

Standing Committee – Report 2008

STANDING COMMITTEE

REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS LAID BEFORE

THE GENERAL SYNOD AT ITS

ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTY-EIGHTH ORDINARY SESSION 2008

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

HONORARY SECRETARIES OF THE GENERAL SYNOD

Rev Canon Dr IM Ellis, St John's Rectory, King Street, Newcastle, Co Down BT33 0HD

Ven REB White, Moviddy Rectory, Aherla, Co Cork

Mr SR Harper, Cramer's Grove, Kilkenny, Co Kilkenny

Lady Sheil, Killinchy, Co Down BT23 6RL

ASSISTANT SECRETARY – Mrs JM Maxwell

SYNOD OFFICER – Mr DL Phillips

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1. SUMMARY

Some significant matters dealt with by the Standing Committee during the year were:

- The Church of Ireland Response to the Draft Anglican Covenant (page x)
- The Consultative Group on the Past (page x)
- The Courts and Tribunals Committee (page x)
- The Covenant Council (page x)
- Parish Development Working Group (page x)
- Safeguarding Trust (page x)

2. THE VERY REV RD HARMAN

It is with great sadness that we record the death of the Very Rev Desmond Harman on December 18th 2007. Dean Harman served for all of his ordained ministry in the diocese of Dublin, beginning in 1967 as curate in Taney parish until his death as Dean of Christ Church Cathedral in 2007.

Throughout his career, Dean Harman is remembered as having been most active and committed at both a parochial and diocesan level. In conjunction with these duties, he also edited the *Church Review* for 19 years. However, Dean Harman will be most remembered at a central Church level for his untiring work for 28 years as Honorary Secretary of the Bishops' Appeal Advisory Committee and as a Clerical Honorary Secretary of the General Synod from 1999.

Dean Harman will be remembered for his forthright, constructive and considered opinion, generously offered, but always with concern for the good of the whole Church. We, on Standing Committee, have lost a reliable and good friend and we express our sincere sympathy to his wife, Susan and to their daughters and son. Our sadness is tempered by confidence that he now enjoys the reward prepared for those who, like him, have been faithful to God in life and ministry.

3. NAMES AND ATTENDANCES OF MEMBERS

During the period five ordinary meetings of the Standing Committee were held. The number of meetings attended by each member is placed before his/her name.

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Ex-officio Members

THE ARCHBISHOPS AND BISHOPS

THE HONORARY SECRETARIES OF THE GENERAL SYNOD

4	Rev Canon Dr IM Ellis
5	◦ Ven REB White
4	Mr SR Harper
5	Lady Sheil

Elected Members

Diocese

Armagh	3	Rev Canon JM Barton
	2	Rev TS Forster
	4	Mr LV Johnston
	4	Mrs J Leighton
Clogher	5	Rev Canon BJ Courtney
	3	Rev BT Kerr
	5	Mr H Stewart None available
Derry	2	Very Rev WW Morton
	2	Rev MRK Ferry
	4	Mr JHD Livingston
	3	Capt N Barnes
Down	5	Ven PF Patterson
	5	Rev Dr MJ Elliott
	5	Mr RJH Gallagher
	4	Mr HJE Ritchie
Connor	4	Very Rev JFA Bond
	4	Ven SR McBride
	4	MR HRJ Totten
	5	Mr PJ Hamill
Kilmore	1	Very Rev A Williams
	5	Ven GTW Davison
	3	Mr D Gillespie
	3	Mr JH Shannon

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Tuam	4	Very Rev SM Patterson
	3	Very Rev AJ Grimason
	5	Mr DJ Auchmuty
	2	Mr RS Walker
Dublin	4	Rev Canon JE McCullagh
	4	Rev GV Wharton
	4	Mr MJT Webb
	4	Mr LJW MacCann
Meath	4	Very Rev RW Jones
	3	Rev LEA Peilow
	5	Mrs JM Bruton
	2	Mr D Kenny
Cashel	3	Very Rev NN Lynas
	2	Rev PG Heak
	4	Mr C Wellwood
	4	Mr EGJ Driver
Cork		Vacant
	5	Rev AM Wilkinson
	5	Mr WF Baker
	4	Mr R Buttimer
Limerick	3	Very Rev JMG Sirr
	5	Rev Canon SM Neill
	4	Mr A Hilliard
	3	Mr E Hardy

Co-opted Members

5	Rev Canon CA Empey	3	Rev Canon RB Rountree
4	Rev Canon P Comerford	5	Very Rev PW Rooke
3	Mr MC Davey	3	* Ms CS Turner
5	Mr AN McNeile		* Elected September 2007
			◦ Elected as a Clerical Honorary Secretary March 2008

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The Chief Officer and Secretary of the Representative Church Body is entitled to attend and speak at meetings of the Standing Committee. The Assistant Secretary of the General Synod is also entitled to attend and to speak at meetings.

COMMITTEES OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE

FINANCE AND ARRANGEMENTS SUB-COMMITTEE

Mr WF Baker
Rev TS Forster
The Honorary Secretaries

LEGAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

His Honour Judge JG Buchanan	The Hon Mrs Justice Catherine McGuinness
The Hon Mr Justice Declan Budd	Mr WD Prentice
His Honour Judge T Burgess	His Honour Judge RF Rodgers
The Rt Hon Sir Anthony Campbell	The Hon Sir Benjamin Stephens
Mr MC Davey	Mr JW Wilson QC
The Honorary Secretaries	

PRIORITIES FUND COMMITTEE

Capt N Barnes	Mrs J Leighton
Mrs JM Bruton	Ven SR McBride
Ven GWT Davison	Mr HRJ Totten
Mr SR Harper	Rev AM Wilkinson

BUDGET SUB-COMMITTEE

Mr WF Baker	Mr LV Johnston
Rev Canon Dr IM Ellis	Mr AN McNeile
Mr SR Harper	Mr HRJ Totten

WORLD DEVELOPMENT – BISHOPS' APPEAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Rt Rev MAJ Burrows	Rt Rev MHG Mayes
Rev OMR Donohoe	Rev JMD Pierce
Ms R Handy	Rev IP Poulton
Rev Canon PA Harvey	Mrs A Rooke
Mr W Kingston	Mr TA Smallwoods

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LAY JUDGES OF THE COURT OF THE GENERAL SYNOD

His Honour Judge JG Buchanan	The Rt Hon Sir Donald Murray
The Hon Mr Justice Declan Budd	The Hon Mrs Justice Catherine McGuinness
The Rt Hon Sir Anthony Campbell	Mr RAM Robins
The Rt Hon Sir Paul Girvan	The Hon Sir Benjamin Stephens
Mr LJW MacCann SC	Mr JW Wilson QC

4. ANGLICAN COMMUNION

Following a request from the Anglican Communion Office, the Standing Committee approved a contribution of €10,000 for the bursary programme for those attending the Lambeth Conference 2008.

The Anglican Communion Office at the United Nations requested a contribution from the Church of Ireland towards its work. The Standing Committee agreed a contribution of €2,000.

Mrs JM Maxwell attended, as Provincial Secretary, the Anglican Communion Sixth Provincial Secretaries' Conference in Hong Kong from 23 to 30 August 2007. Mrs Maxwell's report to the Standing Committee is included as Appendix B on page 162.

5. ANGLICAN COMMUNION COVENANT

The Anglican Communion Covenant Design Group met in January 2007 and produced a Draft Anglican Covenant. The Provinces were urged to submit an initial response to the Anglican Communion Office by the end of 2007.

The group appointed by the Standing Committee to prepare a response to the report of the Covenant Design Group, submitted a response, which was agreed by the Standing Committee. The members of the group are the Archbishop of Dublin, the Rev Dr MJ Elliott, the Rev Canon Dr IM Ellis, Lady Sheil and Ms CS Turner.

The response, which includes a re-draft of the Draft Anglican Covenant, is included as Appendix C on page 167.

The Covenant Design Group, of which the Archbishop of Dublin is a member, met in London between 28 January and 2 February 2008. The group developed a second draft of the Anglican Covenant known as the St. Andrew's Draft. In March 2008, the Standing Committee noted this Draft. The Draft Covenant will be considered by Lambeth 2008, revised further and ultimately sent to the Provinces for consideration.

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6. APPOINTMENTS

The following appointments were made by the Standing Committee during the year. They are listed in chronological order.

Committee etc	Name
Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends, Lisburn, April 2007	Ven SR McBride
General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church, Belfast, June 2007	Rev Canon DA McClay Mr LV Johnston
Conference of the Methodist Church, Cork, June 2007	The Bishop of Down & Dromore Ven REB White
General Synod of the Scottish Episcopal Church, Edinburgh, June 2007	Rev Dr MJ Elliott
General Synod of the Church of England, York, July 2007	Very Rev RD Harman
Irish Inter-Church Committee of the Irish Inter-Church Meeting	The Bishop of Meath & Kildare
Meissen Commission Meeting, Woking, September 2007	Rev Canon Dr IM Ellis
World Development - Bishops' Appeal Education Advisor	Mr M O'Connor
United Nations Commission on the Status of Women, New York, February 2008	Rev Canon DTS Clements
The Porvoo Communion Contact Person	Rev FJ McDowell
Working Group on Disability	Mr I Slaine
Central Communications Board	Rev Canon Dr IM Ellis

7. AUDIT OF ACCOUNTS

The Standing Committee appointed PricewaterhouseCoopers to audit the accounts of the Representative Church Body.

8. BILLS COMMITTEE

The Chairman of the Bills Committee informed the Standing Committee that there is a need for more drafting expertise to be made available to members of the Synod. It was suggested, that it would be helpful to hold the informal meeting of the Bills Committee at an earlier date, to allow more time for comments from the Committee to be taken into account prior to final drafting before the deadline for submitting Bills. It was also suggested that Members of the Bills Committee could be available to assist members with the initial drafting of Bills.

9. BISHOPS' APPEAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The World Development Bishops' Appeal Advisory Committee report is included in Appendix D on page 170.

10. CENTRAL COMMUNICATIONS BOARD

A report from the Central Communications Board, which includes the work of the Broadcasting Committee, the Literature Committee and the Internet Committee, is included as Appendix E on page 178.

11. CHURCH IN SOCIETY COMMITTEE

The Probation Board for Northern Ireland recently conducted a consultation on its Corporate Plan 2008-2011. As this plan covers a period in which extensive changes to sentencing policy will be brought into use in Northern Ireland, the Church in Society Social Justice and Theology Panel (NI) felt it important to respond to this consultation. The response was approved by the Standing Committee in March 2008 and is appended to the Church in Society report. The Corporate Plan may be viewed at <http://www.pbni.org.uk/cp0811draft.pdf>.

Legal and political developments have led the government in the Republic of Ireland to address the issue of the rights of the child in isolation from the wider debate on Constitutional Reform. In December 2007, a draft amendment was circulated by the Oireachtas Joint Committee on the Constitutional Amendment on Children (JCCAC) and, in January 2008, the Legislation and Politics (RI) Sub-Committee made a submission to JCCAC. The Standing Committee approved this submission in March 2008. The report is appended to the Church in Society report.

In the United Kingdom, Prime Minister Gordon Brown has begun a debate on organ donation. Currently there is a shortfall of supply in relation to demand with more than 1,000 people out of 8,000 awaiting an organ transplant dying annually. Therefore the Prime Minister has suggested an opt-out system rather than the current opt-in system. The Medical Ethics, Science and Technology Sub-Committee of the Church in Society Committee produced a response that was adopted as official Church of Ireland policy at

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the Standing Committee meeting in March 2008. The response is appended to the Church in Society report.

12. CHURCH OF IRELAND MARRIAGE REGULATIONS (RI)

The marriage provisions of the Civil Registration Act 2004 in the Republic of Ireland commenced on 5 November 2007. The Marriage Law Reform Working Group prepared the Marriage Regulations for the Church of Ireland in the Republic, which were approved by the Standing Committee. *The Church of Ireland Marriage Regulations (Republic of Ireland) 2007* is included as Appendix F on page 188. In accordance with the Act, a list of solemnisers for the Church of Ireland has been submitted to the Office of the Registrar-General.

13. CHURCH / STATE DIALOGUE (RI)

A process of structured dialogue between the Government and the Churches in the Republic of Ireland was launched in February 2007. One meeting has been held with the Church of Ireland and there is a further meeting planned.

14. CONFERENCE OF EUROPEAN CHURCHES

The Third European Ecumenical Assembly of the Conference of European Churches was held on 4 – 7 September 2007 in Sibiu, Romania. A report on the conference is included as Appendix G on page 193.

15. CONSULTATIVE GROUP ON THE PAST

The Consultative Group on the Past is an independent group established in June 2007 to seek a consensus across the community in Northern Ireland on the best way to deal with the legacy of the past. In September 2007, the Standing Committee appointed a group of twelve to make a submission to the Consultative Group on the Past, which is included as Appendix H on Page 195. The group members are as follows:

The Bishop of Clogher	Dr P Miller
Ven NB Dodds	Very Rev PW Rooke
Rev Canon Dr IM Ellis	Rev M Ryan
Mrs M Gibson	Ms CS Turner
Mr G Glenn	Ven REB White
Rev Canon MC Kennedy	Rev Canon TW Williams

It was envisaged that the Church of Ireland group would appoint five or six of its members to make an oral presentation to the Consultative Group. The Bishop of Clogher was appointed Chairman of the Church of Ireland group.

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A Meeting of the Consultative Group with the Church of Ireland representatives was held on 27 November 2007. The Standing Committee group's report of the meeting is included as Appendix I on page 203.

The Standing Committee, in January 2008, agreed that the members of the above group had the authority to represent the Church of Ireland should the Consultative Group on the Past request further meetings.

16. COPYRIGHT

A Copyright Working Group, appointed by the Standing Committee, undertook research in 2006 and 2007 to ascertain whether a block licensing scheme should be purchased, to cover all parishes in the Church of Ireland, in respect of the text of hymns and other texts managed by the Christian Copyright Licensing Company. A Bill to facilitate the block licensing scheme was submitted to the General Synod in 2007, but was withdrawn for technical reasons.

Subsequently a further document outlining the strengths and weaknesses of the proposal was produced by the Honorary Secretaries, which is included in Appendix J on page 205. In the September 2007 meeting of the Standing Committee it was decided that the plans for the block licensing scheme should not proceed.

It was generally agreed that the copyright guidelines should be reviewed, with more detail included, and circulated to parishes.

17. COURTS AND TRIBUNALS COMMITTEE

In 2003, the Courts and Tribunals Committee, comprising both Archbishops, the Bishop of Cork, ecclesiastical experts, judges and lawyers, was set up by the Archbishop of Armagh to review the structure and procedures relating to the ecclesiastical courts and tribunals of the Church of Ireland as contained in Chapter VIII of the Constitution, which have remained virtually unchanged since the late nineteenth century.

Following consideration at General Synod 2005 of an interim report from that committee to the Standing Committee, the Courts and Tribunals Committee reflected upon points raised during the debate and brought to Standing Committee, in November 2007, a draft Bill to review and replace Chapter VIII of the Constitution. The Bill contains provisions for a new disciplinary process which is both sensitive to the concerns of clergy and to the key pastoral role of bishops while, at the same time, ensuring compliance with the requirement of human rights legislation in both jurisdictions in Ireland.

In November 2007, the Standing Committee appointed a group to consider the implications of the Bill for the Church of Ireland and to report to Standing Committee in January 2008 prior to the Bill being submitted to the General Synod of 2008. The Standing Committee requested that the recommendations of the group together with any

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suggested revisions and a summary of the points raised in discussion by the Standing Committee be referred to the Courts and Tribunals Committee with a request that a final draft Bill be submitted to Standing Committee in March 2008.

The draft Bill, so revised, will be brought to General Synod in May 2008.

18. THE COVENANT COUNCIL

In January 2008, the Standing Committee established a working group to consult with the Bishops, relevant committees and others as thought necessary, to draw up a response to *Interchangeability of Ministry and Episcopate: Key Issues for the Churches (Book of Reports 2007, The Covenant Council Report, Appendix A, page 322)* for consideration by the Standing Committee in January 2009. The members of the group are as follows:

The Bishop of Meath and Kildare	Ms R Handy
Very Rev NK Dunne	Very Rev NN Lynas
Rev SE Doogan	Very Rev SR White
The Bishop of Derry and Raphoe	

19. GENERAL SYNOD 2009

The Standing Committee decided that a weekend meeting of the General Synod was preferable and agreed that the meeting of the General Synod in 2009 will be held in the Armagh City Hotel, Armagh on 8, 9, and 10 May.

20. GENERAL SYNOD ROYALTIES FUND

The Standing Committee approved a grant of £9,795 over three years to the Liturgical Advisory Committee for the publication of *Let Everything that has Breath: Psalms for the Church's Year*.

A grant of €1,000 was approved for the Diocese of Kilmore towards the publication of *Clergy of Kilmore, Elphin and Ardagh*, edited by the Rev Canon DWT Crooks.

The Standing Committee approved a grant of €1,000 for *Clergy of Waterford and Lismore and Ferns*, edited by the Rev IJE Knox.

The Standing Committee also agreed that a sum of €10,000 be made available on an annual basis to the Literature Committee from the General Synod Royalties Fund for the production of resource materials by Committees or Boards of the General Synod or Standing Committee or other central structures, for which undertakings these structures may not be able to include timely costing in budgets as a consequence of the urgency of that need, provided that any such item:

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- (i) has been approved by an officially constituted Committee or Board of the General Synod or the Standing Committee or the Representative Body or the House of Bishops;
- (ii) could not have been foreseen and included in formal budgetary processes;
- (iii) has a plan for promotion and distribution, that has been agreed with the Communications Department and where funding for this has been identified and proper approvals obtained, if required.

21. GENERAL SYNOD / STANDING COMMITTEE BUDGETS

The Budget Sub-Committee considered budget submissions from the various bodies concerning their projected expenditure for the year 2008 and presented a report to the Standing Committee in November 2007. Following consideration of the report, recommendations were submitted to the Representative Church Body Allocations Committee.

22. THE HARD GOSPEL COMMITTEE

The Hard Gospel Committee published a report *Living with Difference: A Reality Check* written by Mr Tommy Stewart and Karen Jardine. The first section of the report, *The Diversity Audit Report*, was presented to the Standing Committee in November 2007 by the author. The second section, *The Impact Framework*, was presented at the following Standing Committee meeting in January, by the author, Ms Karen Jardine, 2008.

At the January meeting, the Standing Committee agreed that a group be appointed to consider the implementation of the recommendations on pages 35 and 36 and 75 of the *Living with Difference – A Reality Check* booklet. The Hard Gospel Implementation Group presented a report to the Standing Committee in March 2008 outlining several recommendations; this is included as Appendix K on page 207. The Standing Committee agreed to submit a resolution to General Synod; this is included in Appendix A on page 161.

A report from The Hard Gospel Committee is included as Appendix L on page 210.

23. HISTORIOGRAPHER'S REPORT

A report from the Church of Ireland Historiographer, Dr K Milne, is included as Appendix M on page 217.

24. IRISH CHURCHES' COUNCIL FOR TELEVISION AND RADIO AFFAIRS

A report from the Irish Churches' Council for Television and Radio Affairs, for the period 1 January to 31 December 2007, is included as Appendix N on page 218.

25. IRISH COUNCIL OF CHURCHES

The Standing Committee agreed that the Bishop of Meath and Kildare be nominated as Vice-Chairman of the Irish Council of Churches (ICC) for 2008-2010, for consideration at the Annual General Meeting of the ICC.

26. MEISSEN AGREEMENT

In 1991, the Church of England entered into what is termed the 'Meissen Agreement' with German Protestant Churches for the setting up of talks on theological and other issues of mutual concern. The Church in Wales, the Scottish Episcopal Church and the Church of Ireland are accorded observer status. The Scottish Episcopal Church requested that the Church of Ireland take over this role of observer for the series of meetings that began after June. The Standing Committee, at the request of the Commission for Christian Unity and Dialogue, appointed the Rev Canon Dr IM Ellis to represent the Church of Ireland in this capacity. The report of the Meissen Commission Meeting of 20 – 24 September 2007 is attached as Appendix O on page 220.

27. NON-CHRISTIAN BURIALS IN PARISH GRAVEYARDS

The Standing Committee received a letter that was written on behalf of the Dioceses of Down and Dromore, and Connor, regarding non-Christian burials in Church of Ireland parish graveyards. After consideration the Standing Committee submitted the following questions to the General Synod Legal Advisory Committee:

1. Whether it would be in accordance with Canon Law and the Constitution of the Church of Ireland for the officiating member of the clergy and the churchwardens, having responsibility for the administration of a pre-disestablishment graveyard vested in the Representative Church Body under the Irish Church Act 1869, to permit the burial therein of persons of other faiths or none?
2. Whether it would be in accordance with Canon Law and the Constitution of the Church of Ireland for the officiating member of the clergy and the churchwardens, having responsibility for the administration of a post-disestablishment graveyard vested in the Representative Church Body since 1870, to permit the burial therein of persons of other faiths or none?
3. If the answer to questions 1 and/or 2 is yes, do any pre-conditions have to be met and if so what are they? In particular, does the burial have to be in a Christian form?

28. NORTHERN IRELAND CIVIC FORUM

The Northern Ireland Civic Forum was established in October 2000 following the formation of the Northern Ireland Assembly. The Church of Ireland nominated Mr

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George Glenn as one of the two Irish Council of Churches' representatives on the Forum and he was duly appointed.

The Forum was suspended when the Northern Ireland Assembly was dissolved. As it is now planned to re-establish the Forum, the Honorary Secretaries have confirmed that Mr Glenn should serve out the remainder of his original three-year term of office.

29. PARISH DEVELOPMENT WORKING GROUP

The pilot project for a parish development programme was completed in 2007 and the Standing Committee, in January 2008, approved the running of a second programme of parish development for parishes within the Church of Ireland. A working group was appointed with power to co-opt three other members.

A report from the Parish Development Working Group is included as Appendix P on page 222.

30. PORVOO COMMUNION

A meeting of the Primates of the Porvoo Communion was held in Dublin on 9 October 2007. The Porvoo Contact Group also met in Dublin from 8 to 12 October. The late Very Rev RD Harman, the Church of Ireland representative on the Contact Group, submitted a report to the Standing Committee, which is included as Appendix Q on page 223.

In March 2008, the Standing Committee appointed the Rev FJ McDowell to represent the Church of Ireland on the Porvoo Communion Contact Group.

31. PRIORITIES FUND COMMITTEE

- (a) The following allocations from the Priorities Fund were approved by the Standing Committee in March 2008:

ALLOCATION OF GRANTS FROM 2007 PRIORITIES FUND

Ministry	€
Arrow Leadership Programme – Assistance for bursaries for members of the Church of Ireland clergy and other full-time leaders, taking part in the Arrow Ireland Leadership Programme	10,000
Parish Development Working Group – To assist with the costs involved in running a second Parish Development Programme and supplying resources to help parishes develop in ministry – [Stg£15,000 per year for 3 years] – First year	20,455
The House of Bishops – To provide for continuing ministerial education within the dioceses	60,000
Sub-total	€90,455

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Retirement

C of I Clergy Pensions Fund – Additional income for most needy	2,046
C of I Clergy Pensions Fund – Retired Chaplain	656
Sub-total	€2,702

Education

Girls' Friendly Society – Support for the on-going religious education of children and young people in the Church of Ireland, through the GFS badge syllabus	2,000
Meath and Kildare Diocesan Board of Education – To assist financially with a new education project within the dioceses	500

The following applications all concern youth work and the grants allocated are based on the recommendations made by the Church of Ireland Youth Department

C of I Youth Department – Funding towards the running costs involved in the establishment of a 'year out' mission and service opportunity for approximately eight young adults – [Stg£30,000 – First year : Stg£25,000 – Second year : Stg£15,000 – Third year] – First year	40,911
C of I Youth Department – Financial assistance towards the purchase of a Youth Ministry library for student use, to support the development of the Centre for Youth Ministry	6,818
3Rock Youth (Dublin & Glendalough) – Financial assistance for the costs involved in running a programme called Urban Soul, an active citizenship programme for youth, beginning summer 2008 and running annually for five years	12,000
Cork, Cloyne and Ross Diocesan Youth Council – To assist with the 'Bridge' project, whose aim is to support, resource and develop sustainable, quality youth work and ministry within the dioceses – [€14,000 – First year : €7,000 – Second year : €3,500 – Third year] – First year	14,000
Derry and Raphoe Youth – Financial assistance for further development of the 'Sitting Ducks Project', where young adults will be challenged to explore their Christian faith, so that they can choose to be disciples of Jesus Christ	15,000

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Kilkeel Parish Bridge Association Limited (Dromore) – To obtain ‘seed money’ to enable the implementation of programmes for our ‘Youth Link’ initiative, which aims to help address mental health issues of the youth in the Kilkeel area	6,818
Kilkenny Christian Centre – Funding to assist in the creation of a non-denominational Christian Centre, with a particular focus on young people, in the heart of Kilkenny city	10,000
Newtownbreda United Churches (Down) – To assist with funding for the continuation of a ‘Connecting with Youth’ outreach project, organised and run by volunteers from the Church of Ireland and other denominations, in partnership with the local council and the PSNI – [Stg£6,000 per year for 3 years] – Second year	8,182
St Jude’s Parish, Ballynafeigh (Down) – Financial support for a 3 year project, which will engage with Youth for Christ (NI) to make use of a Gap Year Team, to renew children’s and young people’s work in the parish – [Stg£4,000 – First year : Stg£3,000 – Second and Third year] – Final year	4,091
St Mary’s Parish, Ballybeen (Down) – Funding to initiate ACTS Ballybeen (Active Compassion Through Serving Ballybeen), to respond to the physical, emotional and spiritual needs in the community but mainly focusing on children in the locality	6,818
St Paul & St Barnabas Church, Belfast (Connor) – Initial start-up funding for outreach projects in the Tigers Bay area of North Belfast	8,182
Xpression Portadown (Armagh) – To assist with the ongoing development of this cross-community Christian outreach initiative, involving young people from a variety of local churches	1,364
Sub-total	€136,684
Community	
Cosy Cats Project, Calry Parish (Elphin) – Financial assistance for the operation of this childcare facility for disadvantaged families, of all religions and cultures, in the crypts under the church – [€15,000 per year for 3 years] – Final year	15,000
Maghera Parish Caring Association (Derry) – Financial assistance for the FACE Project, to establish a mediative intervention for contentious parades in Maghera and the surrounding rural areas	6,818

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Shankill Parish Caring Association (Dromore) – To deliver an accredited Good Relations training and citizenship package, to marginalised young adults across the Lurgan area – [Stg£15,000 per year for 2 years] – First year	20,455
St John’s House, Dublin – Financial support towards the replacement of the emergency lighting system	20,000
The Mageough Home, Dublin – To assist with the cost of upgrading houses, for elderly ladies and elderly men	10,000
‘Wellsprings’, Kilmakee Parish (Connor) – Funding for the future development of this Christ Centred Community Addiction Therapy Centre, based in the parish	16,364
Willowfield Parish Community Association (Down) – Funding for a project called ‘Mind the Gap’, to reach out to those who usually fall in the gap between church and community e.g. ethnic minority communities etc – [Stg£7,000 – First year : Stg£6,500 – Second and Third year] – Final year	8,864
Sub-total	€7,501

Areas of Need

Ardfert – Killarney Union – To assist with the cost of building a new Sunday School/meeting room in the grounds of the church, necessitated by changes in population and the needs of ministry	5,000
Armagh – Ballymascanlan and Rathcor Union – Financial assistance for the restoration of the Old Schoolhouse, necessitated by changes in population and the needs of ministry	5,000
Armagh – St Mark’s Parish, Armagh – Funding for ‘The Venue’ Project, a practical outreach, serving all age groups in the community	13,637
Connor – All Saints’ Church, Belfast – To assist with the development of a cross-community Christian outreach initiative, involving education and outreach to international students and migrant workers	13,637
Connor – Ardclinis Parish, Carnlough – Funding for the provision of facilities to enhance good relations with the wider community and further develop religious education for children and young people	5,046

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Connor – Holy Trinity & St Silas with Immanuel Parishes, Belfast – Funding for the provision of Church initiated activities and programmes which will enhance personal development, life and social skills of vulnerable families, young people and adults in interface areas of the parish and to tackle the problems of children at risk, anti-social behaviour and sectarianism – [Stg£10,000 per year for 3 years] – Final year	13,637
Connor – United Parishes of Templepatrick and Donegore – To seek funding for the development of facilities, to meet the future needs of the parish and community	5,046
Down & Dromore – Wells – Financial assistance for Wells, a ‘fresh expression of church’, established by the Diocese of Down and Dromore	13,637
Dromore – Magheralin Parish – To assist financially with the start-up costs involved in the community programmes planned in the new outreach facility in Dollingstown – [Stg£10,000 – First year : Stg£4,000 – Second and Third year] – Final year	5,455
Elphin – St Coman’s Parish, Roscommon – Financial assistance for the provision of facilities, necessitated by changes in population and the needs of ministry	5,000
Killala – Kilmoremy Union – To provide facilities and equipment, to enable the parish’s hospitality and outreach programme to make more varied use of the church building in line with changes in worship format, new church activities and increased congregation numbers	10,000
Killaloe – Christ Church Community Project, Spanish Point – Financial assistance towards the purchase of a large Portakabin, for use by Sunday School etc., necessitated by changes in population and the needs of ministry	5,000
Sub-total	€100,095
Outreach Initiatives	
C R E E D (Communities Regenerated Enabled Enriched and Developed) – Seed funding to enable parishes to benefit from CREED’s expertise, in co-ordination and utilisation of resources – [Stg£15,000 per year for 3 years] – First year	20,455
Holy Trinity Church, Woodburn (Connor) – To provide ‘seed funding’ for the development of community based educational programmes, in a safe, encouraging and stimulating environment, for all ages but young people in particular –[Stg£10,000 per year for 2 years] – Final year	13,637

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Magheracross Parish (Clogher) – To assist with the cost of improving the facilities and equipment used by the outreach parents and toddlers group, called Pre-School Praise	2,727
Parish of Kilroot (Connor) – To secure funding for the establishment of a drop-in centre in Eden Village, to provide a safe and supportive environment for residents to meet and to re-establish a serving presence in the area – [Stg£3,000 per year for 3 years] – Second year	4,091
Parishes of Maghera and Killelagh (Derry) – Financial assistance to build a new expression of church, that will engage the largely unchurched population of Upperlands and establish a self-sustaining congregation, including cell groups, in the village of Upperlands – [Stg£15,000 – First year : Stg£10,000 – Second and Third year] – Second year	13,637
Solas After-school Project (Dublin) – Funding to enable this new after-school intervention to continue, for children at risk of early school leaving, developed by CORE Church together with Mater Dei primary school in Basin Street, Dublin	10,000
The Church of the Pentecost, Mount Merrion (Down) – To obtain ‘seed funding’ for projects designed to address some of the many complex social and spiritual needs of people in inner city East Belfast	34,092
Willowfield Parish (Down) – To obtain ‘seed funding’ for a project called ‘Men Matter’, which aims to provide support and practical help to men in East Belfast who struggle with unemployment, poor health, mental health issues, alcohol, drug addictions, loneliness and isolation – [Stg£10,000 per year for 3 years] – Second year	13,637
Sub-total	€112,276
Total Allocated	€539,713

Sterling grants have been converted to Euro using the 2007 end of year rate of 0.7333.

- (b) Accounts for the year ended 31 December 2007 are included as Appendix R on page 226. Contributions to the Fund do not close until the end of February. The amount actually received by 28 February 2008 was €557,610.
- (c) Following a recommendation from the Priorities Fund Committee, the Standing Committee, in March 2008, agreed that diocesan targets for contributions to the 2009 Fund are increased by 3%.

32. REVIEW OF CHARITIES LEGISLATION

In recent years, a review of charities legislation in Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland has been conducted resulting in Charities Bills being introduced to the legislature in each jurisdiction. The new legislation will create a new Regulatory Authority in each jurisdiction, a register of charities, and regulations regarding governance, reporting and fundraising in the charitable sector.

A Working Group was set up by the Church, chaired by the Archbishop of Armagh, to monitor legislative developments and advise the Church on the implications of the new legislation. The Working Group is keeping Diocesan Secretaries informed and has developed a schedule for consulting with the structures of the Church. It is anticipated that the state legislation will be passed in the latter part of 2008, with the establishment of the new Regulatory Bodies and regulations thereafter. Once regulations are made known, the registration structure adopted by the Church will have to be agreed. The Church has been advised that the creation of the new Register is to be introduced in stages in each jurisdiction. If internal Church legislation is required, this will be brought to Synod in 2009, with the likelihood that Diocesan Synods and Councils will also be required to address this matter.

33. REVIEW OF COMMITTEES

The Honorary Secretaries reported to the Standing Committee in March 2007 that they had asked the House of Bishops to identify the key areas of policy and vision for the next ten years which will need to be addressed by a new committee structure.

In March 2008, the House of Bishops presented the following response to the Standing Committee.

THE HOUSE OF BISHOPS OF THE CHURCH OF IRELAND

The Church of Ireland, as an authentic part of the universal church of God, is called to develop growing communities of faith, in and through which the Kingdom of God is made known, and in which the whole people serve together as followers of Jesus Christ for the good of the world to the Glory of God

Growth - Unity - Service

In the power of the Spirit, our mission requires us to order our contemporary worship and life in a manner that nurtures **growth**, promotes **unity** and liberates us for **service** in the world that is God's.

WORSHIP & SPIRITUAL GROWTH

Through stillness, through celebrating, through drinking deeply of the wells of salvation, we are called to explore God's beauty and love, to renew the face of the earth and to recover the divine image that is within us.

Hence we must:

- Acknowledge that worship is humanity's primary purpose;
- Offer worship that articulates truth and evokes holy beauty;
- Ensure that our worship is rooted in the faith once delivered, but is never static;
- Pray that it may be magnetically attractive, energising and informing the building of the kingdom;
- Rejoice that through it countless individuals form one body in Christ.

UNITY & DIALOGUE

The Church is called to be an agent of God's purpose to bring all things together in Christ; to be the sign, instrument and first-fruits of that oneness in Christ that is God's gift and God's will

Hence we must:

- Strive to live in unity and peace among ourselves and with the whole family of God;
- Model respectful relations with humanity and the whole created order;
- Develop common life and action with other Christian traditions;
- Work for greater mutual understanding with those of other faiths and of none.

LIVING GOD'S KINGDOM & SERVING THE WORLD

Aligning ourselves daily with Christ's own prayer and example, the calling of the Church is to pray for, discern and realise the presence of God's kingdom among us.

Hence we must:

- Engage compassionately with the world and society in all its rich variety of need and opportunity;
- Be both discipled and discipling; perpetual learners in the school of Christ as we ourselves strive to teach and serve others;
- Daily and energetically embody and proclaim the values of the kingdom for whose coming we long. Maranatha! Come, Lord Jesus! Amen.

34. SAFEGUARDING TRUST

At the Standing Committee meeting in September 2007, the revised edition of *Safeguarding Trust* for use in Northern Ireland and the revised edition of *Safeguarding Trust* for use in the Republic of Ireland were both approved by the Standing Committee. Copies of these publications will be made available at the meeting of the General Synod 2008. These documents will also be included in the Journal of the General Synod.

35. SINGLE EQUALITY BILL (NI)

The Standing Committee appointed a group to monitor the development of the Single Equality Bill and prepare submissions, when appropriate, for approval by the Standing Committee. The members of the group are as follows:

The Bishop of Clogher	Dr J McGaffin
The Bishop of Down and Dromore	Lady Sheil

36. UNITED NATIONS COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN

The Rev Canon DTS Clements represented the Church of Ireland at the 51 Session of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women. A report is included as Appendix S on page 228. The 52nd Session of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women will be held in New York from 25 February to 7 March 2008 and the Standing Committee again appointed Canon Clements.

37. WORKING GROUP ON DISABILITY

A report from the Working Group on Disability is included as Appendix T on page 232.

38. OBITUARY

The following member died since the last session:

Rev GW Browne	Diocese of Kilmore
Mr FW Gray	Diocese of Dublin and Glendalough
Very Rev RD Harman	Diocese of Dublin and Glendalough
Rev TH Priestly	Diocese of Connor

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