

**GENERAL SYNOD 2011**

**BILL NO 2**

**Seconded by the Very Revd Nigel Dunne, Diocese of Cork**

**EMBARGOED UNTIL DELIVERY**

**CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY**

Your Grace

When I asked the General Synod office why I was being asked to second this Bill, I got the curt reply that I had been nagging for legislation of this kind over the last six years and therefore had no choice!

This Bill is badly needed in order to give a proper legislative framework within which Local Ecumenical Partnerships can function. Speaking from my experience of reports on joint projects between the Church of Ireland and the Methodist Church in Ireland which we receive at each meeting of the Covenant Council, it is clear that some projects have run into difficulty in the absence of a clear legal framework in our canon law.

The passing of this Bill will not only be of great assistance in the context of ongoing Anglican/Methodist projects but will ensure that we have a framework in place should joint ventures with other traditions arise in the future.

Compared with Canon B51 in the Church of England this is a very short piece of legislation but is more satisfactory in that it allows the Standing Committee to regulate joint projects in different contexts with different structures, different plant and different objectives as they arise.

This legislation is long overdue and I commend it to the General Synod.