

BILL NO 2

Explanatory Memorandum

In 2009, the Standing Committee initiated a process to consider the possibility of introducing an enabling ecumenical Canon which would provide for the regulation of local ecumenical partnerships.

The Standing Committee directed the Legislation Committee, with the assistance of the Bills Committee, to draft an enabling ecumenical Canon to which regulations could be attached which would be binding as is the case with the *Safeguarding Trust* and the Marriage Regulations.

In January 2011, the Standing Committee requested that the Bill drafted by the Legislation Committee and the Bills Committee be brought to the General Synod 2011.

VEN PF PATTERSON
VERY REV NK DUNNE

BILL

(at the request of the Standing Committee)

To amend Chapter IX of the Constitution

WHEREAS it is desirable to recognise and to make formal provision for the regulation of local ecumenical partnerships between a Church of Ireland parish or ministry and a church or ministry of another Christian denomination not in full communion with the Church of Ireland but with which the Church of Ireland has a formal ecumenical agreement approved by the General Synod;

AND WHEREAS for such purposes it is necessary to amend Chapter IX of the Constitution of the Church of Ireland;

BE IT ENACTED by the Archbishops and Bishops and the Clergy and Laity of the Church of Ireland in General Synod assembled in Armagh in the year 2011 and by the authority of the same as follows:-

1. In this Statute, ‘Chapter IX’ means Chapter IX of the Constitution of the Church of Ireland.
2. In Chapter IX, immediately after Section 11, there shall be inserted the following section:

11 (A) Local Ecumenical Partnerships

- (1) A “local ecumenical partnership” shall mean a partnership formed, with the leave of the ordinary, between a Church of Ireland parish or ministry and a church or ministry of another Christian denomination not in full communion with the Church of Ireland but with which the Church of Ireland has a formal ecumenical agreement approved by the General Synod.
- (2) The Standing Committee of the General Synod may make such regulations as may be required to govern local ecumenical partnerships. Such regulations shall not alter the doctrine, rites, formularies or rubrics of the Church of Ireland.
- (3) All regulations made under paragraph (2) of this Canon shall be published and reported to the General Synod.