

APPENDIX K

HARD GOSPEL IMPLEMENTATION GROUP INTERIM REPORT

The Hard Gospel Implementation Group met with the Honorary Secretaries of the General Synod, the Archbishops and Bishops, the Director of the Theological Institute and the Church of Ireland Youth Department and received submissions from, among others, the Rev Canon Doris Clements and the Rev Paul Hoey. After six months, the Working Group reviewed progress made against the proposals in the report *Living with Difference, A Reality Check*. It was agreed that considerable progress had been made by the Theological Institute in developing an elective module on Reconciliation, which was taken by all of the Ordinands in the current academic year. The Honorary Secretaries reported on the efforts to explore different times of meeting and ways of conducting business in the General Synod and the efforts to bring greater flexibility to times and places of meetings to meet the needs of volunteers within the committee system. Greater use has been made of teleconferencing and electronic media to enable wider participation in committee work. The Working Group has identified enhancing the participation of younger people and of women in the structures of the Church at all levels as significant issues to be addressed and plan to make recommendations on this on the basis of pilot projects and research that is currently being undertaken. The legacy of the Hard Gospel Project is proving a valuable resource to our Church at every level, in learning to live positively with difference. The Working Group applied to the Standing Committee in January 2010 to review its terms of reference to enable it to work more effectively to facilitate progress by the various parts of the Church. In future, the Working Group will conduct a six-monthly review and will report with recommendations to maintain the dynamic of progress in this area.