

**BILL NO 4****Explanatory Memorandum**

At present a rural deanery may only be made up from parishes in the same archdeaconry which itself may be identical with a diocese or be a division of a diocese. This may prevent structuring a rural deanery to have a geographical integrity or a more logical grouping to promote co-operation for mission.

Whilst this could also be achieved by adjusting the boundaries of an archdeaconry or of a diocese within a united diocese there may be good local or historical reasons for not doing this. This measure would allow a rural deanery to transcend archdeaconry or diocesan boundaries within a united diocese.

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VEN PF PATTERSON

VEN WJ SCOTT

**BILL****To amend Part III, Section 42 and 43 of Chapter II of the Constitution**

WHEREAS it is expedient to permit rural deaneries to be a division of an archdeaconry or of a diocese or united dioceses under the jurisdiction of one bishop;

Be it enacted by the Archbishops and Bishops, and the Clergy and Laity of the Church of Ireland in General Synod assembled in Galway in the year 2008 and by the authority of the same, as follows:-

1. For Section 42 and 43 of Part III of Chapter II of the Constitution of the Church of Ireland, there shall be substituted the following:
  42. Each diocese or united dioceses under the jurisdiction of one bishop, or any archdeaconry in such diocese or united dioceses, may be divided into such number of rural deaneries as the diocesan synod or diocesan synods of the said diocese or united dioceses, shall from time to time determine, and the parishes to be included in each such rural deanery shall be determined by the said diocesan synod or diocesan synods.
  43. Rural deans shall be appointed by the bishop of the diocese from among the beneficed or licensed clergy of the diocese or the united dioceses and shall hold office during the bishop's will and pleasure.