

Standing Committee – Report 2011

STANDING COMMITTEE

REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS LAID BEFORE

THE GENERAL SYNOD AT ITS

ONE HUNDRED AND FORTY-FIRST ORDINARY SESSION 2011

Standing Committee – Report 2011

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

HONORARY SECRETARIES OF THE GENERAL SYNOD

Ven Robin Bantry White, Moviddy Rectory, Aherla, Co Cork

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

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

Mrs Ethne Harkness, 134 Coagh Road, Stewartstown, Co Tyrone, BT71 5LL

ASSISTANT SECRETARY – Mrs Janet Maxwell

SYNOD OFFICER – Ms Jenny Polden

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Standing Committee – Report 2011

CONTENTS	PAGE
1 Summary	215
2 Names and Attendances of Members	215
3 Anglican Covenant	219
4 Appointments	220
5 Audit of Accounts	221
6 Bethany Home	221
7 Bishops' Appeal Advisory Committee	222
8 Board for Social Theology in Action	222
9 Central Communications Board	222
10 Child Protection Officer (RI) Review	223
11 Children's Ministry	223
12 Clergy Tied Housing	224
13 Code of Duty and Conduct for Clergy	224
14 Complaints and Disciplinary Procedure	225
15 Ecumenical Canon	225
16 General Synod 2012	225
17 General Synod / Standing Committee Finances	226
18 General Synod Royalties Fund	226
19 General Synod Request for <i>Ex-Officio</i> Membership	227
20 Hard Gospel Implementation Group	227
21 Historiographer's Report	227
22 Meissen Agreement	228
23 Parish Development Working Group	228
24 Priorities Fund	228
25 Programme for Cohesion, Sharing and Integration	233
26 Provincial Mediation Panels and Severance Fund Review	233
27 Review of Committees	233
28 Speaking Rights at General Synod for Ecumenical Guests	234
29 Stipends Review	234
30 Working Group on Disability	235
31 Obituary	235

Standing Committee – Report 2011

Appendices

	Page
A Resolutions to be Proposed to the General Synod	236
B Resolution Regarding the Anglican Covenant – briefing paper	238
C Bishops’ Appeal Advisory Committee – report	241
D Board for Social Theology in Action – report	248
E Central Communications Board – report	252
F Child Protection Officer (RI) Review	261
G Children’s Ministry Working Group – report	274
H Code of Duty and Conduct for Clergy Working Group – interim report	278
I Complaints Committee – income and expenditure account	280
J Hard Gospel Implementation Group – report	281
K Historiographer’s report	283
L Meissen Commission Meeting September 2010 – report	285
M Parish Development Working Group – report	288
N Priorities Fund Accounts Year Ended 31 December 2010	290
O Programme for Cohesion, Sharing and Integration – submission	292
P Purposeful Re-organisation	309
Q Minimum Approved Stipend Process Review – proposal	314
R Working Group on Disability – report	315
S Receipts and Disbursements Account and General Purposes Fund	316

Standing Committee – Report 2011

1. SUMMARY

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

- The Anglican Covenant
- Child Protection Officer (RI) Review
- Children's Ministry
- Ecumenical Canons

2. NAMES AND ATTENDANCE 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 Robin Bantry White
5	Rev John McDowell
6	Mr Samuel Harper
4 †	Canon Lady Sheil
1 *	Mrs Ethne Harkness

Elected Members

Diocese

Armagh	3	Very Rev Patrick Rooke
	1	Rev Shane Forster
	2	Mr Leslie Johnston
		None available
Clogher	4	Rev Canon John Stewart
	4	Rev Brian Kerr
	6	Mr Walter Pringle
	6	Mr Glenn Moore

Standing Committee – Report 2011

Derry	5	Rev Patricia Storey
	5	Rev Robert Miller
	6	Mr Robert Pollock
	0	Mr Kenneth Witherow
Down	6	Ven Phillip Patterson
	4	Rev Simon Doogan
	6	Mrs Hilary McClay
	6	Mr Andrew Brannigan
Connor	3	Ven Stephen McBride
	6	Rev Stephen Fielding
	4	Mr Roy Totten
	6	Mr Peter Hamill
Kilmore	5	Very Rev Raymond Ferguson
	6	Rev Craig McCauley
	4	Mr David Gillespie
	6	Mrs Brigid Barrett
Tuam	3	◦ Rev Canon Denis Sandes
	6	Ven Gary Hastings
	6	Mr Denzil Auchmuty
		None available
Dublin	5	Very Rev Katharine Poulton
	6	Rev Gillian Wharton
	6	Dr Valerie Jones
	1	Mr Lyndon MacCann SC

Standing Committee – Report 2011

Meath	4	Very Rev Robert Jones
	2	Rev Lynda Peilow
	4	Mrs Joan Bruton
		None available
Cashel	6	Ven John Murray
	4	Rev Arthur Minion
	5	Mr Cecil Wellwood
	3	Mr Eric Driver
Cork	4	Very Rev Christopher Peters
	4	Rev Adrian Wilkinson
	5	Mr Wilfred Baker
	1	Mr Roy Buttimer
Limerick	4	Very Rev Maurice Sirr
	5	Rev Canon Stephen Neill
	6	Mr Adrian Hilliard
	4	Mr Edward Hardy

Co-opted Members

5	Rev Canon Patrick Comerford	6	Mr Andrew McNeile
5	Rev George Davison	3	Ven Richard Rountree
6	Rev Dr Maurice Elliott	4	Ms Catherine Turner
6	Rev Andrew Forster		

† Retired December 2010 * Honorary Secretary March 2011

◦ Elected July 2010

Standing Committee – Report 2011

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 Wilfred Baker
Rev Shane Forster
The Honorary Secretaries

LEGAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Hon Mr Justice Declan Budd	The Hon Mrs Justice Catherine McGuinness
His Honour Judge Tom Burgess	Mr William Prentice
The Rt Hon Sir Anthony Campbell	His Honour Judge Derek Rodgers
Mr Michael Davey	The Hon Mr Justice Ben Stephens
Mr Lyndon MacCann SC	Mr John Wilson QC
The Honorary Secretaries	

PRIORITIES FUND COMMITTEE

Capt Neville Barnes	Mrs Jane Leighton
Mrs Joan Bruton	Ven Stephen McBride
Rev George Davison	Mr Roy Totten
Mr Sam Harper	Rev Adrian Wilkinson

BUDGET SUB-COMMITTEE

Mr Wilfred Baker	Rev John McDowell
Mr Sam Harper	Mr Andrew McNeile
Mr Leslie Johnston	Mr Roy Totten

WORLD DEVELOPMENT – BISHOPS’ APPEAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Rt Rev Michael Burrows	Rev Canon Patrick Harvey
Rev Olive Donohoe	Mr William Kingston
Ms Ruth Handy	Rev Jonathan Pierce
Rev Elizabeth Hanna	Mrs Alison Rooke
Most Rev Alan Harper	Mr Albert Smallwoods

Standing Committee – Report 2011

LAY JUDGES OF THE COURT OF THE GENERAL SYNOD

The Hon Mr Justice Declan Budd	Mr Lyndon MacCann SC
His Honour Judge Tom Burgess	The Hon Mrs Justice Catherine McGuinness
The Rt Hon Sir Anthony Campbell	Mr Ronald Robins SC
The Rt Hon Lord Justice Paul Girvan	The Hon Mr Justice Ben Stephens
Mr Patrick Good	Mr John Wilson QC

3. ANGLICAN COVENANT

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 (*Book of Reports 2010* 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 (*Book of Reports 2010* 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.

In November 2010, the Commission for Christian Unity and Dialogue recommended to the Standing Committee that the Anglican Covenant be presented to the General Synod 2011 as a simple motion.

The Standing Committee agreed that an opinion from the archbishops and bishops should be sought to advise whether the Anglican Covenant is consonant with the doctrines and formularies of the Church of Ireland.

In January 2011, the Standing Committee received a letter from the archbishops and bishops stating that they were “of the opinion that the Anglican Covenant is consonant with the doctrines and formularies of the Church of Ireland”. The archbishops and bishops also suggested that the term ‘subscribe’ rather than ‘adopt’ may be more suitable terminology for use in the proposed motion to the General Synod 2011 and the Standing Committee agreed.

In March 2011, the Anglican Covenant Working Group submitted a briefing paper (Appendix B on page 238) regarding the Anglican Covenant to the Standing Committee. The Standing Committee agreed that the briefing paper should be publicised on the website, sent to parishes and dioceses, included in the *Book of Reports 2011* and in the stipends mailing.

Standing Committee – Report 2011

4. APPOINTMENTS

Committee etc	Name
Annual Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends, Lisburn, April 2010	Very Rev John Bond
General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church, Belfast, June 2010	The Rt Rev Michael Jackson Mr Leslie Johnston
Conference of the Methodist Church, Belfast, June 2010	The Rt Rev Harold Miller Mrs Hilary McClay
General Synod of the Scottish Episcopal Church, Edinburgh, June 2010	Rev Dr Maurice Elliott
General Synod of the Church of England, York, July 2010	Ven Robin White
Meissen Commission Meeting, Wittenberg, Germany, September 2010	Rev Canon Dr Ian Ellis
General Synod of the Church of England, Westminster, November 2010	The Most Rev Alan Harper
Anglican Consultative Council Lay Representative	Mr Wilfred Baker
Association of Church of Ireland Press Ltd	Very Rev William Morton Rev John Auchmuty Dr Valerie Jones Mr Anthony Forbes Mr Geoffrey Perrin Mr David Pyle Mr Donald Kerr Mrs Vera Hamilton Mrs Sheila McCormick Mr Patrick Good Mr Dermot O'Callaghan Mr Albert Fenton
Four Nations' Faith and Order Consultation	The Rt Rev Michael Jackson Rev Niall Sloane
Four Nations' Faith and Order Reference Group	The Rt Rev Michael Jackson
Executive Committee of the Irish Council of Churches	Dr Kenneth Milne

Standing Committee – Report 2011

Irish Council of Churches	The Most Rev Richard Clarke The Rt Rev Alan Abernethy The Rt Rev Trevor Williams Rev Canon David Crooks Rev Canon Walter Lewis Rev Grace Clunie Rev John McDowell Rev Daniel Nuzum Rev Niall Sloane Rev Helene Steed Rev Obinna Ulogwara Ms Ruth Handy Mr Sam Harper Mrs Roberta McKelvey Dr Kenneth Milne Ms Uta Rabb Ms Catherine Turner Rev Canon Dr Ian Ellis
Irish Council of Churches Board of Overseas Affairs	Mr Colin Ferguson Dr Kenneth Milne
Irish Inter Church Meeting Church in Society Forum	Mrs Hilary McClay Dr Kenneth Milne Mr Trevor Morrow

5. AUDIT OF ACCOUNTS

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

6. BETHANY HOME

In September 2010, the Archbishop of Dublin read the following statement he had made on 15 September 2010 regarding Bethany Home:

It is a matter of grave concern and deep pain that in the first half of the last century Bethany Home, which was operated by an independent charity with a Protestant ethos, should have been inadequate to its task. As Archbishop of Dublin, I lament the fact that women and children suffered through the reported failures of the charity. My paramount concern is a pastoral one for those women and children who suffered through physical neglect or abuse of any kind. Whilst recognising the apparent poverty of the Bethany Home, the allegations of a lack of human kindness and compassion are deeply disturbing. As the largest church within the wider Protestant community, we recognise that many residents of the home would have

Standing Committee – Report 2011

been Church of Ireland members and that the Church of Ireland community engaged in public fundraising for the home. Furthermore, I acknowledge that some clergy and laity were involved in a personal capacity in the management of the Bethany Home. I am deeply concerned at the information revealed by recent research and the Church of Ireland has repeatedly petitioned the State to have the home brought under the remit of the Residential Institutions Redress Board.

The Standing Committee agreed that it wished to associate itself with this statement.

7. BISHOPS' APPEAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The World Development Bishops' Appeal Advisory Committee report is included in Appendix C on page 241.

8. BOARD FOR SOCIAL THEOLOGY IN ACTION

At the meeting of the Standing Committee in April 2010 the following were appointed as members of the new Board for Social Theology in Action:

Mr Andrew Brannigan	Mr Kenneth Gibson
Mrs Anne Brown	Rev Kenneth Hall
Dr Rory Corbett	Rev Victoria Lynch
Rev Adrian Dorrian	Mrs Hilary McClay

As per the terms of reference for the Board for Social Theology in Action the Rt Rev Michael Jackson was appointed to the Board by the archbishops and bishops and Mr Samuel Harper was appointed to the Board by the Honorary Secretaries. The Archbishop of Armagh, the Archbishop of Dublin and the chairperson of the General Purposes and Finance Committee of the Church of Ireland Board for Social Responsibility (NI) also are *ex-officio* members of the Board for Social Theology in Action.

The Board for Social Theology in Action report is included in Appendix D on page 248.

9. CENTRAL COMMUNICATIONS BOARD

A report from the Central Communications Board, which includes the work of the Broadcasting Committee and the Literature Committee is included as Appendix E on page 252.

10. CHILD PROTECTION OFFICER RI 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 Child Protection Officer for the Republic of Ireland (CPO RI) was appointed in September 2007 on a three-year contract. In December 2009, the Chief Officer requested that the Head of Synod Services and Communications 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. The Child Protection Officer RI review is included as Appendix F on page 261.

In June 2010, the Standing Committee resolved that the role of Child Protection Officer RI be continued for a further three years subject to a review and recommends to the Representative Church Body Executive Committee that the post remains part-time on a three-year term. It further recommends that the role description of the post be amended following the conclusions of the report of the review of the post.

11. CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

The Children's Ministry Working Group presented a report (Appendix G on page 274) to the Standing Committee in November 2010. Following discussion the Standing Committee requested that the Children's Ministry Working Group enter discussions with the Church of Ireland Youth Department and bring forward proposals to the Standing Committee in January 2011. This process was successful and in January 2011, the Standing Committee passed the following resolution:

Standing Committee directs the Honorary Secretaries to set up a Children's Ministry Network. This Network will consist of one member nominated by the bishop of each diocese (or united diocese) and 3 additional co-opted members as chosen by the Network. The Boards of Education NI and RI would be asked to agree to nominate an *ex-officio* member to the Children's Ministry Network. The Church of Ireland Youth Officer will attend the Children's Ministry Network and the Network will nominate a member to attend board meetings of the Church of Ireland Youth Department (CIYD), both as observers.

One of the Honorary Secretaries will convene and chair the first meeting of the Network. At this first meeting the Network will appoint its own officers and working groups. The Network will report to Standing Committee twice per year at meetings directed by the Honorary Secretaries.

Standing Committee – Report 2011

The Network will have the following roles:

- to organise meetings of the Network on at least an annual basis;
- to make available to diocesan children's ministry representatives the most up-to-date information on relevant training and resources in order to support volunteers working in children's ministry;
- to investigate the provision of a support network for those employed in children's ministry;
- to engage in discussion with CIYD to develop a proposed joint Children's and Youth strategy with the long term aim of a common children's and youth department. To present this proposed strategy to Standing Committee for discussion at General Synod 2012.

The Standing Committee then sent letters to the 12 dioceses of the Church of Ireland requesting that either the bishop or commissary nominate a person to the new Children's Ministry Network. When all the responses have been received the Honorary Secretaries will organise the inaugural meeting of the Network.

12. CLERGY TIED HOUSING

The Clergy Tied Housing Working Group reported to the Standing Committee in March 2010 that it has met on two occasions and is exploring various issues concerning the subject. *Inter alia*, these include tax issues, conformity of diocesan and parochial provision, experiences from other provinces and denominations and concerns relating to clergy mobility and retirement.

The Working Group intends to report to Standing Committee in March 2012 and take further advice and direction if required.

13. CODE OF DUTY AND CONDUCT FOR CLERGY

In March 2011, the Code of Duty and Conduct for Clergy Working Group submitted an interim report to the Standing Committee. This interim report is included as Appendix H on page 278.

The Standing Committee agreed that the motion from the Code of Duty and Conduct for Clergy Working Group should be included in Appendix A on page 236. The Committee also agreed that the proposed Clergy Code of Duty and Conduct Committee should be given the power to co-opt members.

14. COMPLAINTS AND DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURE

The current complaints process was established when the General Synod 2008 passed legislation implementing a new Chapter VIII in the *Constitution of the Church of Ireland*. At the meeting of the Standing Committee in September 2010, it was agreed that in order to ensure an effective running of the process a review is required following the conclusion of the first case. Therefore the Honorary Secretaries will initiate a review of the complaints and disciplinary procedure that will be reported to the Standing Committee upon its completion.

Furthermore, the *Constitution of the Church of Ireland* Chapter VIII, Section 23 (e) requires that within one month of the end of each year the Complaints Committee shall submit to the Representative Church Body and the Standing Committee an income and expenditure account for the Complaints Committee for that year. The report was considered by the Standing Committee at its meeting in January 2011. The report is included as Appendix I on page 280.

15. ECUMENICAL CANON

In September 2010, the Standing Committee discussed a draft of the proposed enabling ecumenical Canon. The Standing Committee queried the definition of a Local Ecumenical Partnership. The Standing Committee requested that a meeting be held between the Bills Committee and the Legislation Committee for further discussion of the issue and requested that the item be placed on the January 2011 agenda for the Standing Committee.

A joint meeting of the Bills Committee and the Legislation Committee was held on 8 December 2010. Subsequently, a draft Bill for the proposed enabling ecumenical Canon was produced and agreed upon by members of the Committees. The Legislation Committee submitted the draft Bill to the Standing Committee for consideration and the Standing Committee agreed that the Bill should be brought to the General Synod in May 2011.

16. GENERAL SYNOD 2012

The Standing Committee agreed that the meeting of the General Synod 2012 be held in Christ Church Cathedral, Dublin on 10, 11 and 12 May.

17. GENERAL SYNOD / STANDING COMMITTEE FINANCES

In June 2010, the Standing Committee was informed by the Chairman of the Budget Sub-Committee, Mr Wilfred Baker, that a letter had been received from the Allocations Committee thanking the Standing Committee for the cuts in expenditure that it made for the 2010 budget. The letter also encouraged committees to make additional savings if possible during the remainder of the year.

Furthermore, Mr Baker informed the Standing Committee that committees were to be requested to reduce their budget requests for 2011 by 15% from the provisions that were allocated in 2010.

The Budget Sub-Committee met on 1 September 2010 and considered budget submissions from the various bodies concerning their projected expenditure for the year 2011.

At the September meeting of the Standing Committee Mr Baker conveyed the thanks of the Mr Denis Reardon on behalf of the Representative Church Body for the efforts that the committees had made to make further reductions in their budget proposals for 2011. Mr Baker informed the Standing Committee that the overall 2011 budget recommendation was 20.22% less than the 2010 allocation.

The Commission for Christian Unity and Dialogue proposed a number of changes to ecumenical annual contributions and the gift to the Irish School of Ecumenics Trust. These amendments were approved by the Standing Committee.

The Standing Committee noted the report of the Budget Sub-Committee and agreed that the recommendations be adopted and forwarded to the Representative Church Body Allocations Committee as amended.

18. GENERAL SYNOD ROYALTIES FUND

The Standing Committee approved the payment of €1,000 from the General Synod Royalties Fund towards the publication of *Churches dedicated to St Anne* by Duncan Scarlett.

The Standing Committee agreed to a special grant of €75,000 to the Allocations Committee to support expenditures in the areas of communications, education and publishing work requested in the budgetary process for 2011.

The Standing Committee approved a grant of €2,000 to the Church of Ireland College of Education for the digitization of an historic student's register of the Church of Ireland

Standing Committee – Report 2011

Training College 1884 – 1911 to mark the bi-centenary of the Kildare Place Society in 2011.

The Standing Committee agreed to a grant of €1,000 to the General Synod Board of Education to facilitate the distribution of APCK leaflets to schools.

The Standing Committee approved a grant of €1,000 to Canon David Crooks for the publication of *Clergy of Killaloe, Kilfenora, Clonfert and Kilmacduagh*.

The Standing Committee approved that monies be made available from the General Synod Royalties Fund to enable the re-print of 8,500 copies of the large print standard edition, at a cost of £7 per copy, and 3,000 of the large print presentation edition, at a cost of £11 per copy, of the *Irish Church Hymnal* (2000) by Oxford University Press.

19. GENERAL SYNOD REQUEST FOR EX-OFFICIO MEMBERSHIP

In September 2010, the Honorary Secretaries informed the Standing Committee that they received a request from Mr David Millar regarding his proposal to bring a Bill to the General Synod in 2011 to ensure “*that the Dean of St Patrick’s Cathedral, Dublin, be made a Member of General Synod by virtue of the unique office he holds as Dean and Ordinary of the National Cathedral of the Church of Ireland*”. Mr Millar asked for assistance in drafting a Bill and therefore the matter was referred to the Legislation Committee.

The Legislation Committee met in September 2010 and following a discussion on the issue, stated that whereas it understood the reasoning behind such a proposal it would not be advisable to alter the constitutional triennial election procedures to cater for an anomalous situation. The Legislation Committee sent a letter outlining this opinion to Mr DBM Millar.

20. HARD GOSPEL IMPLEMENTATION GROUP

The interim report of the Hard Gospel Implementation Group is included as Appendix J on page 281. In March 2011, on presentation of the report the Standing Committee requested that the Hard Gospel Implementation Group consider information from a range of organisations that deal with wider issues of sexuality from a Christian perspective. The Standing Committee agreed that the motion from the Hard Gospel Implementation Group should be included in Appendix A on page 236.

21. HISTORIOGRAPHER’S REPORT

A report from the Church of Ireland Historiographer, Dr K Milne, is included as Appendix K on page 283.

22. MEISSEN AGREEMENT

A meeting of the Meissen Commission was held in Wittenberg, Germany from 16 to 19 September 2010 and was attended by Rev Canon Dr Ian Ellis as the Observer for the

Standing Committee – Report 2011

Education

Building Blocks Children’s Ministry Conference – To assist in funding the annual conference ‘Building Blocks’, to support and train those involved in children’s ministry 1,000

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) – Second year 2,000

Girls’ Friendly Society World Ltd – Financial assistance for the GFS World Council, to be held in the King’s Hospital School, Dublin for 3e Tw4(24 J)-7.3uohs3in19.6(tu)5.3(-7.3(oy)5.3(6.1lin7.9(be)7.8()TJ4TJQ -1.1304 TD0 Tc0 Tw(48786.37.7(0)TJ-38.0761 -1.1597 T50.0126 470.002Kilki Parsh Bedss oation :17.6(Li .9(54m)-714(ted .17.6(3(ance)595.9-))

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Standing Committee – Report 2011

Parish of St Paul and St Barnabas, Belfast (Connor) – Funding for the provision of detached youth work and diversionary activities for young people in north Belfast – (Stg£10,000 per year for 3 years) – First year	11,618
St Augustine’s Church, Londonderry (Derry) – Financial support for ‘All Together Now’, a 4-stranded project that aims to integrate all ages into church life and to reach out to others outside the church doors and walls – (Stg£6,000)	6,971
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) – Third year	3,486
The Basement Youth Centre (Dromore) – Financial assistance for the provision of equipment for a Media Club for the youth club in St Mary’s Parish, Newry – (Stg£2,000)	2,324
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) – Third year	4,647
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) – Third year	17,428
Xpression (Armagh) – To assist with the ongoing development of the Xpression cross community outreach initiative – (Stg£1,500)	1,743
Sub-total	€138,854
Community	
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) – Third year	11,618
The Kilbroney Centre, Rostrevor (Dromore) – Funding for the development and extension of the centre, in order that it may offer high quality accommodation and reconciliation programmes – (Stg£25,000 per year for 3 years) – First year	29,046
The Open Hands Centre at St Luke’s Parish (Connor) – To assist financially with the creation of a Peace and Reconciliation Centre, in the unused church building of St Luke’s, Northumberland Street, Belfast – (Stg£35,000 – First year : Stg£20,000 – Second year : Stg£20,000 – Third year) – First year	40,665
Sub-total	€81,329
Areas of Need	
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) – Second year	5,809
Connor – Kilmakee Parish – Financial assistance for equipping a new multi-purpose	

Standing Committee – Report 2011

Derry – Bovevagh Parish – Financial assistance for an outreach and fellowship centre, for the church and local community, in a very deprived area – (Stg£2,000)	2,324
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) – Second year	10,457
Elphin – St John’s Cathedral, Sligo – Funding for the restoration of St John’s Hall, necessitated by changes in population and the needs of ministry	2,000
Glendalough – Timolin Parish – Financial assistance for the restoration of the derelict coach house, for use by parish and community and necessitated by changes in population	2,000
Kilmore – Bailieborough Parish – To assist with funding for the extension of the hall, to facilitate expanding youth work	2,000
Limerick – Limerick City Parish – Funding to enable the development of the cathedral programme of children’s ministry, pastoral care and counselling, for members of the wider community	7,500
Sub-total	€39,061
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) – Second year	8,714
Church of the Good Shepherd, Monkstown (Connor) – Financial assistance for parochial development in Monkstown Estate, necessitated by the needs of effective ministry to the wider community and the growth of Kids Club – (Stg£15,000 – First year : Stg£10,000 – Second year) – First year	17,428
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) – Second year	23,237
C R E E D (Communities Regenerated Enabled Enriched and Developed) – Final year of funding to enable parishes to benefit from CREED’s expertise, in co-ordination and utilisation of resources – (Stg£10,000)	11,618
Holy Trinity Parish, Portrush (Connor) – Financial assistance to enable this parish achieve its vision for community outreach – (Stg£10,000)	11,618
Knocknagoney Parish (Down) – Funding to enable the further development of creative ministry and outreach, to a disadvantaged community – (Stg£7,000 per year for 2 years) – First year	8,133
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) – Second year	8,714
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) – Third year	16,266

Standing Committee – Report 2011

Parish of Coleraine, St Andrew's (Connor) – Financial assistance to develop a more strategic outreach ministry to those in need in our community, through the work of Restored Ministries, the Thrift Shop, Meals on Wheels and Care in the Community projects – (Stg£5,000)	5,809
Parish of Rathmines with Harold's Cross (Dublin) – Initial funding for the start-up costs involved in this new parish outreach project	10,000
Parish of St Mary Magdalene, Belfast (Connor) – Funding to develop the lunch-time ministry, among the elderly of the parish – (Stg£400)	465
St Columba's Community Association (Connor) – Funding to re-establish a church presence in Whiterock Parish, to connect with the unchurched and create a self-sustaining congregation in a new community building – (Stg£50,000 – First year : Stg£8,000 – Second year : Stg£6,000 – Third year) – First year	58,092
St Dorothea's Church, Gilnahirk (Down) – Financial assistance to develop a project for re-engaging with the local community – (Stg£2,500)	2,905
The Dock, Titanic Quarter, Belfast (Down & Dromore) – Funding for the research, production and distribution of a formal business plan, for 'The Dock' outreach initiative in the Titanic Quarter – (Stg£4,000)	4,647
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) – Second year	8,714
Sub-total	€196,360
Innovative Ministry in a Rural Context	
Armagh Diocesan Council – To provide for a diocesan outreach to rural areas, reconnecting with young people who are involved in loyalist band and other rural organisations – (Stg£25,000 – First year : Stg£20,000 – Second year : Stg£20,000 – Third year) – First year	29,046
Clogher Diocesan Council – Funding for a diocesan music festival service, with vocal and singing workshops – (Stg£1,000)	1,162
Kilcooley Community Group Ltd (Cashel) – To assist financially with the continuation of a rural project for the benefit of the local community, facilitating residential and day activities, primarily for youth and young adults	15,000
Sub-total	€45,208
Total Allocated	€29,584

Sterling grants have been converted to Euro using the 2010 end of year rate of 0.8607.

- (b) Accounts for the year ended 31 December 2010 are included as Appendix N on page 290. Contributions to the Fund do not close until the end of February. The amount actually received by 28 February 2011 was €54,180.

Standing Committee – Report 2011

- (c) Following a recommendation from the Priorities Fund Committee, the Standing Committee, in March 2011, agreed that diocesan targets for contributions to the 2012 Fund should not be increased and should remain at their current levels.

25. PROGRAMME FOR COHESION, SHARING AND INTEGRATION

In September 2010, the Standing Committee appointed a working group to produce a response for the Church of Ireland to the consultation on the Programme for Cohesion, Sharing and Integration that was launched by the First Minister Rt Hon Peter Robinson MLA and Deputy First Minister Martin McGuinness MP MLA. This response was approved by the Archbishops and the Honorary Secretaries as the deadline for receipt of responses was 29 October 2010. The response was made available to members of Standing Committee on the subsequent agenda of that meeting. The response is included as Appendix O on page 292.

26. PROVINCIAL MEDIATION PANELS AND SEVERANCE FUND REVIEW

In 2001, the General Synod passed legislation relating to the creation of Provincial Mediation Panels for the assistance of bishops in the resolution of conflict within dioceses and to make further provision in relation to mediation and related matters.

Subsequently, in 2003, the General Synod also passed legislation to make provision for the establishment of a Severance Fund for clergy, to be raised within each diocese, to deal with situations of irretrievable pastoral breakdown.

This legislation has never been resorted to since its inception and at its meeting in September 2010, the Standing Committee agreed that it is desirable that a review of the legislation and the situations it was intended to address be undertaken to inform the Standing Committee of a way forward to meet issues of this kind more effectively.

Following a request from the Standing Committee, the Honorary Secretaries initiated a review of the Provincial Mediation Panels and the Severance Fund that will be reported to the Standing Committee upon its completion.

27. REVIEW OF COMMITTEES

In April 2010, the Standing Committee discussed a proposal submitted by the Archbishop of Armagh, entitled *Purposeful Re-organisation, the Boards, Commissions and Committees of the General Synod* (Appendix P on page 309). Some of the ideas raised have subsequently been used to inform Standing Committee's approach to proposals regarding the development of children's ministry, for example. More broadly, the ongoing request from the Representative Church Body to curtail costs led to the

Standing Committee – Report 2011

Committee's attention being refocused in the autumn of 2010 on the work of the Budget Sub-Committee. However, the Standing Committee indicated its long-term intention to give further consideration to the Primate's document.

28. SPEAKING RIGHTS AT GENERAL SYNOD FOR ECUMENICAL GUESTS

In September 2009, the Standing Committee agreed that ecumenical guests attending the General Synod should be afforded speaking rights to enable them to participate in debates.

The Standing Orders Committee met on 8 September 2010 and agreed to formulate a motion to amend Standing Order 21 to enable ecumenical visitors at the General Synod to participate in the discussion of reports and motions. The Standing Orders Committee agreed that ecumenical guests should be precluded from debating Bills. In September 2010, the Standing Committee requested that this motion be brought to the General Synod in May 2011.

29. STIPENDS REVIEW

As indicated in the Representative Church Body (RCB) report to the General Synod 2010 a review was undertaken of the timing of the process involved in arriving at and approval of the annual rates of the Minimum Approved Stipend (MAS) (*Book of Reports 2010* page 28). A proposal prepared by the RB Stipends Committee that was approved by the RB Executive Committee and the RCB in September 2010 was submitted to the Standing Committee meeting in November 2010 for consideration. This proposal is included as Appendix Q on page 314.

The proposal requested that the Standing Committee bring legislation to the General Synod in May 2011 to amend Section 51 (1) of the *Constitution of the Church of Ireland*, to enable the Standing Committee to determine MAS levels on behalf of the General Synod to ensure that the delay between the decision on MAS levels and the date of implementation would be significantly reduced in future. The proposal also required the Standing Committee meetings in September, traditionally held in the morning, to now be held in the afternoon to facilitate the new process. The Standing Committee approved the recommendations and a Bill was submitted for the ordinary session of the General Synod 2011.

Furthermore, at the meeting of the RCB Executive Committee in February 2011 it was agreed to recommend to the Representative Church Body (RCB) and the Standing Committee that legislation be brought to General Synod in 2011 to amend the approval process for Pensionable Stipend. The amendment is to be presented in a manner similar to the proposed changes to the approval process for Minimum Approved Stipends as agreed by the RCB in September 2010 and the Standing Committee in November 2010.

Standing Committee – Report 2011

In March 2011, the Standing Committee agreed to submit the relevant legislation to the ordinary session of the General Synod 2011.

30. WORKING GROUP ON DISABILITY

A report from the Working Group on Disability is included as Appendix R on page 315.

31. OBITUARY

The following member died since the last session:

Mr Jack Stuart