

# THE CHURCH OF IRELAND

## GENERAL SYNOD 2009

### ACT

**To carry into effect a Resolution of the General Synod 2008 to amend *The Book of Common Prayer* by including therein the *Declaration* as set out in the accompanying Schedule**

WHEREAS it is desirable that the *Declaration*, as set out in the accompanying Schedule, be included in *The Book of Common Prayer*, immediately preceding the *Articles of Religion*;

AND WHEREAS it is expedient to include a Declaration with regard to its understanding of the historic formularies of the Church of Ireland, in *The Book of Common Prayer*;

BE IT ENACTED by the Archbishops and Bishops and the Clergy and Laity of the Church of Ireland in General Synod assembled in Armagh in the year 2009, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1. In all future printings of *The Book of Common Prayer* there shall be included the *Declaration*, as set out in the accompanying Schedule, immediately preceding the *Articles of Religion*.

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# **SCHEDULE**

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## **Declaration**

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The Church of Ireland is part of the one, holy, catholic, and apostolic Church, worshipping the one true God - Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. It professes the faith uniquely revealed in the Holy Scriptures and set forth in the catholic creeds: which faith the Church is called upon to proclaim afresh in each generation. Led by the Holy Spirit, it has borne witness to Christian truth in its historic formularies - the Thirty-nine Articles of Religion, the Book of Common Prayer, the Ordering of Bishops, Priests and Deacons and the Declaration prefixed to the Statutes of the Church of Ireland (1870).

These historic formularies are a definition of the faith as proclaimed by the Church of Ireland, and thus form an important part of the inheritance through which this Church has been formed in its faith and witness to this day. The formularies that have been passed on are part of a living tradition that today must face new challenges and grasp fresh opportunities.

Historic documents often stem from periods of deep separation between Christian Churches. Whilst, in spite of a real degree of convergence, distinct differences remain, the tone and tenor of the language of the negative statements towards other Christians should not be seen as representing the spirit of this Church today.

The Church of Ireland affirms all in its tradition that witnesses to the truth of the Gospel. It regrets that words written in another age and in a different context should be used in a manner hurtful to or antagonistic towards other Christians.

The Church of Ireland seeks the visible unity of the Church. In working towards that goal this Church is committed to reaching out towards other Churches in a spirit of humility and love, that together all Christians may grow towards unity in life and mission to the glory of God.

# THE CHURCH OF IRELAND

## GENERAL SYNOD 2009

### ACT

**To carry into effect a Resolution of the General Synod 2008 to amend Marriage One and Marriage Two in *The Book of Common Prayer* (2004)**

WHEREAS a Resolution to amend *Marriage One and Marriage Two* in *The Book of Common Prayer* (2004) was duly passed in full Synod in Galway in the year 2008, by the required majorities and was duly transmitted to the Secretaries of all Diocesan Synods;

AND WHEREAS it is expedient that the said resolution should be carried into effect by a Statute;

AND WHEREAS in accordance with the provisions of Section 26(1) of Chapter I of the Constitution, leave was given for the introduction of a Bill in the General Synod of 2009;

BE IT ENACTED by the Archbishops and Bishops and the Clergy and Laity of the Church of Ireland in General Synod assembled in Armagh in the year 2009, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

In *The Book of Common Prayer* (2004) those parts entitled *Marriage One and Marriage Two* shall be amended in the following terms:

#### MARRIAGE ONE

- On page 406 under "*The priest says to the congregation*" delete the last two lines  
*"Therefore if any man ...hold his peace"*
- On page 406 the rubric "*The minister says to the couple*" to read  
*"The minister may say to the couple"*.
- On page 406 after "*neither is their matrimony lawful*" insert the following rubric:  
*"[RI] Unless the declarations of no civil impediment have already been made by the couple prior to the marriage in the presence of the Registered Solemniser and the two witnesses the man and the woman each make the required declaration now."*

I solemnly declare that I do not know of any civil impediment to my proposed marriage with ...”

- On page 415 delete “*On the day... costs incurred*” and insert the following:

***“A couple must produce a Schedule of Marriage (NI) or a Marriage Registration Form (RI) to the officiating priest before a marriage can take place.”***

## MARRIAGE TWO

- On page 419 under the heading “THE MARRIAGE” delete the first two paragraphs “*The minister says to the congregation...you must declare it now*”.
- On page 419, following deletion of the first two paragraphs under the heading “*THE MARRIAGE*”, “*The minister says to the congregation... you must declare it now*” insert the following:

***“The minister may say to the couple:***

God, the judge of all  
knows the secrets of our hearts;  
therefore if either of you knows any reason  
why you may not lawfully marry  
you must declare it now.

***[RI] Unless the declarations of no civil impediment have already been made by the couple prior to the marriage in the presence of the Registered Solemniser and the two witnesses the bride and bridegroom each make the required declaration now.***

I solemnly declare that I do not know of any civil impediment to my proposed marriage with ...”

- On pages 429 and 430 delete “On the day of the marriage..... Marriage Law in the Republic of Ireland
- On page 429 and 430, following the deletion of ‘*On the day of the marriage...Marriage Law in the Republic of Ireland*’ insert the following:

***“A couple must produce a Schedule of Marriage (NI) or a Marriage Registration Form (RI) to the officiating priest before a marriage can take place.”***

# **THE CHURCH OF IRELAND**

## **GENERAL SYNOD 2009**

### **ACT**

#### **To amend Chapter XIV of the Constitution**

WHEREAS an increase in the annual total contribution made to the Church of Ireland Pensions Fund, established under Chapter XIV of the Constitution and hereinafter referred to as “the Fund”, is required to maintain the solvency of the Fund;

AND WHEREAS for such purposes it is necessary to amend Chapter XIV of the Constitution;

AND WHEREAS the Church of Ireland Pensions Board has certified that on the enactment of this Statute the Fund will remain compliant with the requirements of Section 16(1) of Chapter XIV of the Constitution;

BE IT ENACTED by the Archbishops and Bishops and the Clergy and Laity of the Church of Ireland in General Synod assembled in Armagh in the year 2009, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1. In this Statute “Chapter XIV” means Chapter XIV of the Constitution of the Church of Ireland 2003.
2. In Section 34 of Chapter XIV for “1st January 2008” there shall be substituted “1st January 2010” and for the figure “22.4%” there shall be substituted the figure “26%”.
3. (i) In section 35(1) of Chapter XIV for the figure “5.6%” wherever it occurs there shall be substituted the figure “7.6%”.  
  
(ii) In section 35(1) of Chapter XIV for the figure “16.8%” wherever it occurs there shall be substituted the figure “18.4%”.

# **THE CHURCH OF IRELAND**

## **GENERAL SYNOD 2009**

### **ACT**

#### **To disband the Commission on Church Buildings**

WHEREAS the General Synod in 2008 passed Motion No 4 requesting that the Representative Church Body present a Bill to the General Synod of 2009 to disband the Commission on Church Buildings, also referred to as the Commission on Churches.

BE IT ENACTED by the Archbishops and Bishops and the Clergy and Laity of the Church of Ireland in General Synod assembled in Armagh in the year 2009, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1. The following Statutes shall be and the same are hereby repealed with immediate effect: Provided always that such repeal shall not invalidate or affect any act or thing heretofore done or any right or liability heretofore acquired or incurred under or in pursuance of the provisions hereby repealed.

Statute Chapter i of 1986  
Statute Chapter ii of 1993  
Statute Chapter iii of 1994  
Statute Chapter iv of 2000

# **THE CHURCH OF IRELAND**

## **GENERAL SYNOD 2009**

### **ACT**

#### **To amend Chapter IX of the Constitution**

WHEREAS it is desirable, in certain circumstances, to permit the making of payments to persons serving in the auxiliary ministry;

AND WHEREAS for such purposes it is necessary to amend Chapter IX of the Constitution of the Church of Ireland;

BE IT ENACTED by the Archbishops and Bishops and the Clergy and Laity of the Church of Ireland in General Synod assembled in Armagh in the year 2009, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1. In this Statute “Chapter IX” shall mean Chapter IX of the Constitution of the Church of Ireland 2003 and “the Canons” shall mean the Canons contained in the said Chapter IX.
2. Canon 34 of the Canons shall be amended by the insertion after paragraph (4) of the following paragraph:-
  - (5) Notwithstanding the provisions of Canon 20, a person who has been admitted to holy orders for general assistance in a diocese on the basis that such a person will continue to earn a living in a lay occupation or will have some other source of income sufficient for such person’s needs, and who has served in the auxiliary ministry for a period of not less than three years, may apply to the bishop, to be paid for duties performed at the bishop’s request and to be reimbursed for expenses incurred in the performance of such duties; provided that no such payment and no such reimbursement of expenses shall -
    - a) be at a rate in excess of those prescribed in such rules in this regard as shall, from time to time, be made by the Representative Church Body and approved by the Standing Committee of the General Synod; or
    - b) confer any entitlement to membership of or participation in the Church of Ireland Clergy Pensions Fund.

## THE CHURCH OF IRELAND

### GENERAL SYNOD 2009

#### ACT

##### To amend Chapter VII, Section 24 of the Constitution

WHEREAS Chapter VII of the Constitution of the Church of Ireland was amended by Statute Chapter V of 2007 to provide, *inter alia*, for the appointment of ecumenical canons to the Chapter of the Collegiate and Cathedral Church of St. Patrick, Dublin;

AND WHEREAS it is considered desirable that prebendal stalls should only be assigned to ecumenical canons resident in Ireland;

BE IT ENACTED by the Archbishops and Bishops and the Clergy and Laity of the Church of Ireland in General Synod assembled in Armagh in the year 2009, and by the authority of the same, as follows:-

1. The second sentence of section 24 of Chapter VII of the Constitution of the Church of Ireland shall be amended by the insertion after the words "resident in Ireland" of the words "and ecumenical canons resident in Ireland".



# **THE CHURCH OF IRELAND**

## **GENERAL SYNOD 2009**

### **ACT**

#### **To amend Statute, Chapter V of 1944**

WHEREAS it is desirable to make further provision for the regulation of the Chapter of the Cathedral Church of St Anne, Belfast;

AND WHEREAS it is desirable to make provision for the appointment of lay canons to the Cathedral Church of St Anne, Belfast;

AND WHEREAS it is also desirable for the promotion of relations with other churches that provision should be made for the appointment of ecumenical canons to the said Cathedral Church;

AND WHEREAS the provisions of this Bill have the consent of the Ordinary and the approval of the Bishop of Down and Dromore and were adopted by the Dean and Chapter of the said Cathedral Church;

BE IT ENACTED by the Archbishops and Bishops and the Clergy and Laity of the Church of Ireland in General Synod assembled in Armagh in the year 2009, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1. Section 5 of the Statute, Chapter V of 1944 shall be substituted by the following:
  5. The Chapter shall consist of the following members in the following order of precedence:-
    - (a) The Dean, who shall bear the title of “Dean of Belfast”;
    - (b) The Chancellor, who shall be the person for the time being appointed to the office of Archdeacon of Down;
    - (c) The Precentor, who shall be the person for the time being appointed to the office of Archdeacon of Belfast;
    - (d) The Treasurer, who shall be appointed by the Ordinary on the nomination of the Dean. The Dean shall only be entitled to nominate to the office of Treasurer a member of the clergy of the Church of Ireland who is on the staff

of the Cathedral staff and who, in the opinion of the Dean, has attained a sufficient degree of seniority for appointment to that office.

- (e) Ten Canons in order of seniority of appointment, who shall be appointed as follows:-
- i) Four Canons shall be appointed by the Bishop of Connor from among the beneficed or licensed clergy of such bishop's diocese;
  - ii) Four Canons shall be appointed by the Bishop of Down and Dromore from among the beneficed or licensed clergy of such bishop's diocese; and
  - iii) Two Canons shall be elected by the Dean and Chapter (or by the Chapter if the Office of Dean is vacant) from among the beneficed or licensed clergy of the Diocese of Connor and/or the Diocese of Down and Dromore.

2. The following sections shall be inserted after Section 5:

#### **Ecumenical Canons**

- 5A.** (1) In this Chapter "ecumenical canon" shall mean a minister or accredited preacher of one or other of such Christian denominations not in full communion with the Church as may from time to time be specified by the House of Bishops, appointed to office under the provisions of this section.
- (2) No person shall be eligible for appointment as an ecumenical canon unless resident in the Diocese of Down and Dromore or the Diocese of Connor at the time of such appointment.
  - (3) It shall be in the power of the Dean and Chapter, having first consulted with the Bishop of Down and Dromore and the Bishop of Connor, to appoint ecumenical canons, not exceeding three in number without salaries.
  - (4) Each ecumenical canon may be removed by the Dean and Chapter with the approval of the Bishop of Down and Dromore and the Bishop of Connor for cause shown.
  - (5) Each ecumenical canon, if not so removed, shall hold office until such person shall resign from office or cease to be a full-time minister or accredited preacher of one or other of such Christian denominations not in full communion with the Church as may from time to time be specified by the House of Bishops, whichever shall be the earlier.
  - (6) The appointment of an ecumenical canon shall not be effective unless and until that person shall make and subscribe before the Dean and Chapter the declaration contained in the Schedule hereunto annexed.
  - (7) An ecumenical canon may be invited by the Dean to perform all or any of the following duties insofar as the same are consonant with the provisions of Canon

- (a) To say or sing Morning or Evening Prayer or the Litany;
  - (b) To read the Holy Scriptures at any service;
  - (c) To deliver an address at any service;
  - (d) To assist at a Baptismal, Marriage or Funeral Service or at the Celebration of the Holy Communion; if the ecumenical canon is authorised to perform a similar duty in his or her own Church.
- (8) The Court of the General Synod shall have authority to determine all questions and disputes that may arise respecting the appointment or removal of an ecumenical canon.

### **Honorary Lay Canons**

- 5B.** (1) In this Section “Lay Canon” shall mean a member of the Church of Ireland who, in recognition of such person’s service to the Cathedral or to the Diocese of Down and Dromore or to the Diocese of Connor or to some other aspect of the Church of Ireland, is appointed to office under the provisions of this Section.
- (2) The Bishop of Down and Dromore and the Bishop of Connor shall each appoint three Lay Canons from separate lists of nominees submitted to them by the Dean and Chapter.
  - (3) Each lay canon may be removed by the Dean and Chapter with the approval of the Bishop of Down and Dromore and the Bishop of Connor for cause shown.
  - (4) Each lay canon, if not so removed, shall hold office for life or until such person shall resign from office.
  - (5) Each lay canon shall perform such functions, if any, as are consistent with the provisions of the Constitution of the Church of Ireland and as may, from time to time, be delegated to such person by the Dean.
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## SCHEDULE

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### DECLARATION FOR SUBSCRIPTION

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I, A.B., do hereby solemnly declare that:

- (1) I am a minister or accredited preacher of \_\_\_\_\_ Church.
- (2) I agree to be bound by the provisions of Part I of Chapter VII of the Constitution of the Church of Ireland and by the provisions of such Statutes of the Church of Ireland as shall from time to time relate to the administration and regulation of Saint Anne's Cathedral Belfast and, to that extent only, I submit myself to the authority of the Church of Ireland, and to the laws and tribunals thereof.
- (3) I A.B. do declare that I will perform Canonical obedience to the Dean of Saint Anne's Cathedral Belfast, and his successors canonically entering. The statutes and ancient customs of this Cathedral Church, so far as they are not repugnant to the laws of the Church of Ireland, I will observe, and my endeavours for their defence against all persons whatsoever will diligently use.

*I subscribe the above declaration  
to be appointed to the office of  
Ecumenical Canon of  
Saint Anne's Cathedral Belfast  
This day of 20*