

**THE CHURCH OF IRELAND COUNCIL FOR MISSION**

**REPORT 2022**

**MEMBERSHIP (JANUARY 2022)**

Rt Rev Dr Ferran Glenfield (3)	House of Bishops / Kilmore
Very Rev Tim Wright (Hon Chair) (4)	Meath and Kildare
Rev Colin McConaghie (Hon Secretary) (4)	Clogher
Mr Derek Neilson (Hon. Treasurer) (4)	Dublin
Rev Adam Pullen (2)	Synod (left Sept 2021)
Rev Cliff Jeffers (1)	Cork / Synod (left June 2021)
Ms Emma Lynch (2)	AMS
Ms Jenny Smyth (3)	AMS
Ms. Catherine Little (2)	AMS
Rev Stephen McElhinney (3)	AMS
Ms Lydia Monds (3)	Bishops' Appeal
Rev Dr Paddy McGlinchey (0)	CITI
Mr Steve Grasham (3)	CIYD
Rev Dr Laurence Graham (1)	Methodist Church (from Jan 2022)
Mrs Phyllis Grothier (2)	Mothers' Union (left Nov 2021)
Mr Thomas Stevenson (3)	Armagh
Ven Paul Mooney (3)	Cashel
Rev Charles McCartney (1)	Limerick & Killaloe
Ven Stephen McWhirter (0)	Tuam
Rev Kingsley Sutton (4)	Cork
Rev Jonathan McFarland (4)	Derry and Raphoe
Rev Canon Andrew Orr (1)	Synod (from Nov 2021)

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 from June 2021 to January 2022. All four meetings took place online via zoom.

**Changes in membership since January 2021:**

Rev Adam Pullen (Synod), Rev Cliff Jeffers (Synod) and Mrs Phyllis Grothier all stepped down from the Council in 2021 having served the maximum time in office. Rev Canon Andrew Orr was elected as a Synod rep at the meeting of General Synod 2021. Rev Dr Laurence Graham joined the Council as Methodist rep in January 2022. 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:

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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:**

The continued Covid restrictions over the past year has impacted upon the Council for Mission as with all of society. Meetings continued to take place via Zoom, there have been no face-to face meetings of the CFM since January 2020. This has been a challenge as the membership of the Council has seen a major overhaul in the last two years. A number of long serving members have reached the permitted 9 years and a number of new members have joined. We have also had a change of Chairperson with Very Rev Tim Wright taking over from Rev Adam Pullen and a change of secretary with Rev Colin McConaghie replacing Rev Cliff Jeffers. We thank Adam and Cliff for their years of dedication to the work of CFM, their passion and expertise will be missed.

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 playing an active role in exploring what mission looks like online and in what will be the “new normal” as restrictions ease. As a Council we very much see our role as facilitating the growth of mission within the Church of Ireland.

2022 promises to be an exciting year for the Council of Mission as we complete our previous project of creating videos on the 5 Marks of Mission and seek God’s guidance for the role of the Council moving forward, while at all times being pro-active in supporting and encouraging mission both in Ireland and worldwide.

### **Report:**

At General Synod 2019 Council 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.

Following delays in filming due to Covid we will complete the set of videos in 2022, thanks to the generous support of the Priorities Fund.

At this year’s General Synod, we are highlighting the marks of Discipleship (Teach) and Creation (Treasure). These will also be available on the Church of Ireland Website, Vimeo and YouTube as well as the Council for Mission Facebook Page.

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 on the Council for Mission page of the Church of Ireland website.

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By the end of 2022 the complete series of videos, which will include the third and fourth Marks of Mission, Christian Service (Tend) and Challenging Injustice (Transform) will be available.

### **International Consultations:**

Rev Adam Pullen and Very Rev Tim Wright continue to represent the Church of Ireland on the Anglican Discipleship Forum. Similar to the CFM the Forum has been undergoing a number of personnel changes and is currently seeking a fresh vision for the future. The Forum produced a Grove Booklet on the themes of Discipleship and Collaborative ministry in the context of 21<sup>st</sup> century UK and Ireland. The Council for Mission has been discussing a number of the key issues on the report and plans to produce a response to the report in the context of the Church of Ireland.

### **Online Church:**

2021 saw us move between churches re-opening, further closures and restrictions. This had led to many questions around the continued role of social media and online worship going forward. Following on from the Council's paper "Mission reflections, response and resources for parishes." produced in April 2020, the Council hosted a webinar entitled "Online Church – Practical Lessons from the Frontline" in June 2021. The aim of the webinar was to give practical advice and guidance to churches seeking to maintain an online presence alongside in-church worship. The key speaker was Nick Shephard of Church of England Digital Labs with seminars lead by Rev Nicola Halford, Rev Andrew Quill and Rev Cliff Jeffers.

The Council has also sought to support other agencies in hosting online training and was delighted to make a financial contribution towards the Mothers' Unions project to help tackle gender violence.

### **Raising the profile:**

The Council is actively seeking to raise our profile within the Church of Ireland and beyond. In doing so we believe we in turn ensure that mission sits at the very core of all we do as a church. The Council actively seeks to facilitate and promote the work of other Councils and Organisations within the Church of Ireland collaborating especially with Children's and Youth ministry, the Bishop's Appeal, Mothers' Union and the Association of Missionary Societies.

In December 2021 our Chairperson, the Very Rev Tim Wright, was interviewed for the Church of Ireland Gazette profiling the work of the CFM and the ever-evolving question of what mission is and what it looks like in today's world.

We are delighted to once again be able to host the Mission Breakfast at this year's General Synod. The breakfast will highlight the work of Bishop's Appeal by linking in projects it has supported across a number of mission agency. The format will be slightly different this year and we have no doubt that those who attend will leave both informed and inspired. The CFM also seeks to raise the profile of mission across the Church of Ireland on social

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media. The CFM Facebook page has been very active in the past year seeing a rise in views and followers.

### **Council Membership:**

The aim of the CFM has always been to represent the wide breadth of the Church of Ireland with representation from each Diocese alongside members elected by General Synod and representatives of the Association of Missionary Societies. With a number of members having to step down over the last two years we have been left with a number of Dioceses not being represented on the Council. We hope to fill those vacancies in 2022 and would ask for the support of Bishops who can nominate clergy or laity to represent their Diocese.

### **Future Vision:**

Even prior to the outbreak of the pandemic the landscape of worldwide mission was changing rapidly. The traditional thinking of churches sending out missionaries from the west to the majority world no longer fits with a paradigm shift in Christianity. Mission is no longer about sending but rather receiving and sharing as we acknowledge we have much to learn from our brothers and sisters in Christ globally.

The pandemic both closed down borders and opened new opportunities. Travel was restricted but churches could contact via online platforms. Bible studies could be joined across the nations, projects could be shared and developed from multiple locations. Of course, this new world brought its own difficulties as technology injustice was faced not just in far of places but in some rural areas of Ireland.

The CFM seeks to be at the forefront of facilitating and promoting missional activities on both a global and local level as the world learns to adopt to life after restrictions and lockdowns. As the video projects on the 5 Marks of Mission conclude the Council wants to be proactive in seeking God's vision for how we can best continue to keep mission at the forefront of all we do as a church as we seek to answer the great commission to spread the Good News of the Gospel throughout the world.

In September 2022 the Council members will hold a two-day residential in the Church of Ireland Theological Institute. We hope and pray the facilitated residential will help equip the Council for what is to come next and give us a clear vision of how best to support our mission partners and churches across Ireland. We ask for your prayers as we enter this new cycle in the life of the CFM.

### **Association of Missionary Societies:**

The Association of Mission Societies (AMS) has actively participated on the Church of Ireland Council for Mission through regular attendance at meetings by 4 of its members and communication with the council throughout the year. This connection enables good cooperation between the mission agencies and the Church of Ireland in facilitating missional initiatives.

Rev Stephen McElhinney (SAMS Ireland) continues his role as Chair, Ms Catherine Little

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(BSNI) Treasurer and Ms Emma Lynch (Tearfund Ireland) has taken up the role of Secretary from Ms Jenny Smyth (CMSI). AMS are most grateful to Jenny for all her work on behalf of member agencies. The Leprosy Mission NI left the AMS network this year. AMS are grateful for all their fellowship and work over many years. AMS has also welcomed a new member in the past year, Christian Aid Ireland. A lot of planning and work went into planning and developing a joint AMS/Council for Mission Sunday Service for RTÉ television. The theme of the service broadcast in June 2021 was ‘Church without Walls’. It was great to input from Bishops near and far in the programme.

AMS made a submission to Bishops Appeal during the year as part of the review into the decline in giving to Bishops Appeal. Although not directly involved in the process, AMS provided some further areas for consideration in the ongoing discussion. AMS continues to meet 3 times a year, with 2 meetings held at CITI, giving members the valuable opportunity to preach at Chapel and engage with students. However, this past year AMS members were only able to visit in November due to Government Covid-19 restrictions and all other meetings were held over Zoom.

AMS members continue to give input on mission engagement to the Continuing Ministerial Education (CME) for curates; this being the third year. This connection with the CME programme runs on a 3-year cycle. The purpose of the AMS input is to broaden understanding of integral mission, cross cultural awareness, international development and the range of ways the societies can facilitate ordained ministers and their congregations in their missional involvement. Combined initiatives planned for 2022 are a Missions Zone at General Synod 2022.

We look forward to working with Council for Mission in the coming year to encourage mission within the Church of Ireland.