 1 provides for the inclusion of two new sections, sections 3A and 3B, in the Statute of the General Synod Chapter I of 1902 which governs the regulation and management of Christ Church Cathedral.

The new section 3A (i) will enable the Archbishop of Dublin to appoint two honorary Lay Canons to the Cathedral in recognition of particular and distinguished service to the Cathedral or to the community in the Dioceses of Dublin and Glendalough or to the Church of Ireland. Subsections (ii) and (iii) of the new section 3A relate to the tenure of office of the Lay Canons and to their entitlements and subsection (iv) would enable the Archbishop to remove a Lay Canon for cause shown.

Section 3B provides for the appointment by the Archbishop of Dublin of two Ecumenical Canons. Apart from the appointment being made by the Archbishop of Dublin the provisions of this section are to all intents and purposes identical to those of section 24A of Chapter VII of the Constitution which relate to the appointment of Ecumenical Canons to St. Patrick’s Cathedral Dublin and to those of the legislation governing the appointment of Ecumenical Canons to the Chapter of St. Anne’s Cathedral, Belfast.

Clause 2 of this Bill provides that the Schedule containing the Declaration for Subscription to be made before the Archbishop of Dublin under the provisions of section 3A (iii) of the amended Statute of 1902 shall be annexed to the said Statute.

Clause 3 seeks to make minor and consequential amendments to Chapter VII of the Constitution of the Church of Ireland.
Bill No. 5

VERY REV DERMOT DUNNE
REV CANON ADRIENNE GALLIGAN

BILL
To amend the Statute of the General Synod, Chapter I of 1902, as amended by the Statutes of the General Synod Chapter V of 1920, Chapter VI of 1920 (Special Session), Chapter IX of 1971, Chapter II of 1997, and Chapter IV of 2006.

WHEREAS it is desirable to amend the provisions relating to the regulation and management of the Cathedral of the Holy Trinity, commonly called Christ Church, Dublin;

AND WHEREAS it is necessary therefore to amend the Statute of the General Synod Chapter I of 1902, as amended by the Statutes of the General Synod Chapter V of 1920, Chapter VI of 1920 (Special Session), Chapter IX of 1971, Chapter II of 1997, and Chapter IV of 2006, hereinafter referred to as ‘the Statute’;

AND WHEREAS it is desirable to make consequential amendment of the First Schedule to Chapter VII 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 Limerick in the year 2017 and by the authority of the same as follows:

1. Immediately after section 3 of the Statute there shall be inserted:

3A. (i) The Archbishop of Dublin shall have the right to appoint at his or her sole discretion two honorary Lay Canons to the Cathedral, such appointments to be in recognition of particular and distinguished service to the Cathedral or to the United Dioceses of Dublin and Glendalough or the community in those dioceses or to the Church of Ireland.

(ii) A Lay Canon shall hold office for a term of five years from the date of appointment and shall be entitled to a designated seat in the Cathedral while holding such office. A Lay Canon shall be entitled to attend Chapter Meetings as a non-voting member.

(iii) A Lay Canon who has served five years may be reappointed.
(iv) A Lay Canon may be removed by the Archbishop for cause shown.

3B. (i) The Archbishop of Dublin may appoint two Ecumenical Canons to the Chapter. An Ecumenical Canon shall mean a minister or accredited preacher of one or other of such Christian denominations not in full communion with the Church as may from time to time be specified by the House of Bishops. The Ecumenical Canons shall each have a designated stall in the Cathedral and shall be non-voting members of the Chapter.

(ii) Such Ecumenical Canons may be removed by the Archbishop for cause shown. Each Ecumenical Canon, if not so removed, shall hold office for a term of five years from the date of appointment or until such Ecumenical Canon shall resign from such office. An Ecumenical Canon who has served five years may be reappointed.

(iii) The appointment of an Ecumenical Canon shall not be effective unless and until that person shall make and subscribe before the Archbishop the declaration contained in the Schedule hereto annexed.

(iv) An Ecumenical Canon may be invited by the Archbishop to perform all or any of the following duties insofar as the same are consonant with the provisions of Canon 10 –

- (a) To say or sing Morning or Evening Prayer or the Litany;
- (b) To read the Holy Scriptures;
- (c) To deliver an address;
- (d) To assist at a Baptism, Marriage or Funeral Service or at the Celebration of the Holy Communion;

if the Ecumenical Canon is authorised to perform a similar duty in his or her own Church.

(v) The Court of the General Synod shall have authority to determine all questions and disputes that may arise respecting the appointment or removal of an Ecumenical Canon.

2. The Schedule below shall be annexed to the Statute.
For paragraph (2) of the First Schedule to Chapter VII of the Constitution of the Church of Ireland there shall be substituted:-


Under these Statutes, the Archbishop of Dublin is the Ordinary and has the right of appointing the Dean, and also has the right of appointment to the Dignities and Canonries, other than (a) the Canon chosen in accordance with the schedule to 1971, cap. IX, and (b) the Precentor and the Priest Vicars appointed by the Dean and Chapter; the Archbishop also has the right of appointment of two Lay Canons and two Ecumenical Canons. The Statutes provide for the regulation of the Cathedral affairs; the registration of vestry members; the return of synod members; and the triennial election of nine lay members of the Cathedral Board, and of five clerical members, to form, with the Dean, the Precentor, the Chancellor and the Treasurer, the Cathedral Board.

SCHEDULE

DECLARATION FOR SUBSCRIPTION

I, A.B., do hereby solemnly declare that:

(1) I am a minister or accredited preacher of Church.

(2) I agree to be bound by the provisions of Part II of Chapter VII of the Constitution of the Church of Ireland and, to that extent only, I submit myself to the authority of the Church of Ireland, and to the laws and tribunals thereof.

(3) I A.B. do declare that I will perform Canonical obedience to the Ordinary of the Cathedral of the Holy Trinity commonly called Christ Church, Dublin, and his or her successors, Archbishops of Dublin. I will observe the statutes and ancient customs of Cathedral of the Holy Trinity commonly called Christ Church, Dublin, so far as they are not repugnant to the laws of the Church of Ireland, I will keep private and undisclosed the secrets of the Chapter.

I subscribe the above declaration to be appointed to the office of Ecumenical Canon of the Cathedral of the Holy Trinity, commonly called Christ Church, Dublin.

[liii]
Bill No. 6

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

In 2016, the General Synod approved, by the requisite majorities, a resolution granting leave for the introduction of this Bill and accompanying Schedule in 2017.

The Bill provides for the amendment of the Book of Common Prayer (2004; rev. ed. 2005) by including, in all future printings thereof, an alteration to The Table of Readings.

VERY REV NIGEL DUNNE
BISHOP OF DOWN AND DROMORE

BILL

To amend The Table of Readings in The Book of Common Prayer

WHEREAS it is desirable to amend The Table of Readings in The Book of Common Prayer (2004; rev. ed. 2005);

BE IT ENACTED by the Archbishops and Bishops and the clergy and laity of the Church of Ireland in General Synod assembled in Limerick in the year 2017 and by the authority of the same as follows:

THE TABLE OF READINGS

In The Table of Readings immediately before the Sunday between 29 May and 4 June the following be inserted:

“The Sunday between 24 and 29 May
Proper 3

If after Trinity Sunday
Green

The provisions for the Second Sunday before Lent are used”
In The Table of Readings immediately after the Principal Service readings for The First Sunday of Christmas the following rubric be inserted:

“When this Sunday is 1 January the readings for The Circumcision and Naming of Jesus are used.”
EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

In 2016, the General Synod approved, by the requisite majorities, a resolution granting leave for the introduction of this Bill and accompanying Schedule in 2017.

The Bill provides for the amendment of the Book of Common Prayer (2004; rev. ed. 2005) by including, in all future printings thereof, an alteration to The Table of Readings and The Collects to make provision for readings, psalms, a collect and Post Communion Prayer for Remembrance Sunday.

VERY REV NIGEL DUNNE
BISHOP OF DOWN AND DROMORE

To amend the Table of Readings and The Collects in The Book of Common Prayer

WHEREAS it is desirable to amend The Table of Readings and The Collects in The Book of Common Prayer (2004; rev. ed. 2005);

BE IT ENACTED by the Archbishops and Bishops and the clergy and laity of the Church of Ireland in General Synod assembled in Limerick in the year 2017 and by the authority of the same as follows:

THE TABLE OF READINGS

In the Table of Readings under the Sunday between 6 and 12 November the following be inserted:

“Remembrance Sunday
Isaiah 2:1-5 or Isaiah 10:33-11:9 or Ezekiel 37:1-14
Psalm 4 or Psalm 47 or Psalm 93 or Psalm 126 or Psalm 130
Romans 8:31-39 or Revelation 1:1-7
Matthew 5:1-12 or John 15:9-17

*Any combination of the above may be used."

**THE COLLECTS**

In The Collects after The Third Sunday before Advent insert the following rubric:

"Collect Two and the Post Communion Prayer above are suitable for use on Remembrance Sunday".
FIFTY-FIRST GENERAL SYNOD

Third Ordinary Session, held in Limerick, on 4th, 5th and 6th May 2017

FIRST DAY’S PROCEEDINGS

THURSDAY 4th MAY 2017

On this day, according to the summons of His Grace the Lord Primate, the Synod assembled in the South Court Hotel, Limerick.

The Bible and the Book of Common Prayer were laid on the table.

Chair

At noon the Primate assumed the Chair and announced that the General Synod was in session.

Holy Scripture and Prayer

A portion of Holy Scripture and Prayers were read by Very Rev Gary Paulson, Dean of Killaloe.

Members of General Synod

A list of members of the General Synod was laid on the table.

President’s Address

His Grace the Lord Primate delivered the following address.

In the short video in which I was asked to appear as a means of welcome to this General Synod, I suggested that a synod of the Church of Ireland is first and foremost an occasion when the people of God – representing bishops, clergy and laity – gather to work together for God, a serious business indeed. But it is also an occasion when we may enjoy one another’s company, renew old friendships and make new friendships. The Church of Ireland is a relatively small community of Christian disciples, and this means that a General Synod takes on something of the character of a family reunion. There is a saying that ‘Families are like branches on a tree – we grow in different directions yet our roots remain as one.’ This is certainly true for us as a Church family. As we gather together in Limerick (for the first time as a General Synod), let us make the most of this synod in every way. In this context, it is a great pleasure to welcome our guests at synod, representing both the civic life of this city and also the wider family of Christian traditions on this island and beyond.
I would like - at this point - to thank all those who have done the work of preparation for this General Synod. We thank the Bishop of Limerick and Killaloe and all those who have worked with him here in this diocese to welcome us to this city. We are grateful also to the staff of Church House in Dublin and in Belfast and I would ask Mr Ritchie, our Chief Officer and Secretary-General, to convey our thanks to all those who work, both cheerfully and tirelessly, on our behalf throughout the year. Not least we thank him for his work at the heart of the life of the Church. We can truly say of him, given that he still engages in extremely demanding athletic pursuits, that ‘he has hit the ground running’.

In recent years, much has been done in many areas in the life of the central Church but I use this opportunity to draw your attention in particular to the tremendous amount of useful and helpful material that is now available on-line to members of the Church of Ireland, wherever they may be. This material covers many aspects of the work of the local Church in addition to the central Church and has been developed as part of the Long-Term Church initiative, equipping members of the Church to serve their communities with more understanding and providing material that will be of great value to them.

As we gather together as a Church family it is right and proper that we note in prayer the deaths of a number of present or former members of general synod, Mrs Brenda Auchmuty of Tuam Diocese who died since the last synod, and also former members, Mr Pen Hatch and Mrs Ros Elliott of Meath and Kildare Dioceses and also Mr Aleck Creichton of Tuam. I would like us also to note the deaths of three other members of General Synod who in many ways were pivotal to our deliberations, albeit in different ways. Last year, Mr Michael Davey was present at the General Synod as an ordinary member, but he had been our assessor between 1988 and 2006, missing only two synods over those nineteen years. He was an extremely affable but an equally effective assessor who gained the respect of all, with his air of calmness coupled with a notable clarity in his explanations of law and process. Dean Victor Griffin, one-time Dean of St Patrick’s Cathedral Dublin, was a debater of a type we rarely see or hear today, where passion and cogency, combined with a knowledge of the Church of Ireland as a whole and a great love of the Church, made him a very able and fearless contributor to the deliberations of synod over many years. We remember also before God Bishop Samuel Poyntz, a former Bishop of Cork and of Connor. A man of great vigour, courage and far-sightedness, who resolutely refused to surrender to any element of gloom or negativity from wherever it might have appeared. His confidence in what the Church was called to be was extremely infectious. Many of us knew him also as a caring and diligent pastor, a true Father in God. We thank God for all these His faithful servants, who by His grace brought so much to the life of the Church.

Many of the extraordinary changes on the world scene over the past year might reasonably be seen as revolving ultimately around a single conception, that of identity. What is our basic identity, is it local or global, is it national or supra-national, is it a particular social, ethnic or religious culture, or does it extend further? In the phrase of Stephan Shakespeare, coined some years ago, is it to be drawbridge up or drawbridge down? Massive difficulties arise when there is a serious clash between differing perceptions of fundamental identity, when each side in the discussion seeks to demean, threaten or even destroy the other, and we have indeed seen many examples of this over recent months, and in many places, near and far. But we would be naïve to imagine that the need for identity is not a basic human instinct. Social psychologists would assure us that we are all hard-wired to require and to defend a particular identity for ourselves, and to be instinctively and resolutely loyal to those we can identify as ‘like us’ in respect of this identity. What then can easily follow from this, however, is a willingness to replace any obedience to truth with whatever risible nonsense will reinforce our prejudices as we seek to demonise the ‘otherness’ of those we see as different from us, and hence is highly dangerous. One is reminded of General Sir Ian Hamilton, who commanded the British and allied forces in the Dardanelles campaign in 1915, who recommended such an approach, as ‘drawing
nourishment from the sins of the enemy. If there are no sins, invent them! The aim is to make the enemy so great a monster that he forfeits the rights of a human being. The casual arrival of such a tactic – totally unblushingly - into public discourse in the society of today, in the supposed interests of maintaining one’s own cherished identity, has polluted the moral foundations of society itself.

As Christian disciples, we recognise that we do indeed have a basic identity that we must share with all others, that of being made by God in His image and likeness. This means that others – all others – must be treated with a complete dignity and with an utter respect, regardless of who and what they are, what they think or what they do. There are of course other identities of which we must be aware – identities of culture, of religious affiliation, of ethnicity, of sexuality, of nationality – but these cannot be allowed to deface our essential fundamental identity of being loved equally by God. But we are called to find another identity within our Christian calling. This comes through strongly in the Gospels where Christ calls us to find a true identity, not only with those who are like us, or with those whom we find it easy to like or admire, but with those who most need our love and our care. Hence, the Good Samaritan finds an identity with someone who would avoid and despise him in any other circumstance but who now needs his help. The twenty-fifth chapter of Matthew’s Gospel is a stern reminder that we find identity with Christ in those to whom we hold out our hand in unselfconscious care – those who are homeless, regardless of why they are homeless, those who are in prison, regardless of whether they are guilty of some crime or not, or those who are without the means to have decent clothes or any clothes at all, regardless of whether or not it was fecklessness, dishonesty or addictions that put them into that situation. The identity that we must have and truly believe we have is with those who need us, and therefore we must hold to such an identity willingly and ungrudgingly.

Perhaps the most obvious area in which we should be able to see this is in relation to the refugee crisis that is sweeping the world at present, and which has become a focus for many people’s complaint that ‘their identity’ is somehow being threatened by immigration. The United Nations Refugee Agency estimates that, worldwide, there are almost 60 million forcibly displaced people; over 45 million men, women and children are being helped or protected by the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, and over half of all refugees are under 18 years old. But, as we consider the European aspects of the refugee crisis, we need first to understand that nearly 90% of all known refugees are being cared for, not here in Europe, but in the developing world, those countries that can least afford any influx of impoverished newcomers.

Turning to the response of Ireland, north and south, to the current refugee crisis, it is a mixed picture. Northern Ireland is taking very few refugees, but there is an indication of good organisation for those who will be allowed into that jurisdiction. The Republic of Ireland has agreed to take a far larger number, proportionately, but there is little sign that an infrastructure is yet ready for this. In neither case are many refugees being admitted, a few thousand at most on an island with a total population of almost six and a half million. When it became clear that there was a migrant crisis of unprecedented proportions for this part of the world, the Church of Ireland set up two working groups, one for Northern Ireland and one for the Republic, to work with other Christian traditions, other faith groups and also to liaise with government and with organisations that were organising aid in some way for those entering this country as refugees. The Northern Ireland group is headed by the Bishop of Derry and Raphoe, and the Republic of Ireland group by the Bishop of Tuam, Killala and Achonry. In this context, I commend the resource pack on supporting asylum seekers and refugees recently produced by these groups and thank those responsible for its production. It is available on-line on the Church of Ireland web-site.

This is a supremely practical matter. We need to be ready to protect, in every way we can and in every part of this island, those refugees and asylum seekers who are already here in Ireland, but who are now being treated with indifference, or with suspicion, hostility and even violence. The Immigrant Council
of Ireland has revealed that reports of Islamophobia rose by 35 per cent in one year, 2015, in the Republic of Ireland. All people who are here as refugees or asylum seekers should be met with the dignity, justice and humanitarian support that they deserve, and ideally within a programme that is integrated across the entire board. This should include those asylum seekers who are already in the country and have been so for some time, a category that can very easily be forgotten. But one thing of which we must be certain is that those who are here among us as bona fide refugees have not left their homelands for motives other than sheer desperation.

But if we can see how xenophobia and a more generalised fear of the otherness of those who seem unlike us may be an outcome for those who are insecure in their own identity, we also need to understand how there are other more hidden but equally dangerous aspects to that human insecurity. There are many around us today, in every age group and every social class, who are not at ease with themselves and who cannot find their true identity. One of the terrible outcomes of this is in the terrifying incidence of domestic abuse and violence in Ireland today. Inevitably victims are more often female than male but this is not the entire picture. What is immensely disturbing is that the incidence of reported violence is so high (and we know that it cuts across all social classes and all socio-economic groups) that we must therefore assume that it is present within every community represented here today. Globally, at least 1 in 3 women, or up to one billion women, have been beaten, coerced into sex, or otherwise abused in their lifetimes. In the Republic of Ireland, one in five women in a relationship have been abused by a present or former partner. In Northern Ireland, the Police Service responds to an incident of domestic violence every nineteen minutes on average, day and night, seven days a week. In Ireland as a whole, 1 in 7 women and 1 in 17 men experience severe domestic violence. Domestic abuse may be violent, but it may also be more subtle – economic or psychological – but nonetheless devastating in its impact. And we know, much domestic violence and abuse goes unreported, whether through fear or manipulation.

We could continue with statistics indefinitely, but what is most important is to realise that this is not an issue out there, among those we think of as other people, utterly unlike us. It is in every community. It is under our noses, perhaps even in our own families. People who suffer in this way must be encouraged to seek help. When people cannot come to terms with themselves and their real identity, or cannot be at ease with what they are, then the most terrible things can happen. One of the possibilities that we are investigating in Armagh Diocese is how parish churches can be designated as “safe places” for those who are suffering domestic abuse. For many people, in every part of this island, the Church does not have a reputation as being a place of safety, far from it. Surely we can work together to reverse this notion of what we are.

Last September it was a joy and privilege to welcome the members of the Anglican-Orthodox International Commission for Theological Dialogue to Armagh. It was an honour for the Church of Ireland to host such an international Church gathering and equally so for me on a personal basis as the current co-chair of the Commission. We so often take our spiritual identity for granted here in Ireland particularly within the Anglican tradition and yet we have a rich heritage which should be acknowledged and celebrated. During that week in the autumn, our visitors constantly reminded us of the great spirituality they sensed in this place, they rejoiced in the great heritage of Saint Patrick known throughout the world, and also in the warmth of our fellowship. Sometimes it takes outsiders, or at least those who don’t live amongst us, to show us and remind us of the special and unique identity we have as Christians in this land. It is an identity which we should cherish and never take for granted, one which holds within it and offers such great spiritual riches.

Finally, I want to suggest to synod that we expand our understanding of our identity in a different way. I have suggested that our understanding of Christian identity should be our utter solidarity with those who need us. Much of our understanding of ministry is related to our engagement with those who are,
metaphorically at least, within our walls. We expend relatively little on chaplaincy work. Indeed we rely on the state, whether in Northern Ireland or the Republic, to provide most of the financial support necessary. In consequence, chaplaincy ministry – whether in hospitals, in prisons, in universities, in institutions such as our police service – is simply under-resourced. But it is in a world out there – out in a world which barely knows us, or which finds it hard to believe that we have anything to offer – that there is pain, weariness, depression, loneliness and stress of every kind.

It is in a world well beyond the comfort of our pews that people are living without meaning or identity, who need love and care, and who do respond, not to proselytisation or badgering, but to unaffected generosity and concern in the name of Jesus Christ. They will not find us of their own volition. We need to find them and to be there for them. Can we have the courage and the faith to believe that our identity is not simply among those who resemble us in ways that give us pleasure, but with those whom Christ also loves, who need his love and hence our love?

Welcome of Official Guests

The Primate welcomed the official guests on behalf of the General Synod.

At the invitation of the Primate and with the approval of the House, Cllr Kieran O’Hanlon, Mayor of the City and County of Limerick, addressed the Synod.

Nomination of an Assessor

The President nominated Mr Lyndon MacCann, S.C. to act as his Assessor.

Election of an Honorary Secretary

Proposals for a Lay Honorary Secretary were invited by the President from the lay members of the Synod.

Ms Hazel Corrigan was proposed by Mrs Joan Bruton (Meath and Kildare), seconded by Mr Wilfred Baker (Cork, Cloyne and Ross), and elected.

Motion on Procedure

Ven George Davison moved Motion No. 1 on procedure. It was proposed by the Honorary Secretaries and passed:

That Motion No. 1 on procedure be passed.
MOTION NO. 1 – THE HONORARY SECRETARIES (WITH THE APPROVAL OF THE PRESIDENT)
That in accordance with Standing Order 56, the time available under Standing Order 3 be allocated as follows:

**FIRST DAY**

12 noon  President takes the chair
         Reading from Holy Scripture and Prayer
         List of members of the General Synod to be laid on the table
         Nomination of an Assessor by the President
         President’s Address
         Welcome of official Guests

1pm  Election of Honorary Secretary
     Motion No. 1 (Timetable)
     Motion No. 2 (Standing Orders)
     Formal business and communications

2pm  Answers to requests for information (if any) (SO 51)
     Report of the Bills Committee
     Bills No. 1 to 6, incl. special bills (1 hr)
     Liturgical Advisory Committee (15 mins)
     Motion No. 3 (Liturgical Advisory Committee - Special Resolution)
     Motion No. 4 (Liturgical Advisory Committee - Special Resolution)
     Motion No. 5 (Liturgical Advisory Committee - Special Resolution)
     Motion No. 6 (Liturgical Advisory Committee - Special Resolution)

3.25-3.55pm  Coffee break

4pm  Church of Ireland Marriage Council (20 mins)
     Report of the Standing Committee (not more than 2 hours)
     Motion No. 7 (Facilitation Committee)

6.30pm  Motion No. 8 (Inter-Diocesan Conversations)
### SECOND DAY

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<tr>
<td>10am</td>
<td>Reading from Holy Scripture and Prayer</td>
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<td>Formal business and communications</td>
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<td><strong>Board of Education</strong> (not more than 1 hour)</td>
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<td>11.15-11.45am</td>
<td>Coffee break</td>
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<td>11.45am-1pm</td>
<td><strong>Council for Mission</strong> <em>(40 mins)</em></td>
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<td>Motion No. 9 (Council for Mission – membership)</td>
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<td><strong>Informal Session</strong> <em>(“Celebrating our Communities” - some Church of Ireland parishes seeking to serve their neighbour)</em></td>
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<td>2-4pm</td>
<td>Answers to requests for information <em>(if any)</em> <em>(SO 51)</em></td>
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<td><strong>Report of the Representative Church Body</strong> <em>(not more than 2 hours, inclusive of related motions)</em></td>
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<td><em>(Including reports of the Church of Ireland Clergy Pensions Trustee Limited and the Church of Ireland Pensions Board)</em></td>
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<td>Motion No. 10 (Representative Church Body - Allocations)</td>
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<td>Motion No. 11 <em>(Climate change and fossil fuels)</em></td>
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<td>4-4.20pm</td>
<td>Coffee break</td>
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<td>4.25-6.30pm</td>
<td><strong>Select Committee on Human Sexuality in the Context of Christian Belief</strong></td>
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<td>Motion No. 12 <em>(Human Sexuality)</em></td>
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If business listed for any period is completed before the hour appointed, reports listed for Saturday afternoon will be taken in reverse order, commencing with the Commission on Ministry. References in this motion to a “report” shall include any motions accompanying such report on the agenda paper.

Standing Orders

It was proposed by Mr Kenneth Gibson and seconded by Rev Canon Gillian Wharton on behalf of the Standing Orders Committee and passed:

That Standing Order 56 be amended by the deletion of the words “and not less than one hour for the consideration of the report of the Role of the Church Committee”.

Adjournment

The House adjourned from 1 to 2 pm. Upon the resumption of the Synod, the Archbishop of Armagh resumed the Chair.

Reports of Committees and Boards

The following reports were presented:

- The Book of Reports 2017 incorporating the following
  - The Report of the Representative Church Body
  - The Report of the Standing Committee
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- The Report of the General Synod Board of Education
- The Report of the Church of Ireland Youth Department
- The Report of the Covenant Council
- The Report of the Liturgical Advisory Committee
- The Report of the Church of Ireland Council for Mission
- The Report of the Commission on Ministry
- The Report of the Church of Ireland Marriage Council

- The Clergy and Ministry Protection Fund Regulations.

Communication from the Record Committee

The following communication was received from the Record Committee:

23rd January 2017

To the Honorary Secretaries of the General Synod

Record Committee

The Record Committee reports that, as provided by the Statutes, the Statutes passed at the last Session have been printed and they now present a copy which has been compared, certified and sealed, and signed by the members of the Committee.

George Davison
Chairperson

Communication from Diocesan Synods

Speaking on behalf of the Honorary Secretaries, Ven George Davison announced that several communications have been received.

- The Diocesan Synod of the United Dioceses of Cashel, Ferns and Ossory has amended its Diocesan Rules and Regulations.
- The Diocesan Synod of Down and Dromore has amended its Diocesan Regulations.
- The Diocesan Synod of Connor has amended its Diocesan Regulations.
- The Diocesan Synod of Armagh has amended its Diocesan Rules and Regulations.
The letters were laid on the table.

**Presentation of Petitions**

Speaking on behalf of the Honorary Secretaries, Ven George Davison announced that there were no petitions.

**Communication from the House of Bishops**

The Most Rev Dr Michael Jackson (Archbishop of Dublin and Bishop of Glendalough) read a communication from the House of Bishops.

*HoB 2017/001*

The recent Review of the Church of Ireland Theological Institute was conducted as part of planned follow-up to the restructuring of training and formation for ministry of six years ago, and has coincided with the review of the Institute by the state agency, Quality and Qualifications Ireland (QQI). The results of these separate and independent reviews are overwhelmingly positive; the Director and the staff of the Institute are warmly to be applauded for their work in meeting the expectations of the vision laid down in the Ministry Development Plan.

The bishops have consulted widely with people from within the Church of Ireland; our Methodist Covenant partners; the Roman Catholic tradition and the Porvoo Communion of Churches. The chairperson of the Bishops’ Review was a bishop in the Church of England responsible for Theological Education in the Anglican Communion (TEAC) and Reader Training in England. The period of reflection on the work of the Institute has resulted in affirming and constructive submissions from those with a wide range of relevant expertise. Many recommendations of the Bishops’ Review and the QQI review have already been acted upon and other keys areas have been identified for further exploration. The staff are to be thanked and applauded for such speedy implementation.

Recognition of a strong relationship between the Institute and the University of Dublin, Trinity College is prevalent. A recommendation of the Review is that work be undertaken further to deepen the connections between CITI staff and students and the life and the activities of the university, exploring afresh staff involvement in teaching within the university as well as within the Institute and creating opportunities for involvement of CITI students, particularly in the life of the College Chapel, its worship and activities.

Again, the part played by CITI staff, both academic and administrative, must be emphasised. They continue to have the thanks of the whole Church of Ireland. In line with the recommendations of the reviews, a system of sabbatical leave has been put in place in order to enable academic staff to take periods of time specifically for purposes of research in light of their wide-ranging teaching commitments.
Another area in which adjustments have been made in response to the reviews is that of distance learning. The distance learning option for the Masters in Theology degree will henceforth be delivered in 60% of the time previously allocated to it. The intention behind this change is to achieve greater accessibility to this training for the future and for those for whom residential training is not the suitable pathway.

It is hoped that these changes, others like them and those under consideration for the future, will all contribute to the development of the Institute as a centre of excellence for the Church of Ireland, both for ordained ministry training and formation and lay theological education. The House of Bishops still has much to explore and will continue to work with the Director of CITI and others in respect of the development of the Institute for the future.

Ecumenical Guests

At the invitation of the Primate and with the approval of the House, the Most Reverend Brendan Leahy of the Roman Catholic Church addressed the Synod on behalf of the official guests.

Chair

The Bishop of Cork assumed the Chair.

Report of the Bills Committee

The Bishop of Cork presented the report of the Bills Committee and laid it on the table, along with a copy of the Bills pamphlet.

GENERAL SYNOD 2017

REPORT OF THE BILLS COMMITTEE

The function of the Bills Committee, as set out in Standing Order 24, is to ‘consider the legal and drafting aspects of Bills’ being presented to the General Synod. It should be noted that it is not the function of the Bills Committee to draft legislation, or to determine the policy underlying legislation, or to order the administrative working of the legislative process of the General Synod.

The Bills Committee met on 3 occasions as follows:

- On Tuesday, 14th March, 2017 when Bills numbered 1, 3, 4 and 5 in the circulated Bills Pamphlet were considered and notice was given that additional Bills would be submitted by the deadline of 31st March, 2016.
- On Monday, 27th March 2017 when Bills numbered 1,3,4 and 5 in the circulated Bills Pamphlet were considered.

- On Friday, 28th April 2017 when Bills number 1-6 in the circulated Bills Pamphlet, and the additional Bill number 7 were considered. Motions 3,4 and 5 which enable the introduction of Special Bills were also considered.

On each occasion the Bishop of Cork was in the Chair.

The Bills Committee has no comment to make on Bills number 2, 5, or 6. In the case of Bill number 1, the Bills Committee agrees with the advice of the Assessor that the concluding phrase of the clause of the Bill, namely, ‘in accordance with the relevant statutory provision’, is problematic. It advises, therefore, that, at Committee Stage, an amendment be introduced to replace that phrase with the words ‘any applicable legal requirements.’ The Bills Committee understands that notice has been given of such an amendment.

Considerable debate was prompted by Bill number 3. The Assessor reported that in response to a query put to him about lay people who are ordained deacon and who serve in an internship that, on a strict interpretation of Chapter I, which provides for the election of members, clerical and lay, to the General Synod, it is not clear whether such a person ceases to be a member of General Synod. The Assessor, as a result, also identified more general issues in this connection, in the following situations: (i) when a lay person is ordained deacon in the course of a triennium whether serving in an internship or not; and (ii) when a member of the clergy retires in the course of a triennium. The Bills Committee notes that Bill number 3 addresses the query as originally raised, but not the other situations that have been identified. The Bills Committee recommends that the other shortcomings identified in Chapter I be addressed in legislation as a matter of priority.

In the case of Bill number 4, the Bills Committee notes that in Clause 4 of the Bill there is a typographical error. The reference to Chapter VI in the first line of Clause 4, should refer to Chapter IV. This may be corrected at Report Stage in accordance with Standing Order 29(d). In the case of Bill number 7, the Bills Committee has been advised by the Liturgical Advisory Committee that there is an omission of inverted commas, and a grammatical error in the Bill. These may be corrected at Report Stage in accordance with Standing Order 30(a).

Re Resolutions: The Bills Committee makes no comment on Resolutions 3, 4 and 5, other than to point out that these will constitute the first reading of Special Bills. The Bills Committee emphasises that, under Standing Order 30(a), any amendments to be considered next year in relation to such of these resolutions as may be passed, must be submitted, in writing, to the Honorary Secretaries, within one calendar month of the end of this year’s Ordinary Session of the General Synod, that is, within one month from Saturday, 6th May 2017.

The venues of the meetings and the record of attendance of members at each of the 3 meetings is appended to this report.

4th May, 2017
Attendances, Apologies and Venues:
On Tuesday, 14th March, 2017 in Church of Ireland House, Dublin.
Present: the Bishop of Cork (Chairman), the Venerable George Davison, Mrs Ethne Harkness, Mr Lyndon MacCann, S.C., The Hon. Mrs Justice Catherine McGuinness, and Canon Lady Sheil.
In attendance: Mrs Janet Maxwell, Dr Catherine Smith, and Canon Gillian Wharton.
Apologies: Mrs Pauline High, and the Reverend Brian O’Rourke.

On Monday, 27th March 2017 at 4.30 p.m. at Church of Ireland House, Dublin.
Present: the Bishop of Cork (Chairman), the Venerable George Davison, Mrs Pauline High, Mr Lyndon MacCann, Judge Catherine McGuinness, the Reverend Brian O’Rourke, and Canon Lady Sheil.
In attendance: the Very Reverend Dermot Dunne, Mrs Janet Maxwell, and Dr Catherine Smith.
Apologies: Mrs Ethne Harkness.

On Friday, 28th April 2017 by teleconference at 2 p.m.
Present: the Bishop of Cork (Chairman), the Venerable George Davison, Mrs Ethne Harkness, Mrs Pauline High, Mr Lyndon MacCann, and Canon Lady Sheil.
In attendance: Mrs Janet Maxwell, and Dr Catherine Smith. The Chief Officer joined the meeting by teleconference for consideration of Bill No.1.
Apologies: Judge Catherine McGuinness, and the Reverend Brian O’Rourke.

Bill (No. 1) To amend Chapter XIV of the Constitution

It was proposed by Mr Geoffrey Perrin (Dublin), seconded by the Bishop of Clogher and passed:

That leave be given to introduce Bill No 1.

That the Bill be approved in principle and given a second reading.

According to order the House went into Committee.

The Bill was considered in detail.

AMENDMENT

It was proposed by Mr Geoffrey Perrin, seconded by the Bishop of Clogher and passed:

That the words “the relevant statutory provision,” wherever they appear in the Bill, be replaced with the words “any applicable legal requirements”.

The Clauses as amended were passed.
The Preamble was passed.
The Bill was reported.
The House resumed.
Saturday 6th May was fixed for the next stage.

**Bill (No. 2) To amend Chapter III of the Constitution.**

It was proposed by the Bishop of Clogher, seconded by Ven Adrian Wilkinson (Cork, Cloyne and Ross) and passed:

That leave be given to introduce Bill No 2.

That the Bill be approved in principle and given a second reading.

According to order the House went into Committee.
The Bill was considered in detail.
The Clauses were passed.
The Preamble was passed.
The Bill was reported.
The House resumed.
Saturday 6th May was fixed for the next stage.

**Bill (No. 3) to amend Chapter I of the Constitution**

It was proposed by Ven George Davison (Connor), seconded by Ms Hazel Corrigan (Cashel) and passed:

That leave be given to introduce Bill No 3.

That the Bill be approved in principle and given a second reading.

According to order the House went into Committee.
The Bill was considered in detail.
The Clauses were passed.

[1xxi]
The Preamble was passed.
The Bill was reported.
The House resumed.
Saturday 6th May was fixed for the next stage.

**Bill (No. 4) To amend Chapter IV and Chapter XIV of the Constitution**

It was proposed by Rev Canon Gillian Wharton (Dublin), seconded by Mr Kenneth Gibson (Connor) and passed:

That leave be given to introduce Bill No 4.

That the Bill be approved in principle and given a second reading.

According to order the House went into Committee.
The Bill was considered in detail.
The Clauses were passed.
The Preamble was passed.
The Bill was reported.
The House resumed.
Saturday 6th May was fixed for the next stage.

**Bill (No. 5) To amend the Statute of the General Synod, Chapter I of 1902, as amended by the Statutes of the General Synod Chapter V of 1920, Chapter VI of 1920 (Special Session), Chapter IX of 1971, Chapter II of 1997, and Chapter IV of 2006.**

It was proposed by Very Rev Dermot Dunne (Dublin), seconded by Rev Canon Adrienne Galligan (Dublin) and passed:

That Leave be given to introduce Bill No 5.

That the Bill be approved in principle and given a second reading.
According to order the House went into Committee.

The Bill was considered in detail.

The Clauses were passed.

The Preamble was passed.

The Schedule was passed.

The Bill was reported.

The House resumed.

Saturday 6th May was fixed for the next stage.

**Bill (No. 6) To amend The Table of Readings in The Book of Common Prayer**

It was proposed by Very Rev Nigel Dunne (Cork, Cloyne and Ross), seconded by Very Rev Gerald Field (Cashel) and passed:

That Bill No. 6 be approved in principle and given a second reading.

A vote was taken, and passed by the requisite two-thirds majority of each order, to allow the second reading.

According to order the House went into Committee.

The Bill was considered in detail.

The Clauses were passed.

The Preamble was passed.

The Bill was reported.

The House resumed.

Saturday 6th May was fixed for the next stage.

**Bill (No. 7) To amend The Table of Readings and The Collects in The Book of Common Prayer**
It was proposed by Very Rev Nigel Dunne, seconded by Very Rev Gerald Field and

That Bill No. 7 be approved in principle and given a second reading.

A vote was taken, and passed by the requisite two-thirds majority of each order, to allow
the second reading.

According to order the House went into Committee.

The Bill was considered in detail.

The Clauses were passed.

The Preamble was passed.

The Bill was reported.

The House resumed.

Saturday 6th May was fixed for the next stage.

**Liturical Advisory Committee**

It was proposed by Very Rev Nigel Dunne, seconded by Rev Adrian Dorrian (Down) and

That the Report of the Liturgical Advisory Committee be received.

**Liturical Advisory Committee – Special Resolution**

It was proposed by Very Rev Nigel Dunne, seconded by Very Rev Gerald Field, and

That, in accordance with the provisions of Section 26(1) of Chapter I of the
Constitution, leave be given for the introduction of a Bill in the General Synod
2018 to amend the *Book of Common Prayer* (2004; rev. ed. 2005), by including
therein *An Order for Morning and Evening Prayer for use on Sunday* as set out in
the schedule to this Resolution.

**Liturical Advisory Committee – Special Resolution**

It was proposed by Very Rev Nigel Dunne, seconded by Very Rev Gerald Field, and
passed:
That, in accordance with the provisions of Section 26(1) of Chapter I of the Constitution, leave be given for the introduction of a Bill in the General Synod 2018 to amend the Book of Common Prayer (2004; rev. ed. 2005), by authorising the use of Collects of the Word as set out in the schedule to this Resolution.

Liturgical Advisory Committee – Special Resolution

It was proposed by Rev Adrian Dorrian and seconded by Very Rev Gerald Field:

That, in accordance with the provisions of Section 26(1) of Chapter I of the Constitution, leave be given for the introduction of a Bill in the General Synod 2018 to amend the Book of Common Prayer (2004; rev ed. 2005), by making changes to The Litany in Contemporary Language as set out in the schedule to this Resolution:

SCHEDULE

SECTION ENTITLED ‘FOR THE STATE’

That the petition beginning ‘Bless the European Union’ be placed within square, red brackets:

[ Bless the European Union,
and draw us closer to one another in justice and freedom,
hear us, good Lord.]

The required two-thirds majority was not achieved, and subsequently the resolution was recorded as having been defeated.

Adjournment

The House adjourned from 3.25 to 3.55 pm and resumed with the Bishop of Derry and Raphoe in the Chair.

Report of the Church of Ireland Marriage Council

It was proposed by Rev Johnathan Campbell-Smyth (Connor), seconded by Rev John Ardis (Cork, Cloyne and Ross), and passed:

That the report of the Church of Ireland Marriage Council be received.

Standing Committee

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It was proposed by the Most Rev Patricia Storey, Bishop of Meath and Kildare, seconded by Mr Richard Codd (Cashel), and passed:

That the report of the Standing Committee be received and adopted.

Facilitation Committee

An amendment was proposed by Mrs Ethne Harkness (Armagh), seconded by Mrs Rhonda Willoughby (Meath and Kildare) and passed.

The motion as amended was proposed by Rev Canon Gillian Wharton on behalf of the Honorary Secretaries, seconded by Ms Hazel Corrigan, and passed:

That the General Synod ratify the terms of reference and the membership of the Facilitation Committee, established by the Standing Committee in January 2017, as directed by Statute Ch. I of 2016:

Terms of reference
The Committee will:
- Engage in discussion with all twelve dioceses about the issues raised by the work of the Commission on Episcopal Ministry and Structures as these affect them locally
- Facilitate exploration of any proposals that may arise from such conversations
- Provide an annual report to the General Synod.

Membership
The following are appointed to membership of the Facilitation Committee until the General Synod of 2020:

Mr Ken Gibson
Mr Robert Neill
Rev Robin Bantry White
Very Revd Katharine Poulton

Adjournment

Prayers were led by Very Rev Gary Paulsen. The Benediction was pronounced, and the Synod adjourned until Friday.

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SECOND DAY’S PROCEEDINGS

FRIDAY 5TH MAY 2017

The Chair was taken at 10 am by His Grace the Lord Primate.

A hymn was sung and a portion of Holy Scripture and Prayer were read by Very Rev Gary Paulsen.

Request for Information

On behalf of the Honorary Secretaries, Ven George Davison noted that a request for information had been received from Ven Leslie Stevenson (Meath and Kildare) under Standing Order 51.

The request was: “In the absence of the inclusion of a report from the Church of Ireland Board of Social Responsibility, is there an update on the understanding of the relationship between Church of Ireland Board of Social Responsibility and the Church of Ireland as the 2016 report of the Church of Ireland Board of Social Responsibility to General Synod indicated there would be in the near future?”

Archdeacon Davison announced that the information would be given to the Synod after lunch.

Chair

The Bishop of Derry and Raphoe assumed the Chair.

Inter-Diocesan Conversations

It was proposed by the Rt Rev Patrick Rooke, Bishop of Tuam, Killala and Achonry, seconded by the Rt Rev Dr Kenneth Kearon, Bishop of Limerick and Killaloe, and passed:

That this General Synod:

(i) encourages the United Dioceses of Limerick and Killaloe and the United Dioceses of Tuam, Killala and Achonry (the two dioceses) to continue their talks and to bring further proposals to next year’s General Synod.

(ii) would be prepared to consider Option B (as indicated in the Report from the two dioceses) should this be their chosen option. This option would not reduce the number of dioceses.

(iii) would be prepared to consider Option C (as indicated in the Report from the two dioceses) should this be their chosen option. This option allows for the creation of a ‘suffragan bishop’ post.

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Ecumenical Guests
At the invitation of the Primate and with the approval of the House, the Rt Rev Chris Wilson (of the Non-Subscribing Presbyterian Church of Ireland), representing the Irish Council of Churches, addressed the Synod on behalf of the official guests.

Communication from the Representative Church Body
The following communication was received from the Representative Church Body:

5th May 2017

TO THE HONORARY SECRETARIES OF THE GENERAL SYNOD

CO-OPTED MEMBERS
I wish to advise you that at its meeting on 5th May 2017 the Representative Church Body elected the following as co-opted members:

Ven Andrew Forster
Mr Richard Milliken
Mr William Oliver
Mrs Wendy Taylor

DAVID RITCHIE
Chief Officer and Secretary

Adjournment
The House adjourned from 11 to 11.30 am and resumed with the Rt Rev Michael Burrows, Bishop of Cashel, Ferns and Ossory in the Chair.

Report of the Board of Education
It was proposed by Mr Michael Hall (Elphin and Ardagh), seconded by Dr Kenneth Dunn (Connor) and passed:

That the Report of the Board of Education be received.

Report of the Council for Mission
It was proposed by Rev Colin Hall-Thompson (Connor), seconded by the Rt Rev Ferran Glenfield, Bishop of Kilmore, Elphin and Ardagh, and passed:

That the Report of the Council for Mission be received.

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Council for Mission – Membership

It was proposed by Mr Derek Neilson (Dublin and Glendalough), seconded by the Bishop of Kilmore, Elphin and Ardagh and passed:

That the following be elected to the Church of Ireland Council for Mission until the General Synod of 2020:

- Rev Cliff Jeffers
- Ms Johanne Martin
- Ms Julie Currie
- Rev Adam Pullen
- Rev Andrew Quill
- Rev Patrick Burke.

Standing Orders

The President asked the Synod if it would agree to the suspension of Standing Orders to allow an informal session – “Celebrating our Communities” – to take place. The House agreed.

“Celebrating Our Communities”

Rev Canon Patrick Comerford and Mr David Breen gave a presentation on the work of the Social Cohesion Project with the Traveller Community in the parish of Rathkeale (Diocese of Limerick and Killaloe).

Standing Orders

Standing Orders were resumed.

Adjournment

The House adjourned from 1 to 2 pm. Upon the resumption of the Synod, the Archbishop of Armagh assumed the Chair.

Answer to Request for information

In response to the request for information of Ven Leslie Stevenson, Ven George Davison read the following on behalf of the Honorary Secretaries:

Discussion with Archdeacon Stevenson following receipt of his Request for Information clarified that he was referring to a statement in the report received from the “Church of
Ireland Board for Social Responsibility NI” which was appended to the Report of the Church and Society Commission in the Book of Reports 2016.

Although The Board for Social Responsibility Northern Ireland (BSRNI) was originally established as one of two sub-committees of the General Synod Board for Social Responsibility, the committee of that name no longer exists. It was replaced by the General Synod with The Board for Social Theology in Action, which was itself later replaced with The Church and Society Commission.

The body whose report was appended to the CASC report in recent years “The Church of Ireland Board for Social Responsibility (NI)” is a charitable company which was set up by the former BSRNI sub-committee with its own board of directors and Articles of Association to access public funds in the UK and carry out work, principally in the field of adoption.

Following the changes to the General Synod committee structure, the company maintained a link with the Church of Ireland through BSTIA and later CASC, but functioned as had been intended as an independent body. Following conversations between the Honorary Secretaries and some of the directors of the charitable company it was agreed that there was confusion over the relationship between the charitable company now renamed “Church of Ireland Board of Social Responsibility NI” and the Church.

The firm of independent consultants referred to in the 2016 Book of Reports was engaged by the then Secretary General to help clarify the facts and identify the best way forward. That exercise established that although it was originally established by a committee of the General Synod, BSRNI Ltd is now an independent charity over which General Synod has no influence or responsibility.

BSRNI Ltd appoints its own Board of Directors, can change (and has changed) its Articles of Association without reference to the General Synod and General Synod no longer has a role in approving the strategy of the company. It does not receive an allocation from RCB funds.

Faithful members of the Church of Ireland serve as directors of the charity as part of their Christian service, many parishes and individuals in the Church support its work, but we are clear in our understanding that it is now an independent organisation.

**Request for Information**

On behalf of the Honorary Secretaries, Ven George Davison noted that a request for information had been received from Mr Sam Harper (Cashel) under Standing Order 51.

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The request was: “Last year, at the General Synod, in the motion that came from the CEMS, on foot of the withdrawal of Bill No. 2, the General Synod requested that the Bishops and Diocesan Councils of the dioceses identified in the withdrawn bill now consider beginning processes that might with diocesan consent build on the substantial work of CEMS over the previous 4 years; and further requested that reports on these processes should be provided to the General Synod in 2017 with proposals for legislations where necessary. We have heard from the dioceses of Tuam, Killala and Achnory and from Limerick and Killaloe. However, we have not heard from the other dioceses identified in the withdrawn bill, namely Dublin and Glendalough, and Meath and Kildare. Could General Synod hear what has been happening in those dioceses on foot of the motion passed at General Synod in 2016?”

Ven Davison announced that the information would be given to the Synod on Saturday.

Secondary Education Committee

It was proposed by Mr Michael Hall, seconded by the Honorary Secretaries, and passed:

That the following be appointed to the Secondary Education Committee:

Rt Rev Michael Burrows.

Chair

The Archbishop of Dublin assumed the Chair.

Report of the Representative Church Body

It was proposed by Canon Graham Richards, seconded by the Bishop of Limerick and Killaloe and passed:

That the Report of the Representative Church Body, incorporating the report of the Church of Ireland Clergy Pensions Trustee DAC, be taken into consideration.

It was proposed by Canon Graham Richards (Dublin), seconded by the Bishop of Limerick and Killaloe and passed:

That the General Synod hereby authorises the Representative Body to make the following allocations from General Funds in 2017:

[xxxii]
A. Maintenance of the Stipendiary Ministry 1,289,309
B. Pension related costs 110,750
C. Training of ordinands 1,346,435
D. General Synod Activities 986,997
E. Miscellaneous 16,000

_________ 3,749,491

Standing Orders

The Archbishop asked the Synod if it would agree to the suspension of Standing Orders to allow Mr Henry Saville, Chairman of the RB Executive Committee, to address the House on the Report of the Representative Church Body and to respond to the discussion. The House agreed.

Mr Henry Saville informed members of an inaccuracy on p. 88 of the Book of Reports: the General Funds (Combined) return for this year was not 4.7% but 4.3%.

Standing Orders

Standing Orders were resumed.

Adoption of Report

It was proposed by Canon Graham Richards, seconded by the Bishop of Limerick and Killaloe and passed:

That the report of the Representative Church Body, incorporating the report of the Church of Ireland Clergy Pensions Trustee DAC, be adopted subject to the resolutions already passed relating thereto.

Climate Change and Fossil Fuels

It was proposed by Mr Stephen Trew (Dromore), seconded by Mr Kevin Bowers (Meath and Kildare), and passed:

That the Representative Body:

(a) Supports the Environmental Charter passed at General Synod 2015

(b) Acknowledges the motions passed at a number of diocesan synods calling for more action from the Representative Church Body on climate change and fossil fuel investments.

[1xxii]
(c) Will exclude companies whose turnover (in excess of 10%) is derived from the production of coal or tar sands in recognition that these companies are unlikely to be able to assist with the transition to a low carbon economy.

(d) Aims to increase (where possible and subject to adequate returns) its exposure to green alternatives, to reduce its exposure to oil and gas producers and to seek companies with good environmental policies that are committed to reducing their carbon footprint.

(e) Will continue to support collaborative engagement with companies and with policy makers for the delivery of this commitment on assisting the transition to a low carbon economy.

(f) Acknowledges that divestment from companies not taking seriously their responsibilities to assist with the transition to a low carbon economy may be the appropriate course of action.

(g) Commits to continue to evolve its climate change policy and to conduct a further review of its fossil fuel exposure in 2020.

(h) Ensures that its Climate Change policy remains consistent with that of the Church of England.

(i) Agrees to monitor and report annually on their implementation of this policy.

Chair

The Archbishop of Armagh assumed the Chair.

Ecumenical Guests

At the invitation of the Primate and with the approval of the House, Very Rev Dr Ian McNie of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland addressed the Synod on behalf of the official guests.

“Celebrating Our Communities”

Very Rev Sam Wright gave a presentation on Lisburn Cathedral’s projects that work against poverty and despair, which include the Christians Against Poverty Leadership Team in Lisburn and the Lisburn City Church & Lisburn Foodbank.

Adjournment

The House adjourned from 4 to 4.25pm.
Select Committee on Human Sexuality in the Context of Christian Belief

It was proposed by Very Rev John Mann (Connor), seconded by Mrs Helen McClenaghan (Armagh) and passed:

That the report of the Select Committee on Human Sexuality in the Context of Christian Belief be received.

Human Sexuality

It was proposed by Dr Leo Kilroy (Glendalough) and seconded by Rev Brian O’Rourke (Cork, Cloyne and Ross), that:

Notwithstanding the diversity of conviction regarding human sexuality, and in order to maintain the unity of the Church of Ireland, the General Synod:

A. Acknowledges the injury felt by members of the Church who enter into loving, committed and legally-recognised, same-sex relationships, due to the absence of provision for them to mark that key moment in their lives publicly and prayerfully in Church.

and

B. Respectfully requests the House of Bishops to investigate a means to develop sensitive, local pastoral arrangements for public prayer and thanksgiving with same-sex couples at these key moments in their lives, and to present their ideas to General Synod 2018, with a view to making proposals at General Synod 2019.

The development of any such pastoral arrangements should not infringe Canon 31 and the facilitation of such arrangements would not impair the communion between an individual bishop or diocese with any other bishop or diocese of the Church of Ireland.

A vote was taken, and the results were announced:

VOTING:

Clerical  Ayes: 56  Noes: 72  Abstentions: 9
Lay  Ayes: 90  Noes: 104  Abstentions: 15

The motion was recorded as having been defeated

Adjournment

Prayers were led by Very Rev Gary Paulsen. The Benediction was pronounced, and the Synod adjourned until Saturday.

[lxxiv]
THIRD DAY’S PROCEEDINGS
SATURDAY 6TH MAY 2017

The Chair was taken at 10 am by His Grace the Lord Primate.

A hymn was sung and a portion of Holy Scripture and Prayer were read by Very Rev Gary Paulsen

Standing Orders

The President asked the Synod if it would agree to the suspension of Standing Orders to allow the presentation of prizes for the Communications Competition to take place. The House agreed.

Communications Competition

The Bishop of Meath and Kildare announced the winners of the Competition.

Standing Orders

Standing Orders were resumed.

Chair

The Bishop of Cork assumed the Chair.

Bill (No. 1) To Amend Chapter XIV of the Constitution

As ordered, Bill No. 1 was received for final consideration.

It was agreed that the next stage be taken.

It was proposed by Mr Geoffrey Perrin, seconded by the Bishop of Clogher and passed:

That Bill No. 1 to amend Chapter XIV of the Constitution be read a third time and passed.

Bill (No. 2) to Amend Chapter III of the Constitution

As ordered, Bill No. 2 was received for final consideration.

It was agreed that the next stage be taken.

[1xxxv]
It was proposed by the Bishop of Clogher, seconded by Ven Adrian Wilkinson and passed:

That Bill No. 2 to amend Chapter III of the Constitution be read a third time and passed.

**Bill (No. 3) to Amend Chapter I of the Constitution**

As ordered, Bill No. 3 was received for final consideration.

It was agreed that the next stage be taken.

It was proposed by Ven George Davison, seconded by Ms Hazel Corrigan and passed:

That Bill No. 3 to amend Chapter I of the Constitution be read a third time and passed.

**Bill (No. 4) to Amend Chapter IV and XIV of the Constitution**

As ordered, Bill No. 4 was received for final consideration.

It was agreed that the next stage be taken.

On report the following amendment was tabled:

**AMENDMENT**

It was proposed by the Honorary Secretaries and passed:

That in Clause 4 of the Bill, for “Chapter VI” there shall be substituted “Chapter IV”.

It was proposed by Rev Canon Gillian Wharton, seconded by Mr Ken Gibson and passed:

That Bill No. 4 to amend Chapter IV and XIV of the Constitution be read a third time and passed.

**Bill (No. 5) To Amend the Statute of the General Synod, Chapter I of 1902, as amended by the Statutes of the General Synod Chapter V of 1920, Chapter VI of 1920 (Special Session), Chapter IX of 1971, Chapter II of 1997, and Chapter IV of 2006**

As ordered, Bill No. 5 was received for final consideration.

It was agreed that the next stage be taken.
It was proposed by Very Rev Dermot Dunne, seconded by Rev Canon Adrienne Galligan and passed:

That Bill No. 5 to amend the Statute of the General Synod, Chapter I of 1902, as amended by the Statutes of the General Synod Chapter V of 1920, Chapter VI of 1920 (Special Session), Chapter IX of 1971, Chapter II of 1997, and Chapter IV of 2006 be read a third time and passed.

**Bill (No. 6) to Amend The Table of Readings in The Book of Common Prayer**

As ordered, Bill No. 6 was received for final consideration.

It was agreed that the next stage be taken.

It was proposed by Very Rev Nigel Dunne, seconded by Rev Adrian Dorrian and passed:

That Bill No. 6 to amend The Table of Readings in *The Book of Common Prayer* be read a third time and passed.

No votes against the motion were recorded.

**Bill (No. 7) to Amend The Table of Readings and The Collects in the Book of Common Prayer**

As ordered, Bill No. 7 was received for final consideration.

It was agreed that the next stage be taken.

On report the following amendment was tabled:

**AMENDMENT**

It was proposed by Very Rev Nigel Dunne, seconded by Very Rev Gerald Field, and passed:

In the section “The Collects”, the sentence ‘In The Collects after The Third Sunday before Advent insert the following rubric:’ shall be replaced with the following:

In The Collects after “The Third Sunday before Advent” insert the following rubric:

And the sentence “‘Collect Two and the Post Communion Prayer above are suitable for use on Remembrance Sunday’” shall be replaced with the following:

[lixxvii]
“Collect Two and the Post Communion Prayer below are suitable for use on Remembrance Sunday”.

It was proposed by Very Rev Nigel Dunne, seconded by Rev Adrian Dorrian and passed:

That Bill No. 7 to amend The Table of Readings and The Collects in the Book of Common Prayer be read a third time and passed.

No votes against the motion were recorded.

Chair
The Bishop of Meath and Kildare assumed the Chair.

It was proposed by the Bishop of Clogher, seconded by Ms Catherine Turner (Connor) and passed that:

The report of the Commission for Christian Unity and Dialogue be received.

Ecumenical Guests
At the invitation of the Primate and with the approval of the House, Rev Bill Mullaly of the Methodist Church in Ireland addressed the Synod on behalf of the official guests.

Report of the Covenant Council
It was proposed by Very Rev Nigel Dunne, seconded by Rev Barry Forde (Connor) and passed:

That the report of the Covenant Council be received.

Covenant Council – Membership
It was proposed by Very Rev Nigel Dunne, seconded by Rev Barry Forde and passed:

That the following be elected as Church of Ireland representatives on the Covenant Council for the coming year:

Rt. Rev. Alan Abernethy, Bishop of Connor (Co-Chair)
Ms Elva Byrne
Very Rev Nigel Dunne
Rev Canon Dr Maurice Elliott
Rev Barry Forde
Covenant Council – Celebrations

It was proposed by Very Rev Nigel Dunne, seconded by Rev Barry Forde and passed:

That General Synod continues to encourage congregations to celebrate the Covenant relationship with neighbouring Methodist congregations on or around John Wesley Day, 24th May, each year.

Ecumenical Guests

At the invitation of the Primate and with the approval of the House, Rev Dr Livingstone Thompson of the Moravian Church of Britain and Ireland addressed the Synod on behalf of the official guests.

Chair

The Bishop of Kilmore, Elphin and Ardagh assumed the Chair.

Report of the Church of Ireland Youth Department

It was proposed by Mr Simon Henry (Dromore), seconded by Rev Ruth Noble Jackson (Meath and Kildare), and passed:

That the Report of the Church of Ireland Youth Department be received.

Chair

The Bishop of Clogher assumed the Chair.

Communication from the House of Bishops

The Rt Rev Michael Burrows (Bishop of Cashel, Ferns and Ossory) read a communication from the House of Bishops.

Ordained Local Ministry

Since the last session of the General Synod, the House of Bishops has been extremely mindful of the desire of the Synod, expressed by means of formal Resolution, that an appropriate form of Ordained Local Ministry should be developed among us. Last year, in the context of the Report of the Commission on Ministry, the Synod had the opportunity to discuss something of what such ministry would look like, and how fit
persons would be duly called and prepared to serve in it. The mood of the synod in its discussion of this possible development was overwhelmingly positive. We would wish to express our appreciation of the work done both by the Commission, and the Director and staff of CITI, in assisting the synod in its consideration of this issue.

The bishops are satisfied that Ordained Local Ministry, rightly understood and cherished within the overall life of the church, would be a source of enrichment and strength in today's circumstances. As we are responsible for the actual Ordination of duly-trained persons to serve in the historic threefold ministry which the Church of Ireland has received, it is our duty to ensure that this development is properly placed within the framework of catholic order. Necessary emphasis on the local must not obscure our understanding of the relationship of all ordained ministry to the whole Church.

The bishops wish to inform the Synod that it is now our intention so to advance matters that it will be possible to begin a programme of training for ordained local ministry in the autumn of 2018, with selection processes for suitable candidates taking place earlier next year. It is envisaged that Selection will be undertaken at diocesan or regional level, with the benefit of additional external wisdom and at the ultimate discretion of the bishop. Training, which will need to take some appropriate account of the previous experience and knowledge of candidates, will be essentially delivered locally but in a manner that ensures consistency of content and standard. While those called and ordained in the context of OLM will of course be deacons and priests in the fullest catholic sense, they will be serving in a manifestation of ministry which we will regard very much as a distinct and lifelong vocation with its own integrity and character, lived out in its fullness at local level. Hence we emphasise that we do not envisage transfer from this ministry to any form of stipendiary ministry: were such a thing to occur it would require a fresh and full selection process at all-Ireland level and consequent substantial further training and formation.

There has been much preparation to do to make all this possible, particularly in the area of training. We are confident at this stage that Ordained Local Ministry will strengthen the mission of the Church and its ministry of Word and Sacrament in a wide variety of contexts. It will be something new for us all, and we will have much to learn from the very manner of its implementation over the coming years. It is always a basic task of the Church to offer prayers for vocations to ordained ministry and for those in training. We now pray in a particular way that in this matter we may have the gift of a sound judgement as we make this response to authentic and discerned local need within the church. We remember too those who may feel moved by the promptings of the Holy Spirit to serve God and his people in this distinctive context which has rich potential for our time.

Report of the Commission on Ministry

It was proposed by the Bishop of Cashel, Ferns and Ossory, seconded by Rev Ruth Noble Jackson and passed that:

The report of the Commission on Ministry be received.
Commission on Ministry – Feasibility Study

An amendment was proposed by Mr Robert Neill (Glendalough), seconded by Ven Adrian Wilkinson and passed.

The motion as amended was proposed by The Bishop of Cashel, Ferns and Ossory, seconded by Rev Ruth Noble Jackson, and passed:

That the Synod commends the Feasibility Study in regard to the potential development of a place of community prayer, retreat, hospitality and study, for discussion and response in the wider Church, and particularly requests the RB to consider its findings in the context of their stewardship of the Church’s assets.

Commission on Ministry – Membership

It was proposed by The Bishop of Cashel, Ferns and Ossory, seconded by Rev Ruth Noble Jackson, and passed:

That the following be appointed members of the Commission on Ministry until the General Synod of 2020:

Archdeacon Terence Scott  Mrs Ruth Galbraith
Rev Anne Skuse   Mrs Heather Carson
Rev Ruth Noble Jackson  Captain George Newell

Answer to Request for information

In response to the request for information of Mr Samuel Harper, the Archbishop of Dublin read the following:

Both bishops have met, and met with the Reverend Phil Potter from the Church of England, around joint collaboration in the two dioceses on pioneer ministry projects. Both bishops and the three archdeacons have met to consider possible joint initiatives, again across the two dioceses. The two bishops intend to implement the following explorations: one is that of the mission report recently produced and available to everybody in the foyer of this Synod. The second is a report which came out very recently on demographics and how rural and suburban Ireland interrelate. This is quite relevant because that report showed that people from eleven counties in Ireland as a minimum commute in and out of Dublin on a daily basis and so this raises various interesting issues on how the Church in these two dioceses can react and respond to this mobility. Thirdly, as I’m sure you’re aware, in both of these dioceses there are now in train significant housing developments, ongoing in our
Journal – Third Day (Saturday 6th May 2017)

geographical areas, and this is something we intend to address by drawing together those who are responsible for planning and implementation of housing in those areas. Just as a note to this, our concern is both for the Kingdom of God yet to be disclosed, and for the Kingdom of God already in the world and among its people. And so our focus as it’s emerging is one of a structured and a compassionate response to human need. In relation to the facilitation option, we are very positive about that, and so we would encourage and also welcome this concept of facilitation. But two things we’d say: this is not primarily or exclusively about the ministry of bishops, and it’s not primarily or exclusively about boundaries. It is about the Kingdom of God in our midst, already disclosed and yet to be revealed.

Journal of the General Synod

It was proposed by the Honorary Secretaries and passed:

That the Honorary Secretaries of the General Synod be instructed to publish, with as little delay as possible, the Journal of the Proceedings of the General Synod during this session, with such appendices as they think expedient.

Attendance of Members

Ven George Davison informed the Synod of the attendance of members on behalf of the Honorary Secretaries.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Clerical</th>
<th>Lay</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Thursday 4th May 2017</td>
<td>150</td>
<td>238</td>
<td>388</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday 5th May 2017</td>
<td>155</td>
<td>249</td>
<td>404</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saturday 6th May 2017</td>
<td>103</td>
<td>187</td>
<td>290</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The Benediction was pronounced and the session terminated at half-past one.
RESOLUTIONS
ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL SYNOD SESSION 2017

Bills

To Amend Chapter XIV of the Constitution
First reading passed.
Second reading passed.
Third reading passed.

To Amend Chapter III of the Constitution
First reading passed.
Second reading passed.
Third reading passed.

To Amend Chapter I of the Constitution
First reading passed.
Second reading passed.
Third reading passed.

To Amend Chapter IV and Chapter XIV of the Constitution.
First reading passed.
Second reading passed.
Third reading passed.

To Amend the Statute of the General Synod, Chapter I of 1902, as amended by the Statutes of the General Synod Chapter V of 1920, Chapter VI of 1920 (Special Session), Chapter IX of 1971, Chapter II of 1997, and Chapter IV of 2006
First reading passed.
Second reading passed.
Third reading passed.

To Amend the Table of Readings in The Book of Common Prayer
Second reading passed.
Third reading passed.

To Amend the Table of Readings and The Collects in The Book of Common Prayer
Second reading passed.
Third reading passed.

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Resolutions of the General Synod

Liturical Advisory Committee

(a) That the report of the Liturgical Advisory Committee be received.

(b) Special Liturgical Bills

That, in accordance with the provisions of Section 26(1) of Chapter I of the Constitution, leave be given for the introduction of a Bill in the General Synod 2018 to amend the Book of Common Prayer (2004; rev. ed. 2005), by including therein An Order for Morning and Evening Prayer for use on Sunday as set out in the schedule to this Resolution.

That, in accordance with the provisions of Section 26(1) of Chapter I of the Constitution, leave be given for the introduction of a Bill in the General Synod 2018 to amend the Book of Common Prayer (2004; rev. ed. 2005) to authorise the use of Collects of the Word as set out in the schedule to this Resolution.

Election of an Honorary Secretary

That the following be elected an Honorary Secretary of the General Synod:

Ms Hazel Corrigan

Standing Orders

That Standing Order 56 be amended by the deletion of the words “and not less than one hour for the consideration of the report of the Role of the Church Committee

Church of Ireland Marriage Council

That the report of the Church of Ireland Marriage Council be received.

The Standing Committee

That the report of the Standing Committee be received and adopted.

Facilitation Committee

That the General Synod ratify the terms of reference and the membership of the Facilitation Committee, established by the Standing Committee in January 2017, as directed by Statute Ch. I of 2016:

[xeiv]
Terms of reference
The Committee will:
- Engage in discussion with all twelve dioceses about the issues raised by the work of the Commission on Episcopal Ministry and Structures as these affect them locally
- Facilitate exploration of any proposals that may arise from such conversations
- Provide an annual report to the General Synod.

Membership
The following are appointed to membership of the Facilitation Committee until the General Synod of 2020:

Mr Ken Gibson
Mr Robert Neill
Rev Robin Bantry White
Very Revd Katharine Poulton

Inter-Diocesan Conversations

It was proposed by the Bishop of Tuam, Killala and Achonry, seconded by the Bishop of Limerick and Killaloe, and passed:

That this General Synod:

(i) encourages the United Dioceses of Limerick and Killaloe and the United Dioceses of Tuam, Killala and Achonry (the two dioceses) to continue their talks and to bring further proposals to next year’s General Synod.

(ii) would be prepared to consider Option B (as indicated in the Report from the two dioceses) should this be their chosen option. This option would not reduce the number of dioceses.

(iii) would be prepared to consider Option C (as indicated in the Report from the two dioceses) should this be their chosen option. This option allows for the creation of a ‘suffragan bishop’ post.

Note: see Appendix for Report

General Synod Board of Education

That the report of the General Synod Board of Education be received.
Resolutions of the General Synod

Council for Mission

(a) That the report of the Council for Mission be received.

(b) That the following be elected by General Synod to the Church of Ireland Council for Mission until the General Synod of 2020:
   Rev Cliff Jeffers
   Ms Johanne Martin
   Ms Julie Currie
   Rev Adam Pullen
   Rev Andrew Quill
   Rev Patrick Burke.

Secondary Education Committee

That the following be appointed to the Secondary Education Committee:
Rt Rev Michael Burrows.

Report of the Representative Church Body

That the Report of the Representative Church Body, incorporating the report of the Church of Ireland Clergy Pensions Trustee DAC, be taken into consideration.

That the General Synod hereby authorises the Representative Body to make the following allocations from General Funds in 2017:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A. Maintenance of the Stipendiary Ministry</td>
<td>€1,289,309</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B. Pension related costs</td>
<td>€110,750</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C. Training of ordinands</td>
<td>€1,346,435</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D. General Synod Activities</td>
<td>€986,997</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E. Miscellaneous</td>
<td>€16,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>€3,749,491</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

That the report of the Representative Church Body, incorporating the report of the Church of Ireland Clergy Pensions Trustee DAC, be adopted subject to the resolutions already passed relating thereto.
Resolutions of the General Synod

Climate Change and Fossil Fuels

That the Representative Body:

(a) Supports the Environmental Charter passed at General Synod 2015
(b) Acknowledges the motions passed at a number of diocesan synods calling for more action from the Representative Church Body on climate change and fossil fuel investments.
(c) Will exclude companies whose turnover (in excess of 10%) is derived from the production of coal or tar sands in recognition that these companies are unlikely to be able to assist with the transition to a low carbon economy.
(d) Aims to increase (where possible and subject to adequate returns) its exposure to green alternatives, to reduce its exposure to oil and gas producers and to seek companies with good environmental policies that are committed to reducing their carbon footprint.
(e) Will continue to support collaborative engagement with companies and with policy makers for the delivery of this commitment on assisting the transition to a low carbon economy.
(f) Acknowledges that divestment from companies not taking seriously their responsibilities to assist with the transition to a low carbon economy may be the appropriate course of action.
(g) Commits to continue to evolve its climate change policy and to conduct a further review of its fossil fuel exposure in 2020.
(h) Ensures that its Climate Change policy remains consistent with that of the Church of England.
(i) Agrees to monitor and report annually on their implementation of this policy.

Select Committee on Human Sexuality in the Context of Christian Belief

That the report of the Select Committee on Human Sexuality in the Context of Christian Belief be received.

Commission for Christian Unity and Dialogue

The report of the Commission for Christian Unity and Dialogue be received.

Covenant Council

(a) That the report of the Covenant Council be received.
(b) That the following be elected as Church of Ireland representatives on the Covenant Council for the coming year:

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Resolutions of the General Synod

Rt. Rev. Alan Abernethy, Bishop of Connor (Co-Chair)
Ms Elva Byrne
Very Rev Nigel Dunne
Rev Canon Dr Maurice Elliott
Rev Barry Forde
Mr Harold Giboney
Rev Dr Peter Thompson

(c) That General Synod continues to encourage congregations to celebrate the Covenant relationship with neighbouring Methodist congregations on or around John Wesley Day, 24th May, each year.

Church of Ireland Youth Department

That the Report of the Church of Ireland Youth Department be received.

Commission on Ministry

(a) The report of the Commission on Ministry be received.

(b) That the Synod commends the Feasibility Study in regard to the potential development of a place of community prayer, retreat, hospitality and study, for discussion and response in the wider Church, and particularly requests the RB to consider its findings in the context of their stewardship of the Church’s assets.

(c) That the following be appointed members of the Commission on Ministry until the General Synod of 2020:

Archdeacon Terence Scott  Mrs Ruth Galbraith
Rev Anne Skuse  Mrs Heather Carson
Rev Ruth Noble Jackson  Captain George Newell

Journal of the General Synod

That the Honorary Secretaries of the General Synod be instructed to publish, with as little delay as possible, the Journal of the Proceedings of the General Synod during this session, with such appendices as they think expedient.
STATUTES

OF

THE CHURCH OF IRELAND

passed in

THE SESSION OF THE GENERAL SYNOD 2017

CHAPTER I

To amend Chapter XIV of the Constitution

WHEREAS it is desirable that preserved pension benefits in the Church of Ireland Clergy Pensions Fund, relating to deferred members of the Fund, be revalued in accordance with any applicable legal requirements;

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 Limerick in the year 2017 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 1st June 2017 for Section 39 (2) of Chapter XIV there shall be substituted:

‘39 (2) When a member ceased on or after 1st January 1977 to be a contributing member and has not received a withdrawal benefit or a transfer in pursuance of sub-section (1)(b) of this Section, the portion of that member’s accrued pension accumulation attributable to the contributions paid on or after 1st January 1976 (or if that member was enrolled after 1st January 1976 the accrued pension accumulation) subsisting on 31st December 1998 and each subsequent year shall be revalued with effect on and from 1st January of the following year in accordance with any applicable legal requirements.’
CHAPTER II

To amend Chapter III of the Constitution

WHEREAS it is desirable that Confirmation Registers should be provided in parishes to enable records to be maintained of those who are confirmed;
AND WHEREAS for such purposes it is necessary to amend Chapter III 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 Limerick in the year 2017 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. Immediately after section 25(1A) of Chapter III there shall be inserted:

   25(1B) The select vestry shall also provide in each parish a Confirmation Register in which the incumbent or other member of the clergy officiating in the parish shall maintain records of those who are confirmed by the Bishop in that parish.

3. For section 25(2) of Chapter III there shall be substituted:

   (2) Every incumbent or other member of the clergy officiating in the parish, who shall have the custody for the time being of any registers of baptisms, or of confirmations, or of marriages, or of burials, shall at all reasonable times, on demand, allow search in such registers, and shall give a signed certified copy of any entry or entries in the same, on payment of the fee hereinafter mentioned; that is to say, for every search in a register of baptisms, or of confirmations, or of burials and for every single certificate of baptism, or of confirmation, or of burial the fees prescribed from time to time by the Standing Committee of the General Synod; and for every search in a register of marriages, and for each certified copy of an entry therein, the statutory fees prescribed by the State in which is situated the church to which the relevant register of marriages pertains.
Statutes of the General Synod

CHAPTER III

To amend Chapter I of the Constitution

WHEREAS it is expedient that lay representatives who become deacons serving in an internship should not continue to hold their seats as members of General Synod;

AND WHEREAS to reflect this change it is necessary to amend Chapter I 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 Limerick in the year 2017 and by the authority of the same as follows:

1. In this Statute “Chapter I” means Chapter I of the Constitution of the Church of Ireland.

2. For Section 7 of Chapter I there shall be substituted:

“7. Every lay person who, on 1st January preceding election, had attained the age of seventeen years and had not attained the age of seventy-four years, being a member of the Church of Ireland and a communicant of the said Church and not being a deacon serving an internship, shall be qualified to be elected as a lay representative or supplemental lay representative for any diocese; provided that clergy residing in the diocese who are neither beneficed nor licensed shall be deemed to be lay persons for the purpose of this section and provided that a lay person who has become a deacon serving in an internship since election as a lay representative or supplemental lay representative for any diocese shall be deemed to have resigned from General Synod as a lay representative or supplemental lay representative for any diocese.”
CHAPTER IV

To amend Chapter IV and Chapter XIV of the Constitution

WHEREAS Statute Chapter I of 2016 amended Chapter VI of the Constitution of the Church of Ireland;

AND WHEREAS in consequence of the amendments and consolidations of Chapter VI it is necessary to amend Chapter IV and Chapter XIV of the said Constitution;

BE IT ENACTED by the Archbishops and Bishops, and the clergy and laity of the Church of Ireland in General Synod assembled in Limerick in the year 2017 and by the authority of the same as follows:

1. In this Statute “Chapter IV” means Chapter IV of the Constitution of the Church of Ireland and “Chapter XIV” means Chapter XIV of the Constitution of the Church of Ireland.

2. In Section 13 (2) of Chapter IV, for the words “or has failed to meet its liabilities under section 35 of Chapter VI of the Constitution” there shall be substituted the words “or has failed to meet its liabilities under section 38 of Chapter VI of the Constitution”.

3. In Section 13 (2) of Chapter IV, for the words “section 35 of Chapter XIV of the Constitution” there shall be substituted “sections 8 and 36 of Chapter XIV of the Constitution”.

4. For section 31 (1) (b) of Chapter IV there shall be substituted the following “a decision of the Church Panel as defined in section 34 of this Chapter or a judgment of the Court of General Synod under section 34 of this Chapter or an order made by a Disciplinary Tribunal under section 33 (d) (v) or (vi) of Chapter VIII or an order made by an Appeal Tribunal under section 36 of Chapter VIII, or”.

5. In Section 68 of Chapter XIV, for the words “Section 25 of Chapter VI” there shall be substituted the words “Section 28 of Chapter VI”.

6. In Section 69 of Chapter XIV, for the words “Section 27 (2) of Chapter VI” there shall be substituted the words “Section 30 (2) of Chapter VI”.

[ciii]
7. In section 71 of Chapter XIV, for the words “Section 26 (3) of Chapter VI” there shall be substituted the words “Section 29 (3) of Chapter VI” in both occurrences.

8. In section 77 of Chapter XIV, for the words “Section 25 of Chapter VI” there shall be substituted “Section 28 of Chapter VI”.

9. In Section 78 of Chapter XIV, for the words “Section 27 (2) of Chapter VI” there shall be substituted “Section 30 (2) of Chapter VI”.

10. In Section 79 of Chapter XIV, for the words “Section 26 (3) of Chapter VI” there shall be substituted “Section 29 (3)” in both occurrences.
Statutes of the General Synod

CHAPTER V

To amend the Statute of the General Synod, Chapter I of 1902, as amended by the Statutes of the General Synod Chapter V of 1920, Chapter VI of 1920 (Special Session), Chapter IX of 1971, Chapter II of 1997, and Chapter IV of 2006.

WHEREAS it is desirable to amend the provisions relating to the regulation and management of the Cathedral of the Holy Trinity, commonly called Christ Church, Dublin;

AND WHEREAS it is necessary therefore to amend the Statute of the General Synod Chapter I of 1902, as amended by the Statutes of the General Synod Chapter V of 1920, Chapter VI of 1920 (Special Session), Chapter IX of 1971, Chapter II of 1997, and Chapter IV of 2006, hereinafter referred to as ‘the Statute’;

AND WHEREAS it is desirable to make consequential amendment of the First Schedule to Chapter VII 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 Limerick in the year 2017 and by the authority of the same as follows:

1. Immediately after section 3 of the Statute there shall be inserted:

3A. (i) The Archbishop of Dublin shall have the right to appoint at his or her sole discretion two honorary Lay Canons to the Cathedral, such appointments to be in recognition of particular and distinguished service to the Cathedral or to the United Dioceses of Dublin and Glendalough or the community in those dioceses or to the Church of Ireland.

(ii) A Lay Canon shall hold office for a term of five years from the date of appointment and shall be entitled to a designated seat in the Cathedral while holding such office. A Lay Canon shall be entitled to attend Chapter Meetings as a non-voting member.

(iii) A Lay Canon who has served five years may be reappointed.

(iv) A Lay Canon may be removed by the Archbishop for cause shown.

3B. (i) The Archbishop of Dublin may appoint two Ecumenical Canons to the Chapter. An Ecumenical Canon shall mean a minister or accredited preacher of one or other of such Christian denominations not in full
Statutes of the General Synod

communion with the Church as may from time to time be specified by the
House of Bishops. The Ecumenical Canons shall each have a designated
stall in the Cathedral and shall be non-voting members of the Chapter.

(ii) Such Ecumenical Canons may be removed by the Archbishop for cause
shown. Each Ecumenical Canon, if not so removed, shall hold office for a
term of five years from the date of appointment or until such Ecumenical
Canon shall resign from such office. An Ecumenical Canon who has
served five years may be reappointed.

(iii) The appointment of an Ecumenical Canon shall not be effective unless
and until that person shall make and subscribe before the Archbishop the
declaration contained in the Schedule hereto annexed.

(iv) An Ecumenical Canon may be invited by the Archbishop to perform all or
any of the following duties insofar as the same are consonant with the
provisions of Canon 10 –

(a) To say or sing Morning or Evening Prayer or the Litany;
(b) To read the Holy Scriptures;
(c) To deliver an address;
(d) To assist at a Baptism, Marriage or Funeral Service or at the
Celebration of the
Holy Communion;

if the Ecumenical Canon is authorised to perform a similar duty in his or
her own Church.

(v) The Court of the General Synod shall have authority to determine all
questions and disputes that may arise respecting the appointment or
removal of an Ecumenical Canon.

2. The Schedule below shall be annexed to the Statute.

3. For paragraph (2) of the First Schedule to Chapter VII of the Constitution of the
Church of Ireland there shall be substituted:-

1872, cap. IV; 1886, cap. VII; 1902, cap. I, as amended by 1920, cap. V, and 1920
(Special Session), cap. VI; 1935, cap. V; 1971, cap. IX; 1997, cap. II; 2006, cap. IV
and 2017, cap. [].
Statutes of the General Synod

Under these Statutes, the Archbishop of Dublin is the Ordinary and has the right of appointing the Dean, and also has the right of appointment to the Dignities and Canonries, other than (a) the Canon chosen in accordance with the schedule to 1971, cap. IX, and (b) the Precentor and the Priest Vicars appointed by the Dean and Chapter; the Archbishop also has the right of appointment of two Lay Canons and two Ecumenical Canons. The Statutes provide for the regulation of the Cathedral affairs; the registration of vestry members; the return of synod members; and the triennial election of nine lay members of the Cathedral Board, and of five clerical members, to form, with the Dean, the Precentor, the Chancellor and the Treasurer, the Cathedral Board.

SCHEDULE

DECLARATION FOR SUBSCRIPTION

I, A.B., do hereby solemnly declare that:

(1) I am a minister or accredited preacher of Church.

(2) I agree to be bound by the provisions of Part II of Chapter VII of the Constitution of the Church of Ireland and, to that extent only, I submit myself to the authority of the Church of Ireland, and to the laws and tribunals thereof.

(3) I, A.B., do declare that I will perform Canonical obedience to the Ordinary of the Cathedral of the Holy Trinity commonly called Christ Church, Dublin, and his or her successors, Archbishops of Dublin. I will observe the statutes and ancient customs of Cathedral of the Holy Trinity commonly called Christ Church, Dublin, so far as they are not repugnant to the laws of the Church of Ireland, I will keep private and undisclosed the secrets of the Chapter.

I subscribe the above declaration to be appointed to the office of Ecumenical Canon of the Cathedral of the Holy Trinity, commonly called Christ Church, Dublin.

[cvi]
WHEREAS it is desirable to amend The Table of Readings in *The Book of Common Prayer* (2004; rev. ed. 2005);

BE IT ENACTED by the Archbishops and Bishops and the clergy and laity of the Church of Ireland in General Synod assembled in Limerick in the year 2017 and by the authority of the same as follows:

**THE TABLE OF READINGS**

In The Table of Readings immediately before the Sunday between 29 May and 4 June the following be inserted:

“The Sunday between 24 and 29 May

*If after Trinity Sunday*

Green

*The provisions for the Second Sunday before Lent are used*”

In The Table of Readings immediately after the Principal Service readings for The First Sunday of Christmas the following rubric be inserted:

“When this Sunday is 1 January the readings for The Circumcision and Naming of Jesus are used.”
CHAPTER VII

To amend The Table of Readings and The Collects in The Book of Common Prayer

WHEREAS it is desirable to amend The Table of Readings and The Collects in The Book of Common Prayer (2004; rev. ed. 2005);

BE IT ENACTED by the Archbishops and Bishops and the clergy and laity of the Church of Ireland in General Synod assembled in Limerick in the year 2017 and by the authority of the same as follows:

THE TABLE OF READINGS

In the Table of Readings under the Sunday between 6 and 12 November the following be inserted:

“Remembrance Sunday
Isaiah 2:1-5 or Isaiah 10:33-11:9 or Ezekiel 37:1-14
Psalm 4 or Psalm 47 or Psalm 93 or Psalm 126 or Psalm 130
Romans 8:31-39 or Revelation 1:1-7
Matthew 5:1-12 or John 15:9-17
Any combination of the above may be used.”

THE COLLECTS

In The Collects after “The Third Sunday before Advent” insert the following rubric:

“Collect Two and the Post Communion Prayer below are suitable for use on Remembrance Sunday”.

[cviii]
An error during the printing stage of the Book of Reports in 2017 resulted in the omission of three appendices to the Standing Committee Report. These are now presented here, following a corrected Table of Contents.

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34 Obituaries
APPENDIX E

CHARITIES REGISTRATION MONITORING WORKING GROUP

Members:

Mrs June Butler               Mr Ken Gibson
Mrs Jennifer Byrne            Mrs Sylvia Heggie
Most Rev Dr Richard Clarke   Mr Lyndon MacCann
Ven Andrew Forster           Mrs Janet Maxwell
Mr Sydney Gamble              Mr David Ritchie
                            Ven Leslie Stevenson

The Charities Registration Monitoring Working Group was set up as a joint committee of the Representative Body and the Standing Committee to address matters concerning the Church of Ireland in respect of registration and reporting of Church of Ireland bodies under new charities legislation in the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland.

Update on Registration and Reporting Issues:

Northern Ireland:

Parishes in Northern Ireland have all completed registration with the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland and are now commencing first reporting. To assist parishes Mrs Kate Williams, Head of Finance with the Representative Church Body, has issued a series of guidance documents which have been supplied to parishes and are also available in the Parish Resources section of the Church of Ireland’s website.

Republic of Ireland:

In the Republic of Ireland registration of parishes and other Church of Ireland bodies:

A) With existing CHY numbers, is in progress.
B) Without existing CHY numbers, has not yet commenced and parishes in this group will be notified through their diocesan secretaries and assisted with registration in a managed process; any parishes in the dioceses of Dublin and Glendalough and Limerick that had made applications before the Charities Regulatory Authority (CRA) suspended this managed process will be reviewed and added to the register by the CRA in due course. All parishes with an existing CHY number should start adding or updating their information on the Register, if they have not already done so, as they are already included on the Register. Contact individuals should be made aware of this as should any other body with an existing CHY number.

Diocesan Trustees:

During 2016/2017, the Charity Registration Monitoring Working Group undertook further research into the subject of diocesan trustees. Diocesan trustees are first referred to in the Representative Body’s report to the General Synod of 1871, with further guidance in 1901 through a memorandum of the Legal Advisory Committee of the Representative Body, adopted by the Representative Body in 1901 and duly reported to the General Synod.
It was recommended that four trustees be appointed for each diocese for the purpose of holding diocesan or parish assets not otherwise vested in either the Representative Church Body or other trustees.

Diocesan trustees were to be nominated by the Diocesan Council and formally approved by the Representative Body, which agreed to indemnify individuals in their role as diocesan trustees (excluding instances of wilful neglect or default or lack of due diligence under existing trust law). There is a memorandum included in the 1871 General Synod report which outlines the responsibilities of trustees.

Diocesan trustees appointed in accordance with the terms of appointment approved by the RCB in 1871 and amended in 1901 hold the assets vested in those trustees upon the trusts relating to those assets. The trustees act in accordance with the directions of the select vestry for any parish for which they hold assets in trust or the applicable Diocesan Council where assets are not in held trust for a particular parish. For purposes of registration and reporting:

1. Such diocesan trustees are not to be registered as independent charities because they are subject to the direction of select vestries or the diocesan council.

2. Diocese Councils should ensure that such diocesan trustees are regularly reviewed, that nominations are made promptly when required and that approval is sought from the Representative Body to the appointment of new trustees. New trustees should be appraised of their responsibilities in accordance with the rules of trust law pertaining in their jurisdiction and the memorandum of 1871 as amended in 1901.

3. Assets held by such diocesan trustees are under the direction of the select vestry or diocesan council and should be reported in the relevant parish/diocesan accounts.

4. Such diocesan trustees will be eligible to be indemnified from the assets vested in them in accordance with the rules of trust law and are also subject to indemnification by the Representative Church Body from diocesan assets held in trust by the RB where they have been duly appointed and act within the parameters laid out in the trust deed. The RB will review these rules during the next year to ensure that diocesan trustees are adequately protected in the performance of their role.

5. The Charities Registration Monitoring Working Group will proceed to discuss registration of diocesan councils. These discussions will be taking place in parallel with the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland and the CRA. Before registration of Diocesan Councils begins, dioceses must clarify the situation in respect of the appointment of their diocesan trustees and the reporting of assets held by those trustees.

6. If diocesan trustees are appointed otherwise than in accordance with the memorandum of 1871 amended in 1901, an examination of their terms of appointment, powers and discretions will have to be undertaken by the Charities Registration Monitoring Working Group to determine whether they require to be separately registered. Unless appointed in accordance with the memorandum of 1871 amended 1901, diocesan trustees do not automatically enjoy an indemnity from the Representative Body.

Exhausted Trusts:
Standing Committee – Report 2017

When a trust has dwindled and no longer has an active existence it may be possible either to apply to merge that trust with another charity with similar objects or to wind up the trust and distribute remaining assets in accordance with the terms of trust.

Useful Contact for Further Information:
Questions in respect of registration should be addressed to Mrs Janet Maxwell, the Synod Office, The Representative Church Body, Church of Ireland House, Rathmines, Dublin 6. Questions on reporting should be addressed through diocesan secretaries in the first instance and where the secretaries are unable to assist the diocesan secretary will forward queries to the Head of Finance Mrs Kate Williams. Online guidance in respect of registration and reporting has been included within the new Parish Resources section of the Church of Ireland website https://www.ireland.anglican.org/parish-resources

Anyone dealing with queries on registration is also recommended to read last year’s report of the Charities Registration Monitoring Working Group to General Synod which dealt in considerable detail with issues affecting local trustees and restricted funds.
Executive Summary

The Commission exists to provide oversight and direction of the Church’s work in relation to social theology in action. The Commission’s work is divided into two main areas:

1. Proactive work such as the preparation of reports, briefing documents and other resource material.
2. Reactive work such as responding to reports and public consultations, in addition to responding to events in society.

Established as the Board for Social Theology in action in 2010, and later becoming the Church and Society Commission (CASC), the Commission was formed to succeed three previous Church of Ireland Committees: The Board for Social Action NI, the Board of Social Responsibility RI and the Church in Society Committee.

The membership of the Commission is unique as it was formed through a process of application and interview. In 2016, the original membership was extended for one year while a review was undertaken. A new, slightly reshaped membership of CASC, will be appointed by the Standing Committee following the General Synod in 2017. This new group will also incorporate the Northern Ireland Community Relations Working Group.

In 2016, the work of the Commission took several forms, which have generally been hallmarks of its work over the past seven years.

1. Response to Government Consultations.
2. Response to media queries.
3. The release of statements on social issues.
4. Delivery of practical advice and resources to the Church.

Public Statements and Responses to Media Enquiries in relation to:

Topics on which discussion would be particularly welcome

1. What do Synod members think is the most appropriate and effective means of the Church making a positive contribution to civic conversation?
2. Social engagement in the Church is both practical in its outworking and theoretical in terms of the theological thinking behind it. How do we best equip the Church (across its membership) to both act justly but think theologically about what that means?
Standing Committee – Report 2017

• The Programme for Government in Northern Ireland;
• Inequality and budget issues in the Republic of Ireland;
• Some draft remarks were also prepared in relation to abortion legislation, but these have been superseded by a statement from the Standing Committee.

Response to Government Consultations and Representation to Government:
• Programme for Government Northern Ireland, both in draft form and after full publication;
• Draft Licensing and Regulation of Clubs in Northern Ireland - written response and presentation of evidence to Government Committee;
• Participation in Together Building a United Community Forum, Northern Ireland.

Other Media
• Article in Church of Ireland Gazette re. Post Natal Depression;
• Contribution to BBC Sunday Sequence.

Resourcing the Church
• Organisation and delivery of two seminars for Church leaders on the subject of homelessness - one in Belfast (opened by the Bishop of Connor and Very Rev Dr Norman Hamilton, PCI) and one in Dublin (opened by the Archbishop of Dublin) including contributions from the Peter McVerry Trust.
• Production of discussion papers on Rural Isolation and Organ Donation.

This broad range of activities represents the equally broad remit of the Commission – which continues to be one of the ongoing challenges for the Commission as we seek to be increasingly proactive rather than reactive. Nonetheless a breadth of expertise among members has allowed the Commission to work across this range of subjects.

In the coming year, and subject to the new terms of reference and membership, the Commission’s ongoing work will continue to include press responses and responses to government consultation as they arise. We look forward to working alongside Mr Peter Cheney, Assistant Press Officer, who is continuing with the Commission to prepare a bank of discussion papers on a range of issues, while at the same time reviewing existing discussion documents prepared by CASC and predecessor committees.

At time of writing, the Commission is seeking to bring together a network of organisations with expertise in mental health, with a view to organising seminars in Belfast and Dublin for Church leaders and others. The Belfast event will include specific information on the subject of Post Natal Depression.

The Commission is grateful for the ongoing support and assistance of a number of staff members at the RCB, not least Dr Paul Harron, Dr Catherine Smith and Ms Janet Maxwell. We have been particularly blessed by administrative, research and secretarial support from Mr Peter Cheney and, Ms Caoimhe Leppard.
APPENDIX G

STATEMENT FOR THE CITIZENS’ ASSEMBLY FROM THE CHURCH OF IRELAND

The Church of Ireland welcomes the invitation to speak to the Citizens’ Assembly. It acknowledges the timescale given to the Assembly by the Government, but would like to note that the nature of the Church’s polity prevents it from responding fully within a short space of time on a matter of such exceptional human complexity and sensitivity. The Church of Ireland is a synodical Church which develops policy guided by the prayerful consideration and discussion of bishops, clergy and laity. Accordingly, this statement can be considered only a preliminary response.

While the Church of Ireland has consistently expressed the view that abortion should be confined to situations of strict and undeniable medical necessity, it has also since 1983 publicly questioned the wisdom of addressing such complex moral problems by means of amendments to the Constitution. Indeed unfolding events and a range of tragic human cases over the past three decades have demonstrated the deficiencies of the constitutional approach. However, we would wish to emphasise that to review or question the value of the Eighth Amendment at this time is not by implication to call for easy access to abortion. Rather, it is to suggest that those complex and hopefully rare situations in which medical necessity might require termination of pregnancy would be more suitably addressed through nuanced legislation. The Church of Ireland offers its good wishes and prayers to the Assembly in its weighty duty of striving to find a way forward in this sensitive matter, so that the rights of both mothers and the unborn may be duly balanced and careful reflection may take place regarding the place of the Constitution in addressing complex moral and social matters.
Erratum
As the Book of Reports went to press, a note from the Chair of the Select Committee was included (p.378). Due to the pressures of print deadlines, this note indicated that the addendum to the Committee’s report had been included with the agreement of the Honorary Secretaries. This was not the case, and members of Synod were informed of this by the Chair in his proposal of the Committee’s report to Synod.
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GS – General Synod
SC – Standing Committee
HB – House of Bishops
RC – Role of the Church
CS – Church in Society Committee
PO – indicates material available from Press Office
STA – Board for Social Theology in Action
CASC – Church and Society Commission
CCUD – Commission for Christian Unity and Dialogue

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Theological Institute
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iii. St Mary’s Cathedral, Tuam
iv. Select Vestries (Size of)
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i. Dignity in Church Life Charter
ii. Provision for Clergy illness
iii. Clergy and Ministry Protection Fund
iv. Charitable Purposes and Objects and Statement of Public Benefit
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i. Chapter VI (Archbishops and Bishops)
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3. 1888 Legality of Grant for Divinity School in connection with the Church of Ireland. Case from General Synod. - Reported in Journal, 1888, p. 158.


8. 1892 Grant v. Smith and others. Construction of Canon XXXVI. Appeal from Diocesan Court of Dublin. Cross on Stand behind Communion Table held to be illegal. - Reported in Journal, 1895, p. 204.


11. 1894 Campbell and others v. Hunt.
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Maintaining Doctrines contrary to the Articles of the Church of Ireland.
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- Reported in Journal 1897, p. 258.

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15. 1903 Re Tyney.
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16. 1903 Re Leet.
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- Reported in Journal, 1905, p. 333

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18. 1905 Re Sleator.
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19. 1907 Re Cooney.
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- Reported in Journal, 1908, p.332.

20. 1908 Re The Deceased Wife's Sister Marriage Act, 1907. Case from Bishops.
- Reported in Journal, 1908, p.333 and pp.1ii-1v.

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- Reported in Journal, 1910, p. 316.

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22. 1914  Correll v. Robinson and others.

23. 1916  Diocesan Council of Down, Connor and Dromore v. Representative Church Body.
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25. 1918  Hitchcock and others v. Archbishop of Armagh.
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27. 1921  Johnson and others v. Robinson.

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29. 1933  Re Bradshaw.
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- Reported in Journal, 1933, p. 381.

30. 1935  Christie and others v. Colquhoun.
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30A. 1937  Chamney and others v. Colquhoun.
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31. 1939  Caithness and others v. Colquhoun and others.
Petition for a Faculty for the removal of a Crucifix. Appeal from Diocesan Court of Dublin. Appeal dismissed.

32. 1940 Colquhoun and others v. Caithness and others.
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- Reported in Journal, 1941, p.413.

33. 1941 Hick and others v. Wilson
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34. 1947 Bishop of Tuam v. Judge.

35. 1991 Carnduff and Others v. Thomas and Another.
Grant of Faculty for the placing of a cross on the Communion Table. Appeal from Diocesan Court of Down and Dromore. Appeal dismissed.

36. 2001 Re Special Diocesan Synod of Cashel and Ossory held on 29 June 2000.

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1. The following case was also heard and decided by the Court, but was not reported:-

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2. The Court sat on sundry dates in November and December, 1923, to hear Appeals from the Decisions of the Commissioners appointed under the Statute 1920 (Special Session), c.iii, in respect of Final Schemes framed by them. Six Appeals were granted, and three were dismissed. Details of the nine Appeals are printed in Journals, 1924 - 1963.
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2. 2013 Complaints Committee v. Hemphill
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1. 2011 Complaints Committee v. Hemphill
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ATTENDANCE OF REPRESENTATIVES 2017

Thursday 4\(^{th}\) May

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**SUMMARY OF ATTENDANCE**

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Total number of attendances recorded: 1,098; average 366

Clerical 413 Average 138
Lay 685 Average 228

**NOTES ON THE SESSION OF 2017**

The House of Bishops did not sit separately and eleven were present at the meeting of the full Synod.

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