

GENERAL SYNOD 2008

CHURCH OF IRELAND COUNCIL FOR MISSION

Seconded by Miss Mavis Gibbons (Diocese of Connor)

EMBARGOED UNTIL DELIVERY

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

In seconding the report for the Council for Mission I refer to page 323 of the Report 'Mission Strategy and the Church of Ireland' and the difficulty in giving a clear answer to the questions asked, in preparation for the Lambeth Conference, regarding the Church of Ireland and its approach to mission. The motion being proposed to Synod is an endeavour to help us have a more accurate picture of how effective we are as a church in mission. At the recent Joint Mission Conference we saw a DVD featuring two contrasting 'Fresh Expression' churches; Wells in Moneyreagh, and Rivers in Carrick-on-Shannon; in both instances they have seen growth. The illustration given from Rivers that in Carrick-on-Shannon statistics showed there was one Methodist, now there is a lively all-age congregation which has come from an imitative by the Methodist Church.

The Council believes that such statistics would help us to look with new eyes at our parishes, and see more clearly where there are 'holes in the cheese'. The Church of England has recently passed legislation which enables such new expressions of Church to be officially recognised with a Bishop's Mission Order, this gives Episcopal authority, ensures accountability and the continuation of the ministry should there be a change of incumbent.

I now propose the report for the Council in Mission be considered.