

THE CHURCH OF IRELAND COUNCIL FOR MISSION

REPORT 2021

MEMBERSHIP (JANUARY 2021)

Rt Rev Ferran Glenfield (3)	House of Bishops / Kilmore
Rev Adam Pullen (Hon Chair) (3)	Synod
Rev Colin McConaghie (Hon Secretary) (4)	Clogher
Mr Derek Neilson (Hon. Treasurer) (4)	Dublin
Rev Cliff Jeffers (3)	Cork / Synod
Ms Emma Lynch (3)	AMS
Ms Jenny Smyth (1)	AMS
Ms Catherine Little (2)	AMS
Rev Stephen McElhinney (4)	AMS
Ms Lydia Monds (2)	Bishops' Appeal
Rev Dr Paddy McGlinchey (0)	CITI
Mr Steve Grasham (3)	CIYD
Very Rev Tim Wright (4)	Meath
Rev Peter Murray (4)	Methodist Church
Mrs Phyllis Grothier (4)	Mothers' Union
Mr Thomas Stevenson (2)	Armagh
Ven Paul Mooney (3)	Cashel
Ms Julie Currie (2)	Down & Dromore / Synod
Dr Trevor Buchanan	Down and Dromore Alternate
Rev Charles McCartney (4)	Limerick & Killaloe
Ven Stephen McWhirter (0)	Tuam
Rev Kingsley Sutton (2)	Cork (from June 2020)
Rev Jonathan McFarland (1)	Derry and Raphoe (from Nov. 2020)

According to the constitution of the Council, each diocese is entitled to nominate a representative and an alternate. Alternates attend when the principal representative is unable to. Some members represent more than one possible constituency.

The Council for Mission met four times in during 2020. The January meeting took place at the City North Hotel, Gormanstown, Co. Meath. Due to the Covid-10 pandemic the three other meetings took place online via Zoom with our June meeting postponed.

Changes in membership since January 2019

Rev Kingsley Sutton was appointed as representative for Cork replacing Canon Ian Jonas. Derry and Raphoe representative Rev. Canon Derek Quinn was replaced by Rev Jonathan McFarland. Rev Andrew Quill (Synod) stepped down from the Council in March 2020, not yet replaced. Rev Stephen McElhinney joined the Council representing the Association of

Church of Ireland Council for Mission – Report 2021

Missionary Societies (AMS).

We are grateful to all of the members who have contributed to the work of the Council for Mission over the years. We continue to use the Anglican 5 marks of mission to focus our activities, which are:

1. To proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom (Tell)
2. To teach, baptise and nurture new believers (Teach)
3. To respond to human need by loving service (Tend)
4. To transform unjust structures of society, to challenge violence of every kind and pursue peace and reconciliation (Transform)
5. To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation, and sustain and renew the life of the earth (Treasure)

(Bonds of Affection-1984 ACC-6 p49, Mission in a Broken World-1990 ACC-8 p101)

Items for discussion

As with every organisation the past year has brought many challenges with what had been planned being put on hold and alternative ways of meeting and focuses changing. While as a Council we continue to focus on Discipleship, the teaching of the Christian faith and Climate, treasuring creation we have also sought to be a voice into the changing face of worship by taking a lead on the mission field of the online platform.

Report

At General Synod 2019 we launched the first of five videos on the 5 Marks of Mission on Proclaiming the Good News (Tell). This video is available on the Church of Ireland Website under General Synod / Council for Mission, Vimeo and YouTube.

This year, with the support of the Priorities Fund, we have produced two more videos which are being launched at General Synod 2021. These are highlighting the marks of Discipleship (Teach) and Creation (Treasure). These will also be available on the Church of Ireland Website, Vimeo and YouTube.

We encourage the church to use these videos in your parish contexts to promote the five marks of mission, along with the Radiant Faith publication which was launched at Synod 2018, and is available of the Council for Mission page of the Church of Ireland website.

Next year we plan to complete the series of videos, which will include the third and fourth Marks of Mission, Christian Service (Tend) and Challenging Injustice (Transform)

International consultations

Rev Adam Pullen and Very Rev Tim Wright represent the Church of Ireland on the Anglican Discipleship Forum. The Forum has been working on a Grove Booklet on the themes of Discipleship and Collaborative ministry in the context of 21st century UK and Ireland. The Council for Mission has been discussing a number of the key issues on the report and plan to produce a response to the report in the context of the Church of Ireland.

Church of Ireland Council for Mission – Report 2021

Online Worship

With the closure of church buildings to public worship in March 2020 the Council for Mission sought to take a lead in assisting churches in establishing and delivering an online presence. In the April 2020 the Council produced a paper entitled “Mission reflections, response and resources for parishes.” This was followed up in June 2021 when the Council hosted a webinar entitled “Online Church – Practical Lessons from the Frontline” to give practical advice and guidance to churches seeking to maintain an online presence alongside in-church worship. The key speaker was Mr Nick Shephard of Church of England Digital Labs with seminars lead by Rev Nicola Halford, Rev Andrew Quill and Rev Cliff Jeffers.

Association of Missionary Societies

The Council continues to work alongside and support the Association of Missionary Societies who are represented on the Council. A joint service by the Council and AMS celebrating and promoting mission was broadcast on RTÉ in June 2021.

Chairperson

In March 2020 Rev Adam Pullen stepped down as Honorary Chairperson of the Council for Mission to be replaced by Very Rev Tim Wright. The Council members would like to thank Adam for his dedication, hard work and enthusiasm during his time as Chairperson.