

Standing Committee – Report 2010

STANDING COMMITTEE

REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS LAID BEFORE

THE GENERAL SYNOD AT ITS

ONE HUNDRED AND FORTIETH ORDINARY SESSION 2010

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

HONORARY SECRETARIES OF THE GENERAL SYNOD

Ven REB White, Moviddy Rectory, Aherla, Co Cork

Rev FJ McDowell, St Mark's Rectory, 4 Sydenham Avenue, Belfast, BT4 2DR

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

Canon Lady Sheil, Killinchy, Co Down BT23 6RL

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1. SUMMARY

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

- The Anglican Covenant
- Charities Legislation
- The Child Protection Officer NI Review
- The Code of Duty and Conduct for Clergy
- The Interchangeability of Ministry

2. NAMES AND ATTENDANCES OF MEMBERS

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

Ex-officio Members

THE ARCHBISHOPS AND BISHOPS

THE HONORARY SECRETARIES OF THE GENERAL SYNOD

6	Ven REB White
6	Rev FJ McDowell
4	Mr SR Harper
6	Canon Lady Sheil

Elected Members

Diocese

Armagh	3	†	Very Rev PW Rooke
	3	°	Rev TS Forster
	4	°	Mr LV Johnston
			None available
Clogher	4	†	Rev Canon JW Stewart
	4	°	Rev BT Kerr
	5	†	Mr WR Pringle
	5	†	Mr GMT Moore

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Derry	3	†	Rev PL Storey
	4	†	Rev RS Miller
	5	†	Mr RA Pollock
	2	†	Mr KW Witherow
Down	6	°	Ven PF Patterson
	3	†	Rev SE Doogan
	5	†	Mrs HM McClay
	5	†	Mr RA Brannigan
Connor	3	°	Ven SR McBride
	4	†	Rev SA Fielding
	4	°	Mr HRJ Totten
	4	°	Mr PJ Hamill
Kilmore	5	†	Very Rev WR Ferguson
	5	†	Rev CWL McCauley
	4	°	Mr D Gillespie
	5	†	Mrs B Barrett
Tuam	4	°	Very Rev SM Patterson
	4	†	Ven GL Hastings
	2	°	Mr DJ Auchmuty
			None available
Dublin	5	†	Rev Canon KM Poulton
	4	°	Rev GV Wharton
	4	†	Dr VA Jones
	2	°	Mr LJW MacCann SC

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Meath 5 ° Very Rev RW Jones
 2 ° Rev LEA Peilow
 6 ° Mrs JM Bruton
 None available

Cashel 5 † Ven JG Murray
 2 † Rev A Minion
 3 ° Mr C Wellwood
 3 ° Mr EGJ Driver

Cork 3 ° Very Rev CL Peters
 5 ° Rev AM Wilkinson
 5 ° Mr WF Baker
 1 ° Mr R Buttimer

Limerick 4 ° Very Rev JMG Sirr
 4 ° Rev Canon SM Neill
 6 ° Mr A Hilliard
 1 ° Mr E Hardy

Co-opted Members

6 § Rev Canon P Comerford	6 § Mr AN McNeile
5 § Rev GTW Davison	6 § Ven RB Rountree
6 § Rev Dr MJ Elliott	3 § Ms CS Turner
5 * Rev AJ Forster	

° Re-elected May 2009 † Elected May 2009

§ Re-elected June 2009 * Elected June 2009

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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

The Hon Mr Justice Declan Budd

His Honour Judge T Burgess

The Rt Hon Sir Anthony Campbell

Mr MC Davey

Mr LJW MacCann SC

The Honorary Secretaries

The Hon Mrs Justice Catherine McGuinness

Mr WD Prentice

His Honour Judge RF Rodgers

The Hon Sir Ben Stephens

Mr JW Wilson QC

PRIORITIES FUND COMMITTEE

Capt N Barnes

Mrs JM Bruton

Ven GWT Davison

Mr SR Harper

Mrs J Leighton

Ven SR McBride

Mr HRJ Totten

Rev AM Wilkinson

BUDGET SUB-COMMITTEE

Mr WF Baker

Mr SR Harper

Mr LV Johnston

Rev FJ McDowell

Mr AN McNeile

Mr HRJ Totten

WORLD DEVELOPMENT – BISHOPS’ APPEAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Rt Rev MAJ Burrows

Rev OMR Donohoe

Ms R Handy

Rev E Hanna

Most Rev AET Harper

Rev Canon PA Harvey

Mr W Kingston

Rev JMD Pierce

Mrs A Rooke

Mr TA Smallwoods

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LAY JUDGES OF THE COURT OF THE GENERAL SYNOD

The Hon Mr Justice Declan Budd	Mr LJW MacCann SC
His Honour Judge T Burgess	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 P Good	Mr JW Wilson QC

3. ANGLICAN COMMUNION

In June 2009, the Standing Committee appointed the Anglican Covenant Working Group to examine Section 4 of the Ridley Cambridge Draft of the Anglican Covenant and to recommend a response.

In September 2009, the Standing Committee adopted the report of the Anglican Covenant Working Group (Appendix B on page 233) as the official response to Section 4 of the Ridley Cambridge draft of the Anglican Covenant from the Standing Committee of the General Synod of the Church of Ireland. This response was then forwarded to the Anglican Communion Office.

The final text of the Anglican Covenant (Appendix C on page 234) was submitted to the Standing Committee in January 2010. The Committee agreed to refer the final text of the Anglican Covenant to the Commission for Christian Unity and Dialogue to enable the Commission to make a recommendation concerning appropriate action in relation to the Covenant at the General Synod 2011.

4. APPOINTMENTS

Committee etc	Name
General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church, Belfast, June 2009	The Bishop of Meath and Kildare Very Rev RSJH McKelvey
Conference of the Methodist Church, Dublin, June 2009	The Bishop of Meath and Kildare Rev Canon KM Poulton
Annual Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends, Dublin, July 2009	Dr K Milne
Meissen Commission Meeting, Whalley Abbey, September 2009	Rev Canon Dr IM Ellis
Church of Ireland Press Ltd PACT (Protestant Aid Society)	Mr DB O'Callaghan Rev Canon KM Poulton Rev GV Wharton
United Society for the Propagation of the Gospel (USPG)	Rev Canon P Comerford Rev K Gibson

5. AUDIT OF ACCOUNTS

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

6. BILL OF RIGHTS NI WORKING GROUP

The Northern Ireland Office (NIO) invited submissions on the consultation paper regarding a Bill of Rights for Northern Ireland. In January 2010, the Standing Committee appointed the Bill of Rights (NI) Working Group to develop a submission from the Church of Ireland to the NIO.

In March 2010, the Standing Committee received the report from the Bill of Rights (NI) Working Group, adopted the report as the official response of the Church of Ireland and submitted it to the Northern Ireland Office (NIO). The response is included in Appendix D on page 246.

7. BISHOPS' APPEAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The World Development Bishops' Appeal Advisory Committee report is included in Appendix E on page 267.

8. 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 F on page 274.

In March 2010, the Standing Committee agreed to conclude the work of the Central Communications Board Internet Committee pending a proposal to advance work in this area from the Representative Church Body.

9. CHARITIES LEGISLATION

In September 2009, the Standing Committee was informed that the issue of charities legislation was moving at a significant pace in Northern Ireland but that in the Republic of Ireland the issue was stalled somewhat as the legislation, while passed, had not yet been enacted and that a Charities Commission was yet to be established in that jurisdiction.

The Standing Committee was briefed that a delegation had held a meeting with Mr Tom McGrath, the head of the Charities Commission in Northern Ireland. He noted that the

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Church of Ireland was the first external body to meet with him following his appointment.

The Standing Committee was informed that in Northern Ireland the Interim Register will automatically include those parishes or diocesan organisations that are already registered as a charity within Northern Ireland and that no other action was required by those parishes or diocesan organisations at that time.

It was noted that while originally it had been envisaged that a diocesan structure would be adopted it had become clear that the intent of the Diocesan Secretaries in Northern Ireland was now to work towards the registration of parochial structures.

The Standing Committee was informed that Diocesan Secretaries in Northern Ireland now favoured the parochial structures as the diocesan structure would cause the dioceses to exceed the financial thresholds and result in more complex auditing and significantly elevated audit fees. Also, the dioceses did not wish to become responsible or carry legal liability for the actions of individual parishes.

It was suggested that in a parochial structure, the registered charitable entity would be the Select Vestry. As property is vested in the Representative Church Body and as the Church of Ireland in its widest sense is the beneficial owner, the property is not regarded as being owned by the parish and therefore the parish does not have to report on it as an item. Therefore, the governance of the Church at a parochial level should remain much as it is at present. It was stated that the parish would be able to avail of self-regulation as allowed through the designated religious category in the legislation. The members of the Select Vestry would become *ex-officio* trustees of the charity, the purpose of which would be to support the objectives of the parish.

The Standing Committee was informed that the Ecclesiastical Insurance Organisation has confirmed that the insurance required for trustees is already in place and available.

The Standing Committee was informed that a series of information meetings had been held in Moira, Dublin and Charleville to explain the current standing of the charities legislation, the requirements at both a diocesan and parish level and the sort of accounting package that could assist with the reporting procedures. It was stated that these had been both well attended and well received and therefore there would be a further roll-out of such meetings throughout the autumn of 2009. The guidelines for parochial treasurers were also published during the autumn. Further meetings were also held in Omagh, Antrim, Armagh and Rooskey.

The Standing Committee was further informed that a letter would be sent to all parishes outlining the situation, and that there would be an article printed in *The Church of*

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Ireland Gazette and diocesan magazines and that the information would be updated, as available, on the Church of Ireland website.

In November 2009, the Standing Committee approved the response to the public consultation from the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland: *Meeting the Charity Test – Demonstrating Public Benefit* (Appendix G on page 282).

In January 2010, the Standing Committee amended and approved the statement of ‘Charitable Purpose’ and the statement of ‘Public Benefit’ (Appendix H on page 285) and these documents have been favourably reviewed by the secretariat in the new Charity Commission for Northern Ireland as appropriate for use by vestries registering under the new legislation. The Charity Commission has also been asked to consider that the submission of the Church of Ireland Constitution and relevant diocesan rules will be agreeable as a means of registering the governance documents for select vestries. This will simplify the registration process and maintain the strong existing governance structures within the Church. Initial indications from the Charity Commission are that this will be accepted.

In March 2010, the Standing Committee agreed that the General Synod should be requested to approve the statements on ‘Charitable Purpose’ and ‘Public Benefit’ as guidance documents for use by Church of Ireland Select Vestries or equivalent bodies registering as charities under the new legislation. (Appendix A on page 231).

10. CHILD PROTECTION OFFICER NI REVIEW

In March 2006, the Representative Church Body approved the positions of Child Protection Officers (CPOs) for Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland subject to review by Standing Committee. A CPO NI was appointed in March 2007 on a three-year contract. In June 2009, the Chief Officer requested that the Secretary to the Board of Education NI conduct a review of the role of the CPO in order to inform members of Standing Committee on the need for the continuation of the post.

In January 2009, the review of the role of the CPO NI was submitted to the Standing Committee (Appendix I on page 286). The Standing Committee agreed that the role of the CPO NI should be continued for a further three years subject to a review and recommended to the Representative Church Body Executive Committee that the post should remain full-time on a three-year term. The Committee further recommended that the role description of the post should be amended following the conclusions of the report of the review of the post.

11. CHILDREN’S MINISTRY

The Honorary Secretaries held a meeting in May 2009 in Church House, Dublin regarding children’s ministry in the Church of Ireland. Representatives from the Sunday School Society, the dioceses and other individuals involved in aspects of children’s ministry attended the meeting.

The meeting agreed that some foundational work was necessary and that a sub-group should be appointed to further the work in this area.

In June 2009, the Standing Committee appointed the Children’s Ministry Working Group to examine the practice of children’s ministry in the Church of Ireland and bring forward proposals to meet the needs of the Church in respect of this area of ministry and to report to the Committee in January 2010.

In January 2010, the Standing Committee agreed to the request of the Children’s Ministry Working Group to extend the term of the Group until January 2011 as the Group had concluded that a co-ordinated piece of research into the current shape of children’s ministry is necessary before proposals are developed.

12. CHURCH OF IRELAND COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

In November 2009, on behalf of the General Synod, the Standing Committee appointed the following as governors of the Church of Ireland College of Education:

The Most Rev AET Harper
The Rt Rev MAJ Burrows
The Rt Rev KH Clarke
The Rt Rev TR Williams

13. CIVIL PARTNERSHIP BILL 2009 (RI)

In November 2009, the Standing Committee discussed the *Civil Partnership Bill 2009 (RI)*. The Committee requested that the Church in Society Committee examine the issue and provide a briefing paper to the Committee at the next meeting.

In January 2010, the Standing Committee received the briefing paper from the Church in Society Committee (see Church in Society Report, Appendix F on page 354) and requested that it be forwarded to the Minister for Justice and that a delegation from the Church of Ireland request a meeting with the Minister to discuss the issue further.

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In March 2010, the Church of Ireland delegation met with Mr J Kenny and Ms D O'Brien from the Department of Justice, Equality and Law Reform to discuss the *Civil Partnership Bill 2009 (RI)*. The Church of Ireland delegation was informed that an amendment to include a conscience clause in the bill would not be possible as it could open a floodgate for hate and intolerance. However, the delegation was content that the legislation distinguishes between partnership and the institution of marriage.

The Standing Committee was asked to seek legal counsel in response to the following question:

In the case of a rector and select vestry who would find it difficult to grant the use of a hall to a same sex couple who wish to celebrate their union, where do they stand in civil law (both north and south), and if a civil action were to be taken against the rector and select vestry, would the rector and select vestry be able to avail of the offices of the RCB legal department to defend them on the grounds that refusal was on the basis of the fact that granting the use of the hall would have compromised their conscientious objection to same sex marriages in principle?

The opinion from the RCB legal department is included as Appendix J on page 298.

14. CLERGY TIED HOUSING

In April 2009, the Standing Committee discussed clergy tied housing. It was noted that there are separate difficulties to be addressed regarding clergy tied housing. Firstly, there are a set of issues relating to the various functions of the tied house; it is home to a family, a place of work and has a select vestry making decisions regarding the property. Secondly, there is the issue of a residence for clergy upon retirement. It was noted that there may be a variety of ways to improve the experience of clergy in relation to tied housing without moving away from the model of tied housing.

The Standing Committee agreed a working group should be appointed to consider the issue and that the working group would be empowered to co-opt members to the working group and should aim to co-opt two clergy spouses, one of whom works in the home and another who works outside the home, to ensure a broad view of tied housing for modern clergy families.

The Standing Committee appointed the following to the Clergy Tied Housing Working Group, to examine the issue of clergy tied housing, consult with the Representative Church Body and other appropriate committees, and submit an analysis of the issue to the Standing Committee:

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Standing Committee:	Rev MRK Ferry
House of Bishops:	Rt Rev AF Abernethy
Commission on Ministry:	Ms R Handy
Church of Ireland Marriage Council:	Rev BJ Harper
Representative Church Body Executive Committee:	Mr RW Benson
	Mrs JM Peters

15. CODE OF DUTY AND CONDUCT FOR CLERGY

In April 2009, the Standing Committee discussed the issue of a code of duty and conduct for clergy. The Committee noted that there is existing Canon Law on how a member of the clergy should execute his/her office but that it can be ambiguous and is located in various different places among the Canons and the Ordinal.

It was also stressed that the production of a code of duty and conduct should not imply a shift from the status of ‘office-holder’ to ‘employee’ for clergy and therefore that such a code would have to be very carefully drafted.

In June 2010, the Standing Committee noted that the General Synod 2009 had resolved that the Standing Committee should report to the General Synod, in 2010, on progress towards a code of duty and conduct for ministering in the Church of Ireland. The Committee requested that the Archbishops and Honorary Secretaries invite two people to conduct a preliminary examination of the issue to assess the scale and priorities of the work required and that their finds be reported to the Standing Committee.

It was reported to the Standing Committee in November 2009 that Mr Terence Dunlop and Mrs Karen Erwin had agreed to conduct the preliminary examination of the issue. Rev SA Farrell has agreed to assist the committee with research.

Mr Dunlop is the Secretary of the Judicial Studies Board and is an ordained minister. Mrs Karen Erwin is the founder of Erwin Mediation Services having been a partner in A&L Goodbody Solicitors for 15 years and subsequently executive director of *The Irish Times* for a period of eight years. Their work is ongoing at this time.

16. ECUMENICAL CANONS

In April 2009, the Standing Committee discussed the issue of Ecumenical Canons and agreed in principle that the way forward is to make an amendment to the existing Canons 10 and 11 to which regulations may be attached and that these should be binding as is the case with the *Safeguarding Trust* and the marriage regulations.

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In January 2010, the Legislation Committee reported to the Standing Committee that a considerable amount of work is required to produce an enabling canon and thus has appointed the following people to a sub-group to further the work in this area:

The Rt Hon Sir Anthony Campbell
Rev SE Doogan
Rev FJ McDowell
Ven PF Patterson (Chairman)

The Standing Committee noted that the Legislation Committee anticipates that a special bill to produce an enabling ecumenical canon will be introduced to the General Synod in 2011.

17. GENERAL SYNOD 2010

In June 2009, the Standing Committee debated the issue of holding General Synod on a Sunday. A resolution proposing that the General Synod 2010 be held on Thursday 6, Friday 7 and Saturday 8 May in Christ Church Cathedral Dublin was put before the Standing Committee. An amendment of the dates to Friday 7, Saturday 8 and Sunday 9 May was then proposed. A vote was taken and the amendment was defeated.

The suitability of Christ Church Cathedral as a venue for the General Synod of 2010 was discussed. A proposal to reconsider the location of the General Synod 2010 was put before the Standing Committee. A vote was taken and the proposal was won by 25 votes to 24.

However, following further discussion on the logistics of finding another suitable venue in the time allowed and within budget, the original resolution was proposed and it was resolved that the General Synod in 2010 will be held on 6, 7 and 8 of May in Christ Church Cathedral, Dublin.

18. GENERAL SYNOD 2011

The Standing Committee agreed that the meeting of the General Synod 2011 will be held in the Armagh City Hotel, Armagh on 12, 13 and 14 May.

19. GENERAL SYNOD ROYALTIES FUND

The Standing Committee agreed that a grant of €2,790 be made to the Covenant Council for the publication of its forthcoming booklet exploring the shared liturgical heritage and worship resources of the Church of Ireland and the Methodist Church in Ireland: *Working out the Covenant – a shared spiritual heritage* by Gillian Kingston.

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The Standing Committee approved that the sum of €2,000 be made available from the General Synod Royalties Fund to the Liturgical Advisory Committee for the ongoing development costs of the electronic liturgy subject to an account of invoiced expenditures being returned to the secretariat at the year end for report to the Standing Committee Budget Sub-Committee.

The Standing Committee agreed that a grant of €2,500 be made from the General Synod Royalties Fund for the publication by Church of Ireland Publishing of *Reader Ministry in the Church of Ireland* by George Leckey.

The Standing Committee agreed that a grant of €3,000 be made to the Four Courts Press, Dublin to subvent the republication of the *Letters of Primate Boulter 1724 – 42* (Eds Dr Patrick McNally and Dr Kenneth Milne).

The Standing Committee approved a special grant of €75,000 to the Allocations Committee to support expenditures in the areas of liturgy, education, the purchase of books for the RCB Library and communications for 2010.

The Standing Committee agreed that a grant of €2,700 be made to the Liturgical Advisory Committee for the production costs of the final Year A of *Singing Psalms* to enable the completion of the project.

The Standing Committee approved a grant of €4,000 to the APCK to produce two Church of Ireland information pamphlets.

The Standing Committee agreed that a grant of €2,000 be made to the Church of Ireland College of Education towards the total publication costs of €10,000 for a bi-centenary history of the Kildare Place Society in which the College has its historic roots.

20. GENERAL SYNOD / STANDING COMMITTEE FINANCES

In September 2009, the Standing Committee was addressed by Mr DC Reardon, the Chief Officer of the Representative Church Body. The Standing Committee was informed that for the year 2009 the Church of Ireland would be running a deficit in the region of a six figure sum. It was stated that the Representative Church Body had been prudent during the years of the Celtic Tiger and had built up the Allocations Reserve Fund which in September 2009 stood at €4.7m. However, it was stated that if the Church of Ireland continued to run at such a deficit that the reserve funds would only last for two to three years and that decisions needed to be taken that would secure the financial future of the Church of Ireland in the longer term.

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In light of the financial climate the Allocations Committee requested that the Budget Sub-Committee request a 20% decrease in budget requests for 2010 from the committees.

The Budget Sub-Committee considered budget submissions from the various bodies concerning their projected expenditure for the year 2010, and presented a report to the Standing Committee in September 2009 and a further report in November 2009.

In September 2009, the Chairman of the Budget Sub-Committee requested the Honorary Secretaries to re-evaluate the needs of committees, to allocate members of staff to committees that have a need for substantive work, and, that other committees should work with honorary secretaries to support their administrative needs. It was stated that currently all Church House staff had agreed to a voluntary pay freeze last year and that a number of staff had taken voluntary unpaid sabbaticals. It was also noted that there had been a 29% reduction in synod staff since the previous year and that currently the synod office was operating with a core staff of 2.5 people.

Following consideration of the reports, recommendations were submitted to the Representative Church Body Allocations Committee.

21. HARD GOSPEL IMPLEMENTATION GROUP

In January 2010, following a request from the Hard Gospel Implementation Group, the Standing Committee adopted the following:

That the Standing Committee revises the terms of reference for the Hard Gospel Implementation Group, which was originally configured as an implementation body in the following way:

- a. That the HGIG will facilitate a twice-yearly survey of the structures of the Church against the proposals in the report *Living with Difference: A Reality Check* and make a report with recommendations to specific bodies or group based on the survey results.
- b. That the HGIG will research the availability of statistics about the Church of Ireland and will seek to gather and collate these figures to build a picture of the Church at all levels, in order to inform the Group's work in promoting the value of diversity and participation in Church life.
- c. That, in the context of the comments of the Budget Sub-Committee in its report to the Standing Committee in September 2009, the prioritisation of the proposals in the report *Living with Difference: A Reality Check* will address

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first those things that can be achieved at least cost to avoid incurring additional financial or personnel resource costs at a time when the Standing Committee is seeking to achieve further cutbacks.

The interim report of the Hard Gospel Implementation Group is included as Appendix K on page 302.

22. HISTORIOGRAPHER'S REPORT

A report from the Church of Ireland Historiographer, Dr K Milne, is included as Appendix L on page 303.

23. INTERCHANGEABILITY OF MINISTRY

In June 2009, the Standing Committee received an interim report (Appendix M on page 305) from the Interchangeability of Ministry Working Group and agreed that the Working Group could continue its work in consultation with its counterpart group in the Methodist Church in Ireland with the authority and encouragement of the Standing Committee.

In March 2010, the Standing Committee was informed that the Church of Ireland Interchangeability of Ministry Working Group had held two joint meetings with the Methodist Church in Ireland Interchangeability of Ministry Working Group. The Church of Ireland Interchangeability of Ministry Working Group submitted a report to the Standing Committee (Appendix N on page 307).

A joint statement of agreed principles (Appendix O on page 308) composed at the joint meetings of the Interchangeability of Ministry Working Groups was also submitted to the Standing Committee in March 2010. The Standing Committee commended the agreed principles of the interchangeability of ministry and requested that they be reported to the General Synod in 2010 and encouraged the continuing of the dialogue as a matter of priority for the Church of Ireland.

24. INTERIM BOARD FOR SOCIAL THEOLOGY IN ACTION

In March 2009, the Standing Committee approved the restructuring proposal from the Church in Society Committee, the Board for Social Responsibility RI and the Board for Social Action NI that was subsequently received by the General Synod in May 2009.

In January 2010, the Interim Board for Social Theology in Action made a number of proposals to the Standing Committee and the following resolutions were adopted:

That the Standing Committee concludes the business of the Board for Social Action (NI), the Board for Social Responsibility (RI) and the Church in Society Committee from the day preceding the first day of the General Synod 2010.

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That the Standing Committee requires that the General Purpose and Finance Committee of the Church of Ireland Board for Social Responsibility (NI), a company limited by guarantee, shall report to the Standing Committee no less than once per annum.

That the Standing Committee authorises the Interim Board for Social Theology in Action to draft role descriptions for prospective members of the new Board and that expressions of interest for membership may be sought.

The Interim Board for Social Theology in Action presented its final proposal to the Standing Committee in March 2010 (Appendix P on page 310).

25. IRISH COUNCIL OF CHURCHES

In March 2010, the Standing Committee ratified the appointment of the following to represent the Church of Ireland on the Irish Council of Churches for the year 2010:

The Most Rev JRW Neill	Rev Canon MD Gardner
Mr GC Casey	Mr J McGaffin
The Most Rev RL Clarke	Mrs R McKelvey
Rev Canon Dr IM Ellis	Dr K Milne
Rev Canon R Fox	Mr WT Morrow
Ms R Handy	Rev DR Nuzum
Mr SR Harper	Rev TDB Pierce
Rev EJ Harris	Ms U Raab
Rev Canon WA Lewis	Rev OC Ulogwara
Rev MWJ Loney	The Rt Rev TR Williams

26. MEISSEN AGREEMENT

A meeting of the Meissen Commission was held in Whalley Abbey, Diocese of Blackburn from 17 to 21 September 2009 and attended by Rev Canon Dr IM Ellis as the Observer for the Celtic Anglican Churches. The report of the meeting is attached as Appendix Q on page 320.

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 the burial of non-Christians in Church of Ireland graveyards. After consideration the Standing Committee submitted the following questions to the General Synod Legal Advisory Committee:

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- a) 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?
- b) 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?
- c) If the answer to questions a) and/or b) 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?

Following consideration the General Synod Legal Advisory Committee agreed the following with regard to:

Pre-disestablishment Graveyards

The following are entitled to be buried therein as of right:

- Every person living in the parish at the time of his death of whatever faith or of no faith. (Church of Ireland, Journal of the General Synod, 1945, p 20)
- Every person dying in the parish of whatever faith or of no faith. (Church of Ireland, Journal of the General Synod, 1945, p 20)

The incumbent and churchwardens are entitled to decide the place of burial. (Church of Ireland Constitution Ch XII, Section 4 (2))

No fee may be charged unless established by immemorial usage. (RCB v Neill and Marshall (1892) 26 ILTR 419 and Morgan and others v Semple (1893) 28 ILTR 543)

Reasonable fee may be charged for a tombstone. (RCB v Warnock (1886) 20 ILTR 28)

If the deceased is of a Christian denomination he or she is entitled to a burial service according to the rites of that denomination at the graveside. (31 & 32 VICT c 103 (1868))

The deceased may be buried without any burial service at all. (31&32 VICT c 103 (1868))

Post-disestablishment Graveyards

These are held in trust for the Church of Ireland parishioners and accordingly they have a general right of burial therein as do any members of the Church of Ireland who die in the parish. (Church of Ireland, Journal of the General Synod 1945, p 19)

Pre & Post-disestablishment Graveyards

Other persons, not having a general right, may be buried in a pre-disestablishment or post-disestablishment graveyard with the permission of the incumbent and churchwardens. (Church of Ireland Constitution Ch XII, Section 4 (1))

In such cases the incumbent and churchwardens may give permission for the holding of a burial service at the graveside according to the rites of other Christian denominations. (Church of Ireland Constitution Ch XII, Section 4 (1))

The Legal Advisory Committee recommends that guidance be given by the House of Bishops to incumbents and churchwardens as to how they should exercise their discretion with regard to a request for permission to read a non-Christian burial service at the graveside.

28. NON-STIPENDIARY MINISTER PAYMENT RATES

In 2009, the General Synod passed Bill No 5 to amend Chapter IX of the Constitution. This is now Statute, Chapter V of 2009 and permits the making of payments to persons serving in the auxiliary ministry. The statute empowers the Representative Church Body to produce rules for payments to auxiliary ministers that must be approved by the Standing Committee.

In January 2010, the Standing Committee received *Rules governing remuneration, expenses and other matters relating to payments to Auxiliary Ministers for duties* from the Representative Church Body.

The Standing Committee approved the rules but requested that the Representative Church Body amend rule number five of this document to reduce the maximum number of sessions that an auxiliary minister undertakes from 18 to 14 sessions per week.

29. PARISH DEVELOPMENT WORKING GROUP

The report of the Parish Development Working Group is included as Appendix R on page 322.

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30. PRIORITIES FUND COMMITTEE

- (a) The following allocations from the Priorities Fund were approved by the Standing Committee in March 2010:

ALLOCATION OF GRANTS FROM 2009 PRIORITIES FUND

Ministry	€
Arrow Leadership Programme – To enable leaders in the Church of Ireland to participate in the Arrow 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) – Final year	16,890
The Centre for Celtic Spirituality, Armagh – Funding to support the growing work of this Centre, in order that it may become self-sustaining – (Stg€7,500)	8,445
The House of Bishops – To support continuing ministerial education in the dioceses	60,000
United Dioceses of Cashel and Ossory – To fund the establishment of new accredited courses in lay faith development and clergy professional formation	8,000
Sub-total	€103,335
Retirement	
C of I Clergy Pensions Fund – Additional income for most needy	2,872
Sub-total	€2,199
Education	
Eco Congregation Ireland – To obtain seed funding to enable this organisation to encourage churches to incorporate environmental issues into worship, lifestyle and community outreach – (€3,000 – First year : €2,000 – Second year : €1,000 – Third year) – First year	3,000
Love for Life (NI) – Financial assistance for pastoral core training, advice and support to church and clergy, around sexuality issues – (€7,000 – First year : €5,000 – Second year : €3,000 – Third year) – First year	7,000
Summer Madness – Funding to help us equip young people in the field of personal relationships and to excite and inspire them with a vision of God’s plan for love, sex and marriage – (Stg€1,000)	1,126
Villiers School, Limerick – Financial assistance to furnish and complete a sacred space within the school	5,000

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The following applications all concern youth work and the grants allocation take into consideration recommendations made by the Executive Committee of 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) – Third year	16,890
C of I Youth Department – To assist CIYD in meeting the running costs of the Jump Programme – (Stg£15,000 per year for 3 years) – First year	16,890
3Rock Youth (Dublin and Glendalough) – To assist financially with the purchase of a RE-Source delivery system and the ‘Year of the Student’ programme	8,000
Boringwells.org (Down and Dromore) – Funding for Tiny’s, a fresh expression of church, reaching out into a community of teenagers – (Stg£3,300)	3,716
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) – Third year	3,500
Cork, Cloyne and Ross Diocesan Youth Council – Funding to further progress the dioceses’ new initiative, of Mission to secondary schools, over a three year period – (€10,000 – First year : €6,000 – Second year : €4,000 – Third year) – First year	10,000
Derry and Raphoe Youth – To assist with the development of an extended programme of youth projects in Derry and Raphoe, in partnership with the establishment of a diocesan youth officer – (Stg£6,610)	7,443
Dungiven Parish (Derry) – Funding for the establishment of a project, aimed at providing a fresh expression of youth orientated church, in a rural context – (Stg£20,000 – First year : Stg£15,000 – Second year : Stg£10,000 – Third year) – First year	22,520
Elemental (Diocesan Youth Initiative for Cashel and Ossory) – To assist with funding for the growth of Elemental (Youth Ministry Development Agency), as it pioneers and partners in the development of local and regional youth ministry, across our dioceses	15,000
Fusion, Lisburn Cathedral (Connor) – Financial assistance to create a dynamic ministry, to impact teenagers with creative arts and multimedia style materials, that speaks into their lifestyle – (Stg£17,000 – First year : Stg£7,000 – Second year) – Second year	7,882
Greenisland Realway Adopt a Station Project (Connor) – To assist with the continuing development of the GRASP drop-in centre – (Stg£5,000 – First year : Stg£3,000 – Second year : Stg£2,000 – Third year) – First year	5,630
Kilkeel Parish Bridge Association Limited – Funding to establish the new youth outreach work between Jims and Kingdom Youth Club, to build on relationships between Catholic and Protestant young people, in the Kilkeel and surrounding areas – (Stg£2,000 – First year : Stg£1,000 – Second year : Stg£1,000 – Third year) – First year	2,252
Meath and Kildare Diocesan Council – To assist financially with the initial set-up, training and programme costs, for a new youth initiative in the diocese	14,000
North Sligo Parishes (Elphin) – Financial assistance for initiatives among children and young people, in the North Sligo parishes of Sligo Cathedral Group, Calry and Drumcliffe	8,000
St Augustine’s Church, Londonderry (Derry) – Funding for the continuation of the AllTogether Now Project, with a special emphasis on youth ministry – (Stg£5,000)	5,630

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Diocese of Connor – Financial support for a new project, reaching out to children in a deprived area of West Belfast, through a Kidz Club and Homework Club – (Stg£9,855)	11,097
St Jude’s Church, Ballynafeigh (Down) – To develop a new phase of youth, children’s and family work within the community, largely with single parent families, in a widely unchurched community – (Stg£3,087)	3,476
St Mary’s Parish, Ballybeen (Down) – Funding for the continuation of 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 – (Stg£6,000 – First year : Stg£4,000 – Second year : Stg£3,000 – Third year) – Second year	4,504
The Logic Cafe, St John’s Parish, Moira (Dromore) – Financial assistance to further develop the work of the Logic Cafe – (Stg£8,000 – First year : Stg£6,000 – Second year : Stg£4,000 – Third year) – Second year	6,756
Willowfield Parish Community Association (Down) – Financial assistance for a project to reach out to over 150 children in inner city Belfast, e.g. homework clubs, English classes for ethnic minority children and a Kidz Klub programme to introduce them to the Christian faith – (Stg£25,000 – First year : Stg£20,000 – Second year : Stg£15,000 – Third year) – Second year	22,520
Xpression (Armagh) – To assist with the ongoing development of the Xpression cross community outreach initiative – (Stg£1,500)	1,689
Sub-total	€213,521

Community

Ballina Churches Together – Provision of facilities and equipment to allow BCT to reach out to those in need, in particular the unemployed and their families	15,000
Church of Ireland Board for Social Action (NI) – To access additional funding/resources to build on a service, the C of I Board for Social Action/Adoption Routes successfully tendered to provide, from 2009 – 2012 – (Stg£2,500)	2,815
Cleenish Renewal Company Limited (Clogher) – Funding for the provision of equipment and help with running costs, for a new Christian youth centre on the edge of Lough Erne – (Stg£20,000 – First year : Stg£10,000 – Second year) – First year	22,520
Maghera Parish Caring Association (Derry) – To provide helpful support and advice, in a safe, neutral and friendly environment, for the unemployed people of Maghera, Swatragh and Upperlands – (Stg£2,000)	2,252
PACT, Dublin – To assist financially with the setting up of a post adoption support service, for adoptive families in the Protestant community	8,000
The Beacon Project (NI) – To assist financially with a cross community church based initiative, helping people meet the challenge of job loss resulting from the recession – (Stg£2,000)	2,252
The Brabazon Trust, Dublin – Support towards the funding of the enlarged nursing unit	27,500
The Link, Newtownards – To assist financially with cross community and youth work, in partnership with local churches in the Ards area – (Stg£10,000)	11,260
The Mageough Home, Dublin – Funding to assist with the on-going project, of bringing the 131 year old houses up to a modern level of comfort, required by new residents in 2009	10,000

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The Open Hands Centre at St Luke's Parish (Connor) - To assist financially with the establishment of this centre, to create a safe space and place of friendship, for people from both sides of the sectarian divide – (Stg£8,000)	9,008
Willowfield Parish Community Association (Down) – Funding for a project to reach out to people living with the affects of poverty and deprivation, in East Belfast, in ways that demonstrate Christianity in action – (Stg£20,000)	22,520

Sub-total **€133,127**

Areas of Need

Ardfert – Killarney and Aghadoe Union – Funding to furnish and equip the newly built Aghadoe Room, for outreach and pastoral purposes	6,000
Armagh – St Mark's Parish, Portadown – To assist financially with an outreach ministry project, with alcoholics and drug addicts – (Stg£7,500 – First year : Stg£5,000 – Second year : Stg£2,500 – Third year) – First year	8,445
Connor – Grouped Parishes of Finaghy and Upper Malone – Financial contribution towards new ministry to parents and children – (Stg£5,000)	5,630
Derry – Parish of Camus-Juxta-Bann – To resource development of mission and ministry in the community, through weekly lunches and to develop an internet cafe, to provide computer courses for the unemployed – (Stg£5,000)	5,630
Down – Christ Church Primacy – Funding to reach out to children and families in a disadvantaged and deprived area of Bangor, through Kidz Klub, family support schemes and a fresh expression of church – (Stg£12,000 – First year : Stg£9,000 – Second year : Stg£6,000 – Third year) – First year	13,512
Dromore – Seagoe Parish – Financial assistance for the development of outreach ministry within the parish – (Stg£10,000)	11,260
Ossory – St Lachtain's Church, Freshford – Financial assistance to equip a parish facility, for community outreach	1,500

Sub-total **€51,977**

Outreach Initiatives

Christ Church Primacy (Down) – Funding to provide a service offering practical help to people who are struggling with debts, in the wider Bangor area – (Stg£9,000 – First year : Stg£7,500 – Second year : Stg£5,000 – Third year) – First year	10,134
Church of the Pentecost, Mount Merrion (Down) – To assist financially with the development of the outreach ministry of the church – (Stg£40,000 – First year : Stg£20,000 – Second year : Stg£15,000 – Third year) – First year	45,040
CORE Church (Dublin) – Funding to enable four key outreach projects establish firm foundations, develop and expand	10,000
CREED (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) – Final year	16,890
Knocknagoney Parish (Down) – Funding to enable the further development of creative ministry and outreach, to a disadvantaged community – (Stg£10,000)	11,260

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Magheralin Parish (Dromore) – Financial assistance for the launch of a Christians Against Poverty centre, to help people who are experiencing financial difficulties – (Stg£9,000 – First year : Stg£7,500 – Second year : Stg£5,000 – Third year) – First year	10,134
Muckamore Parish Development Association (Connor) – To assist with re-establishing the outreach work of the parish in the Ballycraig housing area and re-connecting with the unchurched of Muckamore – (Stg£30,000 – First year : Stg£22,000 – Second year : Stg£14,000 – Third year) – Second year	24,772
Willowfield Parish (Down) – Funding to enable the setting up of a centre, to provide debt counselling, for the people of East Belfast – (Stg£9,000 – First year : Stg£7,500 – Second year : Stg£5,000 – Third year) – First year	10,134
Sub-total	€138,364

Innovative Ministry in a Rural Context

Clones Rural Deanery Team Ministry Project (Clogher) – Funding to enable a team deliver a range of activities, across twelve parishes and the local community	950
Kilcooley Management Group (Cashel) – Funding for the redevelopment of the residential conference centre	20,000
St John’s Church, Clonduff (Dromore) – Seed funding for the initial set up costs involved in the restoration of a disused church building, for use as a centre for emotional healing – (Stg£13,000)	14,638
Sub-total	€35,588
Total Allocated	€678,111

Sterling grants have been converted to Euro using the 2009 end of year rate of 0.8881.

Following a recommendation from the Priorities Fund Committee, the Standing Committee in March 2010, agreed that diocesan targets for contributions to the 2011 Fund should not be increased.

- (b) Accounts for the year ended 31 December 2009 are included as Appendix S on page 324. Contributions to the Fund do not close until the end of February. The amount actually received by 28 February was €520,753.

31. UNITED NATIONS COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN

The Rev Canon DTS Clements represented the Church of Ireland at the 53rd Session of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women that was held in New York from 2 to 13 March 2009. Canon Clements also represented the Church of Ireland at the International Anglican Women's Network Conference from 22 to 27 February 2009. A report is included as Appendix T on page 326.

In November 2009, the Standing Committee agreed that a representative from the Church of Ireland would not be sent to the 54th Session of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women that is due to be held in New York from 1 to 12 March 2010 due to the current financial climate.

32. WORKING GROUP ON THE CONSULTATIVE GROUP ON THE PAST

In November 2009, the Standing Committee ratified the response of the Church of Ireland Working Group on the Consultative Group on the Past to the Northern Ireland Office (NIO) consultation on the recommendations of the Consultative Group on the Past. It is available for viewing at this address:

<http://www.ireland.anglican.org/officialsubmissions>

33. WORKING GROUP ON DISABILITY

A report from the Working Group on Disability is included as Appendix U on page 330.

34. OBITUARY

The following member died since the last session:

Dr RG Marsh