

APPENDIX R

WORKING GROUP ON DISABILITY

Membership

Rev Dr Judith McGaffin (Chairperson)

Mrs Joan Bruton

Mr James Clarke

Rev Canon William Murphy

Mr Ian Slaine

1. TERMS OF REFERENCE

The Standing Committee, in March 2005, established the Working Group on Disability to address issues concerning disability that affect the Church of Ireland and to consider the implications of legislation and proposed legislation on disability in both jurisdictions. The Church of Ireland is periodically invited to comment on consultation documents, white papers and draft legislation. It was envisaged that a working group with expertise in this area would be in a position to prepare considered responses on behalf of the Church.

2. DISABILITY AWARENESS SUNDAY

This is the seventh such Sunday in the Church of Ireland calendar. This year resources were sent to all parishes in the Church of Ireland to help them celebrate *Disability Sunday* on the third Sunday in November. For the first time all these resources were also posted on the Church of Ireland website. Again the evaluation of the event was positive, with continued requests for more information and resources to be sent to parishes in future years.

3. MINISTRY TO DEAF PEOPLE

The group continues to work with the Rev Canon William Murphy and other agencies with expertise in this area of ministry to raise awareness and to provide services to deaf people.

4. NEW MEMBERS

The working group are delighted to welcome the Rt Rev Trevor Williams, Bishop of the Dioceses of Limerick and Killaloe onto the membership. Other members are currently being sought.

5. WORKPLAN

The working group are currently redrafting the terms of reference in order that the work of the group continues to be relevant to changing needs.

The working group is working with synod officers to look at how the General Synod can most effectively address issues relating to disability at future general synod venues.

A mapping exercise in relation to how the disability working group relates and communicates with other Church committees is underway.

The working group is in contact with the Church of Ireland Theological Institute to discuss how the issue of disability can be included in a meaningful way in the curriculum for ordinands.

A workplan for the 2011 – 2014 period will be developed by the disability working group in order to focus effort and continue to promote inclusivity.