

**Standing Committee – Report 2008**

**APPENDIX N**

**THE IRISH CHURCHES' COUNCIL FOR TELEVISION AND RADIO AFFAIRS REPORT**

**MEMBERSHIP**

**Roman Catholic Church**

Mr Martin Long  
Ms Brenda Drumm  
Ms Eileen Good  
Fr Paul Dempsey  
Mr Noel Shannon  
Vacancy

**Church of Ireland**

Ms Janet Maxwell  
Rev Tom Gordon

**Presbyterian Church in Ireland**

Rev William Hayes

**Methodist Church in Ireland**

Rev Dr John Stephens

**The Religious Society of Friends/Irish Council of Churches**

Ms Margaret King

**MEMBERSHIP**

During the period of the report we welcomed the appointment of Rev Tom Gordon, Consultant Director in Pastoral Formation at The Church of Ireland Theological College. We welcomed Rev William Hayes from Mountmellick as the Presbyterian Church representative and also the Rev Dr John Stephens, Superintendent of the Dublin Central Mission as the Methodist Church in Ireland representative. During the year Rev Graham Hamilton, Dr Valerie Jones and Rev Frank Sellar retired from the Committee.

**SEMINAR**

The external focus of the year was the ICCTRA seminar on 16<sup>th</sup> October 2007 entitled: “The Contemporary Broadcasting Environment for Churches” which was held in Renehan Hall, St Patrick’s College, Maynooth, Co Kildare.

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The welcome and introduction was given by Mr Martin Long, Vice Chairperson of ICCTRA. The keynote speaker on the theme was Mr Michael O’Keeffe, Chief Executive of the Broadcasting Commission of Ireland. Fr Dermot McCarthy spoke on ‘**The experience of religious broadcasting at national level**’. Fr McCarthy is Head of Religious Programmes for RTE. Mr Tom Boyce spoke on ‘**The requirements for the radio transmission of religious services**’. Mr Boyce is the Spectrum Compliance Manager with the Commission for Communications Regulation (Comreg). This was followed by **Questions and Answers** chaired by ICCTRA member Ms Eileen Good and Director of RNN – Religious News Network.

The afternoon session was addressed by Dr Daniel Arasa on the theme ‘**First impressions count: learning from websites of Roman Catholic dioceses – Analysis of nine international websites from a communications perspective.**’ Dr Arasa holds a PhD in Social Institutional Communications from the School of Social Institutional Communications of the Pontifical University of the Holy Cross, Rome.

The conference was attended by communications spokespersons and web masters from the Catholic Church, Church of Ireland, Presbyterian and Methodist churches as well as representatives of the print and broadcast media.

The seminar programme, photos from the event and speeches delivered are now available on the bottom link on the ICCTRA homepage: [www.icctra.ie](http://www.icctra.ie)

It was generally agreed that the 2007 seminar comprehensively informed ICCTRA members in accordance with its mission statement, which is:

“To provide a Council of Christian Churches in the Republic of Ireland which will advise and consult on their behalf with the authorities and the broadcasting stations, at national and local levels, on matters relating to religious broadcasting of interest or concern to the Churches.”