

Standing Committee – Report 2021

# **STANDING COMMITTEE**

**REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS LAID BEFORE**

**THE GENERAL SYNOD AT ITS**

**ONE HUNDRED AND FIFTY-FIRST ORDINARY SESSION 2021**

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**THE GENERAL SYNOD  
OF THE  
CHURCH OF IRELAND**

**HONORARY SECRETARIES OF THE GENERAL SYNOD**



Until June 2020: Ven George Davison, 12 Harwood Gardens, Carrickfergus, Co. Antrim, BT38 7US

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

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

Ms Hazel Corrigan, Liscolman House, Tullow, Co Carlow

From September 2020: Rev Canon Malcolm Kingston, St Mark's Rectory, Portadown Road, Armagh,  
BT61 9EE

**ASSISTANT SECRETARY** - Mrs Janet Maxwell

**SYNOD OFFICER** - Dr Catherine Smith

**SYNOD ADMINISTRATOR** – Ms Aisling Sheridan

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### 1. SUMMARY

Some significant matters dealt with during the year were:

- The establishment of the Church of Ireland Board for Children’s and Family Ministry;
- Development of legislation on GS representation to be brought to the GS of 2021;
- Approval of bodies or committees to begin the work of analysing, exploring and, if appropriate, implementing the recommendations of the Facilitation Committee.
- A Working Group was established by the Standing Committee and the Representative Church Body concerning a co-ordinated response by the Church to historic institutional abuse.

### 2. NAMES AND ATTENDANCE OF MEMBERS (FROM JUNE 2020)

During the period June 2020 – March 2021, 6 meetings were held, including a special meeting on 14<sup>th</sup> October 2020. The number of meetings attended by each member is placed before her or his name.

#### EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS

##### THE ARCHBISHOPS AND BISHOPS

##### THE HONORARY SECRETARIES OF THE GENERAL SYNOD

1/1	Ven George Davison\$
6/6	Rev Gillian Wharton
6/6	Mr Kenneth Gibson
6/6	Ms Hazel Corrigan
6/6	Rev Malcolm Kingston\$

#### ELECTED MEMBERS

Armagh	5/6	Rev Matthew Hagan
	1/2	Rev Aonghus Mayes\$
	4/6	Mr Paul Bruce
	1/1	Mr Matthew Topley^ Vacant
Clogher	6/6	Rev Canon Ian Berry
	0/6	Rev Chris MacBruithin
	2/6	Mr Walter Pringle
	5/6	Mr Glenn Moore

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Derry & Raphoe	6/6	Ven Robert Miller
	4/6	Rev Ian Linton
	6/6	Mrs Brigid Barrett
	5/6	Mr Robert Ellis
Down & Dromore	6/6	Ven Roderic West
	5/6	Rev James Cheshire
	6/6	Ms Jan Peach
	1/1	Ms Anna Williams~
	1/2	Mr Jack Wilson~
Connor	5/6	Rev Trevor Johnston
	6/6	Rev Barry Forde
	6/6	Mr Roy Totten
	4/6	Mrs Judith Cairns
Kilmore, Elphin & Ardagh	5/6	Rev Canon Hazel Hicks
	6/6	Rev Ruth West
	3/6	Ms Laura Dunlop
	5/6	Ms Sarah Taylor
Tuam, Killala & Achonry	4/6	Rev Canon Andrea Wills
	6/6	Ven Stephen McWhirter
	6/6	Ms Ann Walton
	1/1	Ms Caroline Morrow#
	5/6	Ms Rebecca Morrow#
Dublin & Glendalough	6/6	Very Rev William Morton
	3/6	Rev Stephen Farrell
	6/6	Mr Lyndon MacCann SC
	5/6	Mr David Webb
Meath & Kildare	4/6	Rev Canon Isaac Delamere
	0/6	Rev Damien Ó Cathain
	6/6	Mrs Joan Bruton
	0/6	Mr Ronan McKenna
Cashel, Ferns & Ossory	6/6	Ven Ruth Elmes
	3/6	Rev Máirt Hanley
	6/6	Mr Richard Codd
	4/6	Ms Emma Purser

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Cork, Cloyne & Ross	5/6 0/6 6/6 5/6	Ven Adrian Wilkinson Rev Sarah Marry Mr Wilfred Baker Ms Hilda Connolly
Limerick & Killaloe	4/6 5/6 6/6 4/6	Ven Simon J. Lumby Rev John Godfrey Mr Adrian Hilliard Mr Edward Hardy

### Co-opted Members

Mr Andrew Brannigan	6/6	Rev Gary McMurray	4/6
Rev Canon Alison Calvin	5/6	Mr Alan Williamson	5/6
Very Rev Nigel Dunne	5/6	Mrs Kaye Nesbitt	4/6
Rev Canon Dr Maurice Elliott	5/6		

The Secretary General, and the Assistant Secretary of the General Synod, are entitled to attend and speak at meetings of the Standing Committee.

\$Following the consecration of Ven George Davison as Bishop of Connor, Rev Malcolm Kingston was elected to the vacant place in September 2020. Rev Aonghus Mayes was appointed in January 2021 to the place vacated by Rev Malcolm Kingston for the Diocese of Armagh.

^Mr Matthew Topley resigned in September 2020.

~Ms Anna Williams resigned in September 2020. Mr Jack Wilson was elected to the vacant position in November 2020.

#Ms Caroline Morrow resigned in June 2020. Ms Rebecca Morrow was elected to the vacant position in September 2020.

## COMMITTEES OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE

### FINANCE AND ARRANGEMENTS SUB-COMMITTEE

Mr Wilfred Baker  
Ven Robert Miller  
The Honorary Secretaries



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LEGAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

His Honour Judge Tom Burgess	Mr Oswyn Paulin
His Honour Judge Alistair Devlin	Mr William Prentice
Mr Lyndon MacCann SC	His Honour Judge Derek Rodgers
The Hon Mrs Justice Catherine McGuinness	The Right Honourable Lord Justice Stephens
The Honorary Secretaries	

PRIORITIES FUND COMMITTEE

Mrs Brigid Barrett	Mr Glenn Moore
Mrs Joan Bruton	Mr Roy Totten
Ms Hazel Corrigan	Ven Adrian Wilkinson
Ven George Davison	

BUDGET SUB-COMMITTEE

Mr Wilfred Baker	Rev Canon Andrea Wills
Ms Hazel Corrigan	Rev Malcolm Kingston (from Jan 2021)
Ven George Davison (to June 2020)	

WORLD DEVELOPMENT – BISHOPS’ APPEAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Rev John Ardis	Rev Canon Jonathan Pierce
Rt Rev Dr Ferran Glenfield	Ms Gillian Purser
Ms Ruth Handy	Rt Rev Patrick Rooke (Chair)
Rev Claire Henderson	Very Rev Niall Sloane
Mrs Claire Holmes	Mrs Iris Suitor (Hon Sec)

LAY JUDGES OF THE COURT OF THE GENERAL SYNOD

His Honour Judge Tom Burgess	Mr Lyndon MacCann SC
His Honour Judge Alistair Devlin	The Hon Mrs Justice Catherine Mc Guinness
Mr Charles Galloway	Mr Ronald Robins
The Rt Hon Lord Justice Paul Girvan	The Right Honourable Lord Justice Stephens
Mr Patrick Good QC	

**3. APPOINTMENTS**

During the period covered by this report, the Standing Committee made the following appointments.

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Member and Chair of the Advisory Council to the Church of Ireland Centre at Dublin City University	The Archbishop of Armagh
11 <sup>th</sup> Assembly of the World Council of Churches in Germany (dates TBC)	Very Rev Stephen Forde
Observer on the Meissen Commission from 2021 to 2026	Rev Canon Dr Maurice Elliott
Trustee of Churches Together in Britain and Ireland.	The Bishop of Derry
Lay representative to the Anglican Consultative Council	Mr Glenn Moore
Voluntary Director of Christian Aid Ireland	Rev Colin Darling

Representatives appointed in 2020 to attend meetings of other Churches should attend those meetings in 2021, if invitations are received.

Society of Friends' Ireland Yearly Meeting, 8 <sup>th</sup> -11 <sup>th</sup> April by Zoom	Ms Gina Copty and Very Rev John Bond
Conference of the Methodist Church in Ireland, 9 <sup>th</sup> -13 <sup>th</sup> June, online	Mr Ken Gibson and Rev Katharine Poulton

**4. ADVISORY COUNCIL TO THE CHURCH OF IRELAND CENTRE FOR EDUCATION AT DUBLIN CITY UNIVERSITY**

The report of the Advisory Council was received by the Standing Committee in March 2021, and appears as Appendix B on page 181. A report from the Church of Ireland Centre DCU is contained on p. 291 of the Board of Education Report.

**5. AUDIT OF ACCOUNTS**

In September 2020, the Standing Committee appointed PricewaterhouseCoopers as Auditors of the accounts of the Representative Church Body.

**6. BISHOPS' APPEAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

The report of the Bishops' Appeal Advisory Committee appears as Appendix C on page 183.

**7. BOARD FOR MINISTRY WITH CHILDREN AND FAMILIES**

The report of the Board appears as Appendix D on page 196.

**8. CENTRAL COMMUNICATIONS BOARD**

A report from the Central Communications Board incorporating the reports of the Broadcasting Committee and the Literature Committee can be found in Appendix E on page 197.

**9. CHARITIES LEGISLATION**

The Report of the Charities Registration Monitoring Working Group appears as Appendix F on page 201.

**10. CHILDREN'S MINISTRY NETWORK**

The report of the Children's Ministry Network appears as Appendix G on page 203.

**11. CHURCH AND SOCIETY COMMISSION**

In March 2021, Ms Jane Burns was co-opted as a member. The Church and Society Commission's report can be found in Appendix H on page 206.

**12. CLERGY PENSIONS LEVY**

In September 2020, the Standing Committee adopted a resolution on the recommendation of the Representative Church Body that, in accordance with Section 36 of Chapter XIV of the Constitution of the Church of Ireland, and on the recommendation of the Representative Body and the Trustee, the rate of levy to be paid by each diocese towards the cost of securing the solvency of the Clergy Pensions Fund from 1 January 2021 be set at the unchanged percentage level of 13% of the Minimum Approved Stipend in force at 1 January 2021.

**13. COMPLAINTS AND DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURE**

In January 2021, the Standing Committee considered the 2020 Income and Expenditure report for the Complaints Committee as required under Chapter VIII 23 (e). This report is appended as Appendix I on page 224. Ms Bridget Rippey's appointment as Complaint Administrator for the purposes of the relevant part of Chapter VIII was approved for a further year.

In November, the Standing Committee appointed the following as members of the Disciplinary Panel:

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Ven Dr Stephen McBride  
 Rev Canon Elaine Murray  
 Ven David Pierpoint  
 Rev Helene Steed  
 Lord Justice Stephens  
 Ms Claire Bruton BL  
 Mr Oliver Butler BL  
 Ms Claire Callanan, Solicitor  
 Mr Michael Dickson, Solicitor  
 Ms Karen Erwin (Mediator)  
 Sir Paul Girvan PC (Chair)  
 Mr Andrew Walker BL (Vice-Chair)

In January, the Standing Committee appointed Mr Patrick Good and Ms Beverley Turner as its representatives on the Complaints Committee, and appointed Mr Good as the Chair, and Ven Leslie Stevenson as the Vice-Chair, of the Committee.

<b>Elections by Clergy and Laity of Diocesan Synods of Members of the Complaints Committee</b>		
<b>Diocese</b>	<b>Clerical Member Elected</b>	<b>Lay Member Elected</b>
Armagh	Very Rev Shane Forster	Mrs Yvonne McFarland
Clogher	Rev Chancellor Ian Berry	Mrs Joy Graham
Derry and Raphoe	Ven Robert Miller	Mr Willie Oliver
Down and Dromore	Rev Canon John Auchmuty	TBC
Connor	Ven Stephen McBride	Mr Ken Gibson
Kilmore, Elphin and Ardagh	Very Rev Nigel Crossey	Mr Desmond Lowry
Tuam, Killala and Achonry	Very Rev Alistair Grimason	Mrs Mildred Gilmore
Dublin and Glendalough	Rev Stephen Farrell	Mr Geoffrey Perrin
Meath and Kildare	Ven Leslie Stevenson (Vice-Chair)	Mrs Joan Bruton
Cashel, Ferns and Ossory	Rev James Mulhall	Ms Mary Goodall-Turner
Cork, Cloyne and Ross	Very Rev Nigel Dunne	Mrs Judy Peters
Limerick and Killaloe	Ven Terry Mitchell	Mr Kieron Brislane
<b>Standing Committee representatives</b>		
Mr Patrick Good (Chair)		
Ms Beverly Turner		

#### 14. CONSULTATIVE GROUP ON DISABILITY

The report of the Group is contained as Appendix J on page 225.

**15. GENERAL SYNOD 2022**

The General Synod of 2022 will be held from 5<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup> May in the Croke Park Conference Centre, Dublin.

**16. GENERAL SYNOD/STANDING COMMITTEE FINANCES**

In September 2020, the Budget Sub-Committee presented its report to the Standing Committee. The report was accepted by the Standing Committee. In January 2021, Rev Malcolm Kingston was appointed to the Budget Sub-Committee.

**17. GENERAL SYNOD REPRESENTATION WORKING GROUP**

The General Synod Representation Working Group met once in 2020 and decided to defer presentation of the Bill to amend the process for election of representatives to General Synod to 2021. It was further agreed that, as new triennial elections of GS representatives would, by then, create a new cohort of General Synod members, that an information session would be held in each diocese to ensure that the newly elected representatives are familiar with the context and intended outcomes of the Bill before consideration of the proposed legislation at the next meeting of the General Synod.

**18. GENERAL SYNOD ROYALTIES FUND**

The value of the Fund at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2020 was €201,471.65 credit and €21,058.66 debit. During the year the following resolutions were passed for allocations to be made from the Fund:

- That a grant of £1,000 be made from the GS Royalties Fund to support the publication by the Ulster Historical Foundation of a transcript of the experiences of Very Rev Henry Jones, Dean of Kilmore and later Bishop of Clogher and Meath, regarding his experiences in Cavan during the 1641 Rising, with an 8,000 essay on the subject by Brendan Scott.
- That a grant of €4,500 be provided from the GS Royalties Fund to subvent the publication of SEARCH: a Church of Ireland Journal.
- That a grant of €500 be made to Mr Colum O’Riordan, Director of the Irish Architectural Archive, for expert editorial work on the text of Dr Michael O’Neill’s proposed illustrated history of church buildings.

**19. HISTORICAL CENTENARIES WORKING GROUP**

The report of the Working Group may be found as Appendix K on page 227.

## 20. MINIMUM APPROVED STIPENDS

Under Section 51(1) of Chapter IV of the Constitution of the Church of Ireland as revised by Chapter IV of 2011, the Standing Committee is required to consider recommendations from the Representative Church Body as to the rates of Minimum Approved Stipends to take effect from 1 January 2020.

At its meeting of 15<sup>th</sup> September 2020, the Standing Committee heard a submission by Mr Henry Saville, Chairman of the Executive of the Representative Church Body, which detailed the background to the RCB's recommendations.

The Standing Committee approved the recommendations of the Representative Church Body with the adoption of the following resolution:

That, in accordance with Section 51 (1) of Chapter IV of the Constitution of the Church of Ireland, and as recommended by the Stipends Committee and the Representative Body for onward recommendation to the Standing Committee, the rates of Minimum Approved Stipends shall be as follows with effect from 1 January 2021, being unchanged from those of 2020:

- a) no stipend shall be less than £30,195 per annum in Northern Ireland or €38,234 per annum in the Republic of Ireland in the case of an Incumbent or a member of the clergy appointed as Bishop's Curate under the provisions of Section 42 of Chapter IV or of a Diocesan Curate over the age of 30 years appointed under the provisions of Section 43 of Chapter IV.
- b) the stipend for a Curate-Assistant shall be in accordance with the following scale:

First Year	75.0%	of minimum stipend for incumbent
Second Year	77.5%	"
Third Year	80.0%	"
Fourth Year	82.5%	"
Fifth and succeeding Years	85.0%	"

## 21. PENSIONABLE STIPENDS

Under Section 2 of Chapter XIV of the Constitution of the Church of Ireland as revised by Chapter V of 2011, the Standing Committee is required to consider a recommendation from the Representative Church Body and the Church of Ireland Clergy Pensions Trustee Limited as to the rates of Pensionable Stipend to take effect from 1 January 2021.

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At its meeting of 15<sup>th</sup> September 2020, the Standing Committee heard a presentation by Mr Henry Saville, Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Representative Church Body, which detailed the financial background to the recommendations of the RCB and the Church of Ireland Clergy Pensions Trustee Limited.

The Standing Committee approved the recommendations of the Representative Church Body by adopting the following resolution:

That, as recommended by the Executive Committee and the Trustee, in accordance with Section 1 of Chapter XIV of the Constitution of the Church of Ireland, Pensionable Stipend shall be as follows with effect from 1 January 2021, remaining unchanged from 2020:

- (a) Pensionable Stipend shall be £25,498 per annum in Northern Ireland and €36,219 per annum in the Republic of Ireland in the case of an Incumbent or a member of the clergy appointed as Bishop's Curate under the provisions of Section 42 of Chapter IV or of a Diocesan Curate over the age of 30 years appointed under the provisions of Section 43 of Chapter IV.
- (b) Pensionable Stipend for a Curate-Assistant shall be in accordance with the following scale:

First Year	75.0%	of Pensionable Stipend for incumbent
Second Year	77.5%	"
Third Year	80.0%	"
Fourth Year	82.5%	"
Fifth and succeeding Years	85.0%	""

### **22. PRIORITIES FUND**

The accounts of the Priorities Fund and the grants, approved by Standing Committee in March 2021, are contained as Appendix L on page 229.

### **23. CHURCH OF IRELAND SAFE GUARDING BOARD**

The report of the Safeguarding Board appears as Appendix M on page 243.

### **24. SECONDARY EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

In March 2021, the Standing Committee re-nominated Mr Wilfred Baker, Ms Hazel Corrigan, Mr Roy Crowe, Ms Elizabeth Hassell, Rev Robert Jones, Ms Kara Turner,

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and Ms Joyce Ryder, and nominated Rev Ken Rue to the AGM of the SEC, until March 2022.

**25. STANDING COMMITTEE INCOME AND EXPENDITURE AND GENERAL PURPOSES FUND ACCOUNTS 2019**

The accounts are contained as Appendix N on page 247.

**26. WORKING GROUP CONCERNING A CO-ORDINATED RESPONSE BY THE CHURCH TO HISTORIC INSTITUTIONAL ABUSE**

In March 2021, the Standing Committee and the Representative Body approved the terms of reference and membership of a Working Group concerning a co-ordinated response by the Church to historic institutional abuse. The Group will participate in co-ordinating, formulating and preparing responses on behalf of the Church in relation to queries from State bodies, commissions of inquiry, the media and other third parties concerning allegations of historic institutional abuse and other allegations of abuse by clergy or officers of the Church. It will also support and assist the Archbishops, Bishops and Chief Officer and Secretary General in their engagement with State representatives, commissions of inquiry, the media and other third parties concerning the above. Its membership is comprised of: the Archbishop of Armagh; the Archbishop of Dublin; the Chief Officer and Secretary General; the Chairman of the Executive Committee of the RCB; Rev Canon Gillian Wharton, Honorary Secretary; Mr Ken Gibson, Honorary Secretary; Mrs Janet Maxwell; the Assessor, Mr Lyndon MacCann Esq SC.