

CHURCH OF IRELAND – GENERAL SYNOD 2023

MOTIONS

Motions received by the Honorary Secretaries of the General Synod not less than one month before the day appointed for the opening of the session of the General Synod at which the motion is to be moved (Standing Order 31).

1. TIMETABLE (SEE SEPARATE SHEET)

Proposer: The Honorary Secretaries

A motion or motions to allocate the time available between the items listed on the agenda paper (Standing Order 56). (See Timetable Motion on separate sheet).

2. CHURCH OF IRELAND MARRIAGE COUNCIL - MEMBERSHIP

Proposer: Rev Jonathan Campbell-Smyth

Seconder: Rev Emma Rutherford

That the following be elected to serve on the Council:

Ms Kay Clarke

3. LITURGICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE – BOOK OF COMMON PRAYER (REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY)

Proposer: Rev Adrian Dorrian

Seconder: Very Rev Susan Green

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 of 2024 to amend the Table of Readings in The Book of Common Prayer 2004 (rev. ed. 2018) in the following terms:

In the Table of Readings at the lections for Remembrance Sunday, after ‘Any Combination of the above may be used’ insert:

“Remembrance Sunday is observed on the Second Sunday in November.”

**4. LITURGICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE – BOOK OF COMMON PRAYER
(A PRAYER FOR THE SOVEREIGN)**

Proposer: Rev Adrian Dorrian

Seconder: Very Rev Susan Green

That in accordance with the provisions of Section 26(1) of Chapter One of the Constitution, leave be given for the introduction of a Bill in the General Synod of 2024 to rename ‘A Prayer for Queen Elizabeth II’ on page 97 of the Book of Common Prayer to ‘A Prayer for the Sovereign’.

5. COMMISSION ON MINISTRY - TENURE OF ARCHDEACONS

Proposer: Ven Barry Forde

Seconder: Rev Emma Carson

That this General Synod:

- 1) Encourage the Commission on Ministry to continue its deliberations on the tenure of Archdeacons; and
- 2) Would be prepared to consider Option A (as indicated in the Schedule to this motion) should this come in the form of a Bill to amend Chapter Two Section 40 of the Constitution (this option would link tenure of an Archdeacon to that of the appointing Bishop)
- 3) Would be prepared to consider Option B (as indicated in the Schedule to this motion) should this come in the form of a Bill to amend Chapter Two Section 40 of the Constitution (this option would link tenure of an Archdeacon to a fixed term that may be renewed subject to the discretion of the bishop)
- 4) Would be prepared to consider Option C (as indicated in the Schedule to this motion) should this come in the form of a Bill to amend Chapter Two Section 40 of the Constitution (this option would like tenure of an Archdeacon to whatever term or duration is agreed with the appointing bishop at the time of appointment, whether renewable or otherwise)
- 5) Considers that no change is required.

SCHEDULE

The 'Facilitations Committee' was established post the Commission on Episcopal Ministry and Structures to pick up on strands of thought, discussion, potential reforms and then to allocate these to an appropriate body within the church for further deliberation. The role and tenure of Archdeacons was passed to the Commission on Ministry.

Chapter 2 Section 40 of the Constitution stipulates that the appointment shall be made by the bishop of the diocese and it may be retained until

- a) That person has ceased to be beneficed or licensed in the diocese; or
- b) Has been granted a Retiring Annuity under Chapter XIV, or
- c) Shall have attained the age of seventy years

Whichever of these is the earliest. A bill is before General Synod 2023 to amend the retirement age in line with the retirement age for clergy generally.

The Commission has given consideration to the possibility, raised in the CEMS process, that the tenure of an Archdeacon might cease before the times stipulated in the Constitution. A number of options were discussed and a 'survey' of serving Archdeacons and appointing Bishops was conducted. These options are set out below, with a summary of the points raised in feedback and discussion. The Commission invites debate at Synod and an indication as to which option or options, or indeed none at all, Synod might be prepared to consider if a Bill were to follow in 2024.

Option A – Tenure of an Archdeacon linked to the tenure of an appointing Bishop

Chapter II Section 41 links the duty and office of an archdeacon to aid and assist the bishop in his or her pastoral care and office. The role is inextricably linked to the bishop and it is important that good working relationships exist between bishops and archdeacons. Some archdeacons expressed the view that they would offer to stand down upon the arrival of a new bishop, and others believed that a suitable time period of say, a year, would allow for some continuity. Some believed it is important that a new Bishop should be able to have a say in who the archdeacon/s is/are. Conversely, it was said that continuity of tenure provides for continuity in the diocese, and that a new bishop will have to work with and alongside the clergy in the

diocese. Others expressed the view that if an archdeacon was only recently appointed then a short tenure would not allow time to ‘bed in’ to the role. Both sets of views were aware that in either deciding to accept an offer to stand down, or by not reappointing, a new bishop would have to be sensitive to relationships and optics within the diocese.

Option B – Tenure of an Archdeacon linked to a fixed term

If archdeacons were to be appointed for a fixed term of say, seven years, that is renewable (either completely or partially), this may allow for both continuity and change. A serving archdeacon may wish to stand down and this would provide for that. A change in bishop during the period of tenure would allow the new bishop time to get used to the diocese, and then to consider whether to reappoint an archdeacon or to have a discussion about change. Concerns were expressed regarding smaller dioceses who may not have a large pool of clergy to select from, and further as to why an archdeacon’s tenure should be ‘fixed’ when so few tenures are fixed within the Church of Ireland.

Option C – Tenure of an Archdeacon linked to whatever is agreed at the time of the appointment

The constitution might simply provide space for the tenure of an archdeacon to be linked to whatever is agreed with the bishop at the time of appointment, either for a fixed term or linked to the tenure of the bishop. This would allow bishops and archdeacons to agree on the terms of the appointment from the time of appointment and would permit tenure to be appropriate to each episcopal and diocesan context.

6. STANDING COMMITTEE - BILLS PROCESS

Proposer: The Honorary Secretaries

That the Standing Orders of the General Synod be amended as follows:

- 1) In Standing Order 18b the words ‘or of any bill’ shall be deleted.
- 2) In Standing Order 18, after the words ‘provided that the President’ shall be inserted the words ‘ (or person chairing the Synod at that time)’.
- 3) In Standing Order 20 the word “committee” shall be deleted and replaced with the words “Amendment/Detail Stage”.

- 4) In Standing Order 26 the words “second reading” shall be deleted and replaced with the words “Principle Stage”.
- 5) In Standing Order 28 the words “first reading” shall be deleted and replaced with the word “introduction” and the words “second reading” shall be deleted and replaced with the words “Principle and Amendment/Detail Stages”.
- 6) In Standing Order 29 (a) the words “and First Reading” shall be deleted.
- 7) In Standing Order 29 (a) the words “10 minutes” shall be deleted on both occasions that they appear and be replaced with the words “five minutes”.
- 8) In Standing Order 29 (a) the words “a first time” shall be deleted.
- 9) In Standing Order 29 (a) the words “second reading” shall be deleted and replaced with the words “Principle Stage”.
- 10) In Standing Order 29 (b) the words “second reading” shall be deleted and replaced with the words “Principle Stage”, the words “that the bill be now read a second time” shall be deleted and replaced with the words “ that the bill now be considered in Principle”, the words “being postponed to the committee stage” shall be deleted and replaced with “being postponed to the Amendment/Detail Stage”, and the words “having been read a second time” shall be deleted and replaced with “having been through the Principle Stage”.
- 11) Furthermore, the words “in Committee of the whole Synod.” Shall be deleted and replaced with the words “at the Amendment/Detail Stage’.
- 12) In Standing Order 29 (c) the words “consideration in committee” shall be deleted and replaced with the words “Amendment/Detail Stage”.
- 13) Furthermore, the words “The Committee of the whole Synod shall be deleted and be replaced with the words “The Synod” and the words “the bill, with or without

amendments, shall be reported to the Synod” shall be deleted and replaced with the words “at the conclusion of this consideration an order shall be made fixing a day for the Final Consideration and Final Decision stages”.

14) Standing Order 29 (d) shall be deleted and replaced with the words:

15) “Final Consideration Stage”

16) At this stage the Synod may consider amendments which arise out of the Amendment/Detail Stage and of which notice has been given at least one day before this stage. Amendments rejected during the Amendment/Detail Stage 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.

17) When the bill has received relevant consideration, an order may be made fixing a day for the Final Decision, provided that such order must permit, unless the Synod otherwise direct, for a at least one clear day being interposed between consideration at the Detail/Amendment Stage and the Final Decision.”

18) In Standing Order 29 (e) the words “Third Reading” shall be deleted and replaced with the words “Final Decision Stage” and that the words “now read a third time” shall be deleted.

19) In Standing Order 30 (a) the words “been read a first time” shall be deleted and replaced with the words “completed the Introduction Stage”.

20) Furthermore, the words “second reading” shall be deleted and replaced with the words “the Principle Stage” and the words “first reading stage” shall be deleted and replaced with the words “Introduction Stage”.

21) In addition, the words “Amendments of which notice has been given at the first reading stage, may be moved at the committee stage’ shall be deleted and replaced with the

words “Amendments of which notice has been given at the Introduction stage may be moved at the Amendment/Detail stage”.

22) In Standing Order 30 (c) the words “(ii) that the bill now be read a second time and (iii) that the bill now be read a third time and passed” shall be deleted and replaced with the words “(ii) that the bill now progress through the Principle Stage and (iii) the bill now progress through the Amendment/Detail and Final Decision Stages”.

23) In Standing Order 34 the words “except on Committee” shall be deleted and replaced with the words “during the Amendment/Detail Stage”.

24) In Standing Order 41 (a) the words “or in a Committee of the whole Synod” shall be deleted.

25) In Standing Order 44 (a) the words “or to a Committee of the whole Synod” shall be deleted.

26) In Standing Order 55 the words “in Committee, and then awaiting its third reading” shall be deleted and replaced with the words “at the Amendment/Detail Stage and then awaiting the Final Consideration and Decision Stages.

7. STANDING COMMITTEE - AMENDMENT OF THE CONSTITUTION OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE TO REMOVE THE AUTOMATIC RE-NOMINATION OF PREVIOUSLY CO-OPTED MEMBERS

Proposer: The Honorary Secretaries

That the Constitution of the Standing Committee of the General Synod be amended as follows:

- 1) Part I Section 6 (3) 3 to be deleted.
- 2) Part I Section 6 (3) 4–7 to be renumbered sequentially as 3–6.

8. STANDING COMMITTEE- TO ALLOW FOR STANDING COMMITTEE ELECTIONS TO TAKE PLACE EARLIER IN THE YEAR AND VIA ELECTRONIC MEANS

Proposer: The Honorary Secretaries

That the Constitution of the Standing Committee of the General Synod be amended as follows:

- 1) The following shall be substituted for the first sentence of Section 5(3):
 - (3) The vacancies so caused shall be filled by election by ballot in accordance with the following rules, the clerical members-elect of General Synod for each diocese being entitled to nominate and to vote for the clerical members for that diocese, and the lay members-elect of General Synod for each diocese being entitled to nominate and to vote for the lay members for that diocese:
- 2) The following shall be substituted for Section 5 (3) 2 (3):
 - (3) Nominations shall be in writing, shall indicate that the consent of each person being nominated has been obtained, shall be signed by the member-elect of General Synod making the nomination and countersigned by the member-elect being nominated, and shall be sent to the Honorary Secretaries so as to reach them by the date appointed by the Honorary Secretaries, which shall be no later than three weeks before the first day of the forthcoming session of the General Synod.
- 3) The following shall be substituted for Section 5 (3) 2 (4) (c):
 - (c) both the nomination and the consent are sent to the Honorary Secretaries at the designated email address so as to reach them not later than the date appointed by the Honorary Secretaries, which shall be no later than three weeks before the first day of the forthcoming session of the General Synod
- 4) The following shall be substituted for Section 5 (3) 3 (1):
 - (1) Where more than one person has been nominated for a particular place, the Honorary Secretaries shall prepare a voting ballot, which may be either electronic or physical (but not both), setting out in alphabetical order the names of those persons who shall have been nominated, and shall, not later than fourteen days before the first day of the forthcoming session, send the ballot to each person entitled to vote for that place. If sent by post, the voting paper shall be accompanied by an envelope marked “voting paper” and addressed to the Honorary Secretaries.
- 5) The following shall be substituted for Section 5 (3) 4:
 4. The ballots must be returned to the Honorary Secretaries, whether electronically (via the Synod Officer to synodofficer@rcbdub.org) or by post (to Church of Ireland House, Church Ave., Rathmines, Dublin 6, D06 CF67), so as to reach them by the appointed date, which shall be not later than four days before the first day of the forthcoming session. The Honorary Secretaries shall thereupon count the votes and report the result to the General Synod on the first day of the forthcoming session.
- 6) The following shall be substituted for Section 5 (4) 4:

4. Where more than one person has been nominated to fill the vacancy, the Honorary Secretaries shall prepare a voting ballot, which may be either electronic or physical (but not both), setting out in alphabetical order the names of those who have been nominated, and shall issue said ballot to each of those entitled to vote with instructions to vote thereon for one person only. The instructions shall also state whether the casual vacancy has occurred amongst the members elected under section 5(1) (a) or (b). Section 3 of this Part shall be sent with the ballot. If sent by post, the voting paper shall be accompanied by an envelope marked “voting paper” and addressed to the honorary secretaries.
- 7) The following shall be substituted for Section 5 (4) 5:
5. The ballots must be returned to the Honorary Secretaries either electronically (via the Synod Officer to synodofficer@rcbdub.org) or by post (to Church of Ireland House, Church Ave., Rathmines, Dublin 6, D06 CF67) so as to reach them not later than fourteen days following the date of their issue.
- 8) The following shall be substituted for Part I Section 5 (4) 6:
6. The Honorary Secretaries shall examine the ballots so returned and report the result to the next meeting of the Standing Committee, which shall declare the person who shall have obtained the greatest number of votes to be elected.
- 9) The following shall be substituted for Section 5 (4) 7:
7. If the voting results in a tie for the first place between two or more persons, a further voting ballot, which may be either electronic or physical (but not both), on which shall be set forth in alphabetical order the names of such persons, shall be issued by the Honorary Secretaries to those who are entitled to vote, with instructions to vote for one only of the persons named and to return the ballots within fourteen days from the date of issue.
- 10) The following shall be substituted for Section 6 (3):
- (3) The vacancies so caused shall be filled by election by the *ex officio* and elected members by ballot, either electronic or physical (but not both), in accordance with the following rules:
- 11) The following shall be substituted for Part I Section 6 (3) 1:
1. Prior to the first ordinary session of each General Synod the Standing Committee shall appoint the date by which nominations must be received and the date by which ballots must be returned. On the conclusion of the session of the General Synod, the Honorary Secretaries shall inform each *ex officio* and elected member of the dates so appointed.
- 12) The following shall be substituted for Part I Section 6 (3) 4:

4. Immediately after the close of nominations, the Honorary Secretaries shall prepare a voting ballot, either electronic or physical (but not both), setting out in alphabetical order the names of those persons who have been nominated under rules 2 and 3, and the dioceses which each such person represents in the General Synod. They shall distribute this ballot to each *ex officio* and elected member. The ballot shall be accompanied by (a) a statement setting out the record of attendance of any person nominated, who served as a member of Standing Committee in the previous triennium (b) if sent by post, an envelope marked “voting paper” and addressed to the Honorary Secretaries.

13) The following shall be substituted for Part I Section 6 (3) 5:

5. Each *ex officio* and elected member may vote for not more than seven of the persons whose names appear on the ballot.

14) The following shall be substituted for Part I Section 6 (3) 6:

6. The ballots must be returned to the Honorary Secretaries, either electronically (via the Synod Officer to synodofficer@rcbdub.org) or by post (to Church of Ireland House, Church Ave., Rathmines, Dublin 6, D06 CF67), so as to reach them not later than the appointed date. The Honorary Secretaries shall thereupon count the votes, and the result of the count shall be attached to the agenda for the next meeting of the Standing Committee.

9. STANDING COMMITTEE - SELECT COMMITTEE TO REVIEW CLERGY TENURE

Proposer: The Bishop of Tuam, Limerick and Killaloe

Seconder: Very Rev Lynda Peilow

That the General Synod establishes a Select Committee of the following members to review clergy tenure as per the terms of reference set out in the schedule to this motion:

- One representative from the House of Bishops
- One Honorary Secretary of the General Synod: Rev Canon Malcolm Kingston
- Two clerical representatives from Standing Committee (one from the province of Dublin, one from the province of Armagh): Rev Ruth Elmes and Rev James Boyd
- Two lay representatives from Standing Committee (one from the province of Dublin, one from the province of Armagh): Ms Joan Bruton, Ms Irene Knox
- One representative from the Stipends Committee (who must be a member of General Synod) Mr Willie Oliver
- The Assessor of the General Synod (or a member of General Synod with a suitable legal background)

- Two co-opted members of the General Synod

The Committee may co-opt up to two additional members from General Synod.

The Select Committee is empowered to bring whatever motions it deems appropriate via the Standing Committee to the General Synod and to consult as widely as possible.

Any casual vacancies that arise in the membership of the Select Committee may be filled by the Standing Committee.

The Select Committee shall report back to General Synod no later than 2026.

SCHEDULE

Terms of Reference

Background and Overview

In *The Commentary of the Constitution of the Church of Ireland* (Dublin: Church of Ireland Publishing, 2018), Sir Paul Girvan highlights the issue of tenure in Annex 1 to the publication entitled ‘Areas of the Constitution and of Church law identified for potential reform.’ He states that the existing rules in relation to tenure do not take into account occasions when there may have occurred pastoral breakdown within a parish but where no ecclesiastical offence has been committed and, therefore, no formal complaint could be justified. He poses the question as to ‘whether the rules relating to tenure should cater for such situations and should permit the development of proceedings for resolving such issues including, for example, subject to appeal rights, the conferral of power for a bishop to remove the incumbent from the parish concerned or organise a transfer to another parish.’ He continues to state that the constitution does not contain an effective mechanism to deal with what he calls a ‘foreseeable problem which does occur in practice’ and that ‘this is an area of Church law and practice which requires careful and dispassionate investigation and consideration.’

The issue of tenure had previously been discussed by the Commission on Ministry but it was felt that this group lacked the capacity to deal with an item of this scale and so, at a meeting of Standing Committee in September 2022, it was proposed by the Bishop of Tuam, Limerick and Killaloe, the Rt Rev Michael Burrows, and adopted ‘that Standing Committee brings to General Synod 2023 a proposal that the General Synod establishes a select committee to review clergy tenure’.

Objectives

The objectives of this select committee shall be as follows:

- To review the concept of clergy tenure as understood within the governance of the Church of Ireland
- To consider the tenure of other clerical/ministerial titles (Priest-In-Charge, Bishop's Curate, Pioneer Minister, Chaplain etc.)
- To undertake a review of the provisions currently in place within the Constitution in respect of breakdown of pastoral relationships and to consider additions or amendments to these provisions, if appropriate, as well as possible measures to prevent the occurrence of pastoral breakdown in some cases before an issue occurs
- To review the concept of tied houses (within the context of clergy tenure and pastoral breakdown)

The review will at all times remain cognisant of the independence, security and benefits that the current model of tenure brings to the clergy of the Church of Ireland, as well as the freedom that the current model provides for clergy to hold theological opinions ranging across the Anglican spectrum. Therefore, any resulting recommendations will be presented in a manner that is pastorally sensitive to all parties involved.

Membership

The membership of this select committee should consist of:

- One representative from the House of Bishops
- One Honorary Secretary of the General Synod
- Two clerical representatives from Standing Committee (one from the province of Dublin, one from the province of Armagh)
- Two lay representatives from Standing Committee (one from the province of Dublin, one from the province of Armagh)
- One representative from the Stipends Committee (who must be a member of General Synod)
- The Assessor of the General Synod (or a member of General Synod with a suitable legal background)
- Two co-opted members of the General Synod

Reporting

The select committee will present a final report to General Synod no later than 2026 and will,

in the interim, brief the Standing Committee of its progress each March.

10. PIONEER MINISTRY GOVERNING COUNCIL

Proposer: The Bishop of Kilmore, Elphin and Ardagh

Seconded: Rev Canon Gillian Wharton

That the following are elected as members of the Pioneer Ministry Governing Council as per the terms of reference set out in the Schedule to this motion:

Rt Rev David McClay (Chair)

Mr Joe Kelly (Budgeting & Finance)

Rev Canon Dr Maurice Elliott (CITI)

Rev Isaac Hanna (Church Army)

Very Rev Stephen Farrell; Mrs Hilda Connolly; Mr Alan Williamson (Standing Committee)

Mr Robert Neill (Representative Body)

Rev Abigail Sines (Communications)

SCHEDULE

Pioneer Ministry in the Church of Ireland

Terms of Reference

1.0 VISION AND STRUCTURES OVERVIEW

1.1 Pioneer Ministry is, and will be, a movement within the Church of Ireland to reach those with little or no connection to the good news of Jesus Christ.

1.2 This new movement is fully endorsed by the House of Bishops, with a ten-year funding proposal (commencing September 2022) approved by the Representative Body. A report from the Pioneer Ministry Council shall be presented to General Synod annually. Pioneer Ministry may submit items for inclusion on the agenda for any meeting of the Standing Committee, with progress reports brought to at least one meeting of the Standing Committee between each General Synod or otherwise as agreed in consultation with the Honorary Secretaries.

1.3 A **Pioneer Ministry Council** will be established as a body of the General Synod to support, encourage, provide advocacy and accountability for the Pioneer Leadership Team, and the work of Pioneer Ministry generally across the Church of Ireland.

1.4 A **Pioneer Leadership Team**, funded by the Representative Body as part of the ten-year funding proposal, will be the primary driving force for Pioneer Ministry.

1.5 A **Pioneer Approvals Committee** comprising the Archbishops of Armagh and Dublin, the Chair of the RB Executive Committee, the Chief Officer of the Representative Body, and an Honorary Secretary of the Standing Committee, will grant final approval to the funding of pioneers and pioneer ministry projects.

2.0 OBJECTIVES AND VALUES

2.1 Building on the work of the last decade of the Pioneer Ministry Working Group, this new movement of Pioneer Ministry will:

- 2.1.1 Establish, embed and grow within the Church of Ireland a robust governance and leadership structure for Pioneer Ministry – the Pioneer Ministry Council and Pioneer Leadership Team
- 2.1.2 Integrate Pioneer Ministry into the culture and structures of the Church of Ireland so that pioneer ministry is fully recognised, properly resourced and funded
- 2.1.3 Create and develop Pioneer Ministry Hubs in every diocese, under the guidance and support of the diocesan bishop
- 2.1.4 Identify, train, deploy and support volunteer and employed pioneers
- 2.1.5 Establish and support new pioneer communities and churches

2.2 In all of the above pioneer ministry will be Planned, Credible, Valued, and Released

3.0 PIONEER MINISTRY COUNCIL: MEMBERSHIP AND FUNCTION

3.1 The Pioneer Ministry Council will be chaired by a Bishop, with membership approved at General Synod. Memberships shall be for a three year term.

3.2 Membership will be comprised, initially, as follows:

- 3.2.1 Chair
- 3.2.2 2 Persons to support with finance, budgets and funding (one to be appointed from RB)
- 3.2.3 2 persons maximum to represent CITI (training partner for pioneer ministry)
- 3.2.4 2 persons maximum to represent Church Army (training partner for pioneer ministry)
- 3.2.5 3 persons from Standing Committee
- 3.2.6 1 person for Communications
- 3.2.7 Powers to appoint up to 5 advisors, Church of Ireland or other denomination representatives to serve as non-voting members or provide consultancy and specific project support
- 3.2.8 The Pioneer Leadership Team will be permitted to be in attendance

3.3 The Pioneer Ministry Council will uphold and advocate for the vision of Pioneer Ministry, and oversee the delivery of the Objectives and Values (see 2.0)

3.4 The Council will oversee the application process for employed pioneers and funded pioneer projects, submitting approved persons and projects to the Pioneer Approvals Committee for funding.

4.0 PIONEER MINISTRY LEADERSHIP TEAM: ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

4.1 The Pioneer Ministry Leadership team will undertake all work and activity to deliver the vision, objectives and values of Pioneer Ministry across the Church of Ireland.

4.2 The team will be comprised as follows:

- 4.2.1 Pioneer National Director (Team Leader) – Rev Robert Jones, Rector Holy Trinity Rathmines, will be seconded for 80% of his time, vocation and costs from the Parish of Rathmines. The National Director will shape, cultivate, and grow the pioneer movement across diocesan hubs, pioneers (both volunteer and employed), pioneer communities and churches. As Team Leader he will head the Pioneer Leadership Team, and report to the Pioneer Ministry Council.
- 4.2.2 Pioneer Operations Lead – Ven Barry Forde, Archdeacon of Belfast, will be seconded for 30% of his time, vocation and costs from the Diocese of Connor. The Pioneer Operations Lead will support the Team Leader and the development of Pioneer Ministry by shaping new models for good governance, integration and representation within church structures, supporting training, development, and recognition (licensing, commissioning) of pioneers.
- 4.2.3 Pioneer Ministry Advisor - Revd Canon Phil Potter, former Archbishops’ Missioner and Fresh Expressions Team Leader in the Church of England, will provide consultancy and support on an ongoing basis.
- 4.2.4 Pioneer Administrator - Ingrid Brennan, will be seconded for 70% of her employment in Holy Trinity Rathmines to act as PA to Rev Rob Jones and provide general administrative assistance for the work of Pioneer Ministry.

5.0 FUNDING FOR THE PIONEER MINISTRY COUNCIL AND LEADERSHIP TEAM

5.1 A ten-year funding forecast and proposal was agreed by the Representative Body in April 2022. The annual budget will be brought before the Allocations Committee for review and approval on an ongoing basis:

5.1.1 Secondment and employment costs of the Pioneer Leadership Team

- 5.1.1.1 Secondment costs for Rev Rob Jones will be paid by the RB (80%)
- 5.1.1.2 Secondment costs for Ven Barry Forde will be paid by the RB (30%)
- 5.1.1.3 Employment costs for Ingrid Brennan will be reimbursed from the RB to the parish of Holy Trinity Rathmines in a manner agreed with the Head of Finance, RCB (70%)

5.1.2 Expenses of the Pioneer Leadership Team (travel / subsistence)

- 5.1.2.1 Personal expenses will ordinarily be administered through a Pioneer Expenses form with a Pioneer Ministry Code through the CHRN process
- 5.1.2.2 Where expenses cannot be administered in this manner, they will be processed through the Pioneer Administrator and RB

5.1.3 Annual budget for the costs of developing Pioneer Ministry

- 5.1.3.1 Associated costs with the development of pioneer ministry will include the costs of the pioneer ministry adviser, the communications strategy, website and media, team costs, learning communities, conferences and events, support for volunteers
- 5.1.3.2 These costs will be processed either through the raising of invoices that may be paid directly from the RCB, or through payments made by the Pioneer Leadership Team and reimbursed by invoice from the Pioneer Administrator to the RCB.

5.1.4 Funding of employed pioneers and projects

5.1.4.1 This is the most substantial cost within the ten-year funding strategy and is detailed further in 6.0 below

5.1.4.2 The distribution of funds towards training, employment, project, and where appropriate, housing will vary from project to project, and will be detailed as part of the application and approvals process for funding.

5.1.4.3 It is envisaged that RB funding will take the form of a grant

5.1.4.3.1 To cover training costs payable to the training partner (Church Army / CITI)

5.1.4.3.2 To the Church body (i.e. diocese / parish) responsible and accountable for the employment, project, and where appropriate housing costs of the pioneer and ministry

5.2 Pioneer Ministry Council:

5.2.1 As a body of General Synod the annual budget for the Pioneer Ministry Council will be agreed by Standing Committee as per the processes for approving annual budgets for approved bodies of the General Synod.

5.2.2 Expenses (travel / subsistence) incurred by members of the Pioneer Ministry Council will be processed in the ordinary manner for any Body approved by General Synod through submission of a personal expenses form and CHRN.

6.0 EMPLOYED PIONEERS AND FUNDED PIONEER MINISTRY PROJECTS

6.1 A key component of the Pioneer Ministry movement will be the identification of pioneer ministry projects that can be realised through the selection, training, deployment and support of a pioneer minister.

6.2 Pioneer ministry projects will emerge from ‘the ground up’, namely at local, parochial, or diocesan level. The projects and persons shall have the endorsement of the diocesan bishop in conjunction with the local incumbent or priest in charge and the select vestry or vestries.

6.3 A budget has been agreed with the RB so that, from September 2024, each year for the next ten years, three new pioneers and projects will be commissioned and funded as follows:

6.3.1 Training costs for 3 years will be funded to 100% through the central Pioneer fund.

6.3.2 Project costs for 5 years will be funded up to a value 50%, provided that this is not greater than the fixed maximum for individual projects.

6.3.3 Housing costs may be agreed on a proportionate basis if these are approved through the application process as being necessary for the minister and project.

6.3.4 Costs not met by the central fund will be met at source by the local ministry, parish, diocese (or combination of any of these) either through internal funds or external grants / trusts.

6.4 An application process for pioneers and projects will be established and overseen by the Pioneer Ministry Council. The Leadership Team will provide ongoing support, advice, and guidance to parishes, dioceses, and bishops through the application process. The Pioneer Ministry Council will receive and approve suitable applications for funding to the Pioneer Approvals Committee.

6.5 Pioneer Ministers will be licensed or commissioned by the diocesan bishop (the status of commissioning or licensing is a matter to be agreed with the House of Bishops).

6.6 Template contracts of employment will be created in consultation with RCB HR for use by parishes and/or dioceses as appropriate to both legal jurisdictions.

6.7 Training will be provided in partnership between the Church Army and the Church of Ireland Theological Institute, with accreditation through Church Army and Durham University. Training will be part-time for three years. The pioneer will be working in the project, alongside formal training, from the commencement of the project.

6.8 A reporting process for pioneers and projects will be developed by the Leadership Team and reports made to the Pioneer Ministry Council at least once annually, and to the diocesan bishop / council as agreed or required.

7.0 VOLUNTEER PIONEERS

7.1 A key goal will be to mobilise lay volunteer pioneers across the church through diocesan pioneer hubs.

7.2 Across parishes and dioceses there are a wide variety of lay roles with varying degrees of recognition, responsibilities, legal, and ecclesiastical status – employees (youth, family workers), parish (readers, visitors, evangelists), diocese (readers, evangelists). Different diocese have developed these in contextually appropriate ways.

7.3 Through diocesan hubs and partnerships with training bodies such as the Church Army, the pioneer movement will seek to identify, train, deploy and recognise pioneers at every level of the church. Some may already be in the employ of the church, others may be commissioned at local/parish level, others may be licensed within a diocese.

8.0 SAFEGUARDING

8.1 All Pioneer Ministers, volunteer or lay, will comply with Church policies on Safeguarding for children, young people and/or adults at risk.

8.2 All Pioneer Ministries will be subject to the Church of Ireland Constitution and policies on Safeguarding.

9.0 REPORTING

9.1 The Pioneer Ministry Council will submit an annual Report to General Synod and will, in the time between each sitting of General Synod, report to Standing Committee at a minimum of once per year.

9.2 The Chair of the Ministry Council will provide updates and reports to the House of Bishops

9.3 The Pioneer Leadership Team will report on an ongoing basis to the Pioneer Ministry Council

9.4 The Pioneer Leadership Team, under the Pioneer Ministry Council Chair, will submit two reports annually to the Allocations Committee detailing progress on the Objectives in 2.1,

including submissions on budgets and funding, for review and representation to the Representative Body.

9.5 A representative of the Pioneer Ministry Council or Leadership Team will report to Standing Committee as required.

11. PRIVATE MEMBERS MOTION- CHURCH AND SOCIETY COMMISSION

Proposer: Rev Raymond Kettyle

Seconder: Rev James Boyd

The General Synod of the Church of Ireland requests the Church and Society Commission to explore, and if necessary recommend and/or draft resources which will enable Parishes to engage pastorally with, and care for, individuals and communities that are still deeply affected by trauma from ‘the Troubles’ and report back to General Synod their findings no later than General Synod 2024.

12. COVENANT COUNCIL – MEMBERSHIP

Proposer: Rev Canon Dr Maurice Elliott

Seconder: Very Rev Nigel Dunne

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

The Rt Rev Michael Burrows, Bishop of Tuam, Limerick and Killaloe (Co-Chair)
Ms Elva Byrne
Very Rev Nigel Dunne
Rev Canon Dr Maurice Elliott
Ven Barry Forde
Rev Claire Kakuru

13. COMMISSION FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY & DIALOGUE - MEMBERSHIP

Proposer: Rev Dr Christine O’Dowd-Smyth

Seconder: Ms Cate Turner

That the following be elected to serve on the Commission:

The Archbishop of Dublin
The Bishop of Derry
The Bishop of Tuam, Limerick & Killaloe
Very Rev Niall Sloane
Rev Canon Dr Daniel Nuzum
Rev Suzanne Cousins
Rev David White
Ms Cate Turner

Canon Dr Kenneth Milne
Ms Gina Copty

14. PRIVATE MEMBER'S MOTION- KING CHARLES III

Proposer: Rev Mark Lennox

Seconder: Rev Peter Jones

That the General Synod of the Church of Ireland asks the Honorary Secretaries to send warmest congratulations from this house to King Charles III on his accession to the throne and on his recent coronation and extend prayerful good wishes to both he and the Queen.

15. PRIVATE MEMBER'S MOTION- PRIMATE'S DIVERSITY REFERENCE GROUP

Proposer: Dr Lucy Michael

Seconder: Ms Stella Obe

That the General Synod acknowledges the impact of anti-refugee and migrant hatred in our communities and requests the Honorary Secretaries to write to Diocesan Councils on behalf of the Primate's Ethnic Diversity, Inclusion and Racial Justice Reference Group seeking suggestions regarding ways in which the Church can counter the language of anti-refugee and migrant hatred at the local level and communicate a strong message of Christian welcome to all.

16. REPRESENTATIVE CHURCH BODY - ALLOCATIONS

Proposer: Mr Lyndon MacCann SC

Seconder: Rev Canon Nicola Halford

That the General Synod hereby authorises the Representative Body to make the following allocations from General Funds in 2023:

	€
A. Maintenance of the stipendiary ministry	
• Episcopal costs	958,637
• Chaplaincy costs	299,157
• Miscellaneous	76,891
B. Pension related costs	99,136
C. Training of ordinands	1,101,092
D. General Synod activities	1,149,056
E. Miscellaneous	16,389
F. Pioneer Ministry	190,259
	<hr/> 3,890,617 <hr/>

17. PRIVATE MEMBER’S MOTION- CLERGY PENSIONS FUND LEVY

Proposer: Mr Andrew Brannigan

Secunder: Mr Andrew Frame

That the General Synod notes the significant financial contribution that the RCB, dioceses and parishes have made as part of the 10-year funding proposal to restore the Defined Benefit Clergy Pensions Fund to solvency. In the light of the completion of this 10-year period, and the actuarial certificate on its solvency, General Synod requests that The Representative Church Body bring a proposal to the General Synod in 2024 to remove the Clergy Pensions Fund levy from the constitution.

Furthermore, General Synod requests that Standing Committee approve a Clergy Pensions Fund levy for 2024 at 0% of Minimum Approved Stipend.

18. JOURNAL OF THE GENERAL SYNOD

Proposer: The Honorary Secretaries

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.