

**APPENDIX N**

**INTERCHANGEABILITY OF MINISTRY WORKING GROUP REPORT**

Rt Rev MAJ Burrows  
Rev SE Doogan  
Very Rev NK Dunne  
Rt Rev KR Good  
Mr SR Harper

Rev FJ McDowell  
Very Rev SM Patterson  
Rev PA Thompson  
Miss CS Turner  
Ven REB White

The Interchangeability of Ministry Working Group met in May 2009 to consider the implications of discussion at the General Synod regarding the issue of interchangeability of ministry. The Working Group decided that in order to make further progress, it would be important to establish a direct relationship with the Methodist Church's parallel Working Group.

In June 2009, the Interchangeability of Ministry Working Group presented an interim report to the Standing Committee. The Standing Committee subsequently resolved that the Interchangeability of Ministry Working Group should continue its work with its counterpart group in the Methodist Church with the authority and encouragement of the Standing Committee. A joint meeting was held in December, with a further meeting in February 2010.

The joint meeting began to identify the agreed points and also those issues which are currently unresolved. The unresolved issues include theological points of understanding, notably the manner in which personal episcopate is, or could be manifested in, both churches without compromising the best traditions of either as well as some practical matters. However, in February, the two groups produced a set of agreed principles which focus on the aspects of progress that has been made. These are set out at the end of this report. A key to this is the close relationship in terms of office and function between Church of Ireland Bishops and the Presidents/Past Presidents of the Methodist Church.

Both groups agreed that the unresolved issues would require time to explore and to discern the right way forward for both Churches. However, there was also great warmth and a strong inclination to maintain forward progress within the framework of the Covenant.

There are also several areas of developmental ministry work that are common to both Churches and the joint meeting agreed that there would be mutual benefit in sharing more deeply on these issues. Both Churches are of course convinced that any interchangeability of ministry must have its tangible outworking in the strengthening of both Methodists and Anglicans for mission.