

## **GENERAL SYNOD 2009**

### **Motion No. 2 Development of Mission/Pioneer Leaders**

**Proposed by Roy Totten, Connor Diocese**

**EMBARGOED UNTIL DELIVERY**

**CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY**

This General Synod recognises the need for training and developing leaders equipped to serve in a variety of pioneer contexts, both lay and ordained in Ireland. This General Synod directs the Commission on Ministry and Council for Mission jointly to develop proposals for how such leaders might be trained and deployed, duly consulting with all appropriate and relevant bodies.

What is this motion about?

What is a pioneer context – it is Ireland today – 2009 – a radically changed society within which there are many people who do not see the relevance of the church, or the relevance of the Christian faith.

Church of Ireland ministry, like all main denominations, is based on parish church ministry, saying to society “Come and see what we do and what we believe”

Today that invitation no longer holds the same attraction or the same credibility in the minds of many.

The command of Jesus to his disciples is “Go ye into all the world”

Go out into everyday life to where the people are – into the new context - like pioneers – explorers/ settlers, beyond the boundaries of the Parish church.

What will this motion achieve?

In directing the two synod committees to develop proposals for the training and deployment of ordained and lay pioneers, the motion will allow them to learn from the experience of others, particularly the C of E, which initiated this type of ministry 5 years ago, encouraged supported by the Archbishop of Canterbury. This style of ministry could then be examined within the Irish context - which is so different from that of the UK.

Why should you support this resolution?

The average Church of Ireland parish is a comfortable spiritual home to you and to many others - why can it not be this for everyone?

One size does not fit all – everyone is not the same -people are used to choosing what suits them in life. Many people outside the church are seeking spiritual understanding, but the first place they will choose to look is probably not a church pew.

Therefore we need to use every existing tool we have to hand in our mission to go out to others and we need to fashion new tools. We need what the Archbishop of Canterbury calls a "mixed economy" church, that is, traditional parish ministry alongside new pioneering expressions of church in what ever form the context dictates.

Our bishops have set the priorities of the Church of Ireland to be "Growth, Unity and Service".

If you want the Church of Ireland to be a growing church, if you want it to have unity without uniformity, if you want it to serve the community which Christ has called to go out into, **then support this motion.**