

## GENERAL SYNOD 2011

### CIYD REPORT

Proposed by Mr Andrew Brannigan, Diocese of Down & Dromore

**EMBARGOED UNTIL DELIVERY**

**CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY**

Your Grace and members of Synod, Andrew Brannigan, Down Diocese.

-Church of Ireland parishes, across the whole island, work with around 26,000\* young people every week.

-Another 17,000\* young people are involved in events, activities and Church of Ireland Schools' Ministry.

-That's 43,000 young people supported by 3,300 leaders

These are significant and impressive figures but they don't begin to reveal the whole picture:

- They don't reveal the **value** of each young person to God, their family and friends and to their churches.
- They don't reveal the **unique** gifts, role and contribution each young person has to make.
- These figures don't reveal the **dedication** of leaders and clergy.
- They don't reveal the hours worked and **sacrifices** made to reach young people (Once calculated that it would cost £7.6m per year to pay our youth leaders).
- They don't reveal the **potential** ministry down the line as each person grows.
- They don't reveal the Kingdom results (verse).

CIYD's role is to co-ordinate a strategic approach to Youth Ministry in the Church of Ireland that sees young people and those working with them encouraged and equipped to follow Jesus Christ –not as statistics, but as valued people.

This report will outline how CIYD have done this over the past year, alongside our partners in dioceses, parishes and other organisations.

I would like to draw out with you several strands from this report (from page 343) and I would invite you (with the Chair's permission) to give us your comments and questions following it.

1. The first thing that I would draw your attention to is that the great majority of work of CIYD, is undertaken by a dedicated but small team of 4 staff. We have David Brown, our Youth Officer who co-ordinates the running of CIYD and has worked hard to place the organisation at the centre of National youth structures across Ireland. David and all the staff are supported by Barbara Swann, who undertakes a great deal of the administrative, financial and communication work of CIYD. Our Northern Development worker, Sharon Hamil has continued to work closely with around 60 employed youth and children's workers, provide training and other opportunities for youth leaders and drive new initiatives such as a sexual health initiative with the Health Trusts in N. Ireland (plug Unique Leaflet). Our Jump Programme (year out) co-ordinator, Catherine Little has spent the last 4 years placing and training young leaders in parishes across Ireland and it is a testament to the success of her work that many of these leaders have been employed as youth workers or accepted onto Youth Ministry degrees. Sadly the funding for this programme has run out and Catherine will be leaving us in the summer and we pray God's Blessings on her for the future. Our Southern Development worker, Shane Tucker, resigned to go back to America last summer and the process to replace this post was delayed pending wider consultation. This has now been completed however and I can announce that we intend to advertise this post over the summer period for an autumn

start. I can only apologise to southern dioceses for the delay and thank them for their patience.

2. There are a number of things contained within this report regarding CIYD's programme of work but I want to note just a few of them.
  - a. The continued involvement in mainstay events for young people such as Summer Madness and Anois.
  - b. The growth in training opportunities –particular in qualified training and in the border regions.
  - c. Ongoing support for employed youth workers –particularly through the Connect programme.
  
3. Of great encouragement as well is the development and growth of diocesan young ministry across our church. As you may know CIYD devolves a large proportion of its budget (around 115,000euros in 2011\*) to dioceses and it is encouraging to see such a wide approach to youth ministry occurring across Ireland. We have welcomed 2 new Youth Officer Posts to Meath & Kildare and Clogher and now have a network of diocesan youth representatives that can genuinely represent young people and the issues they face across the whole island –possibly the only network that can do that.
  
4. I want to highlight at this point some of the great resources that dioceses have produced:
  - The **Crucial** DVD's produced by Dublin diocese to resource youth group programmes
  - New '**Faith for Daily Living**' Bible notes for young people –produced free through Cork diocese for you to give to young people
  - A **Church of Ireland Identity** book for young people and new church members and...
  - A brand new **Youth Games** Book that will have been sent by CIYD to clergy but available to buy at the bookshop –both produced by Down diocese.

5. Finally, I want to draw your attention to a strategic review that is nearing completion that will for the Strategic Plan for CIYD for 2012-15. This plan will set out for the next 3 years how we aim to resource, influence and partner with others in reaching young people in a much more effective way –but it will also set out an intention to work alongside the Children’s Ministry Sub-Group to develop a joint strategy for a combined youth and children’s department. We would welcome any submissions from the church at large into this strategy process.

Thank you for your time.

Your Grace and members of Synod I would like to propose that the report of CIYD be taken into consideration.

**Questions and comments.**

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Your Grace and members of Synod I would like to propose that the report of CIYD be adopted

\*An Audit Report of Youth Work in the Church of Ireland, 2009

\*7,200 euros per diocese in 2011 (reduced by 25%) and 7,200 and extra one-off payment of 2,400 in 2011 -