

Standing Committee – Report 2012

STANDING COMMITTEE

REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS LAID BEFORE

THE GENERAL SYNOD AT ITS

ONE HUNDRED AND FORTY-SECOND ORDINARY SESSION 2012

Standing Committee – Report 2012

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

HONORARY SECRETARIES OF THE GENERAL SYNOD

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

The Rev George Davison, 12 Harwood Gardens, Carrickfergus, Co Antrim, BT38 7US

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

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Standing Committee – Report 2012

CONTENTS	PAGE
1 Summary	193
2 Names and Attendances of Members	193
3 Anglican-Orthodox Dialogue	197
4 Appointments	197
5 Audit of Accounts	199
6 Bishops' Appeal Advisory Committee	199
7 Bishop's Conference on Human Sexuality in the context of Christian Belief	199
8 Board for Social Theology in Action	199
9 Central Communications Board	199
10 Children's Ministry Network	200
11 Clergy Tied Housing	200
12 Clergy Code of Duty and Conduct Committee	200
13 Complaints and Disciplinary Procedure	200
14 EU Single Farm Payments Scheme	201
15 General Synod 2013	201
16 General Synod / Standing Committee Finances	201
17 General Synod Royalties Fund	202
18 Hard Gospel Implementation Group	202
19 Historical Centenaries Working Group	202
20 Historiographer's Report	203
21 Leuenberg Church Fellowship	203
22 Minimum Approved Stipends	203
23 Parish Development Working Group	204
24 Pensionable Stipends	204
25 Priorities Fund	204
26 Provincial Mediation Panels and Severance Fund Review	209
27 Review of Episcopal Ministry and Episcopal Structures	210
28 Working Group on Disability	210
29 Obituary	210

Standing Committee – Report 2012

Appendices

	Page
A Resolutions to be Proposed to the General Synod	211
B Bishops' Appeal Advisory Committee – report	212
C Bishops' Conference on Human Sexuality – statement and evaluation	220
D Board for Social Theology in Action – report	225
E Central Communications Board – report	227
F Children's Ministry Working Group – report	235
G Clergy Tied Housing Working Group – report	237
H Code of Duty and Conduct for Clergy Working Group – interim report	242
I Complaints & Disciplinary Committee – income and expenditure account	243
J Hard Gospel Implementation Group – report	244
K Historical Centenaries Working Group – report	246
L Historiographers Report	248
M Leuenberg Church Fellowship – Draft Memorandum of Agreement	250
N Parish Development Working Group – report	253
O Priorities Fund Accounts Year Ended 31 December 2011	256
P Provincial Mediation Panels and Severance Fund Review	258
Q Review of Episcopal Ministry and Structures	263
R Working Group on Disability – report	274
S Receipts and Disbursements Account and General Purposes Fund	276

Standing Committee – Report 2012

SUMMARY

Some significant matters dealt with by the Standing Committee during the period 12 April 2011 to 13 March 2012 were:

- Centenaries of the 1912-22 Period;
- Bishops' Conference on Human Sexuality in the Context of Christian Belief;
- Review of Episcopal Ministry and Episcopal Structures.

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

5/6		Ven Robin Bantry White
2/2	μ	Rev John McDowell
3/3	#	Rev George Davison
5/6		Mr Samuel Harper
6/6		Mrs Ethne Harkness

Elected Members

Diocese

Armagh	2/2	±	Very Rev Patrick Rooke
	4/6		Rev Shane Forster
	2/2	¶	Rev Brian Harper
	2/2	¶	Mr Paul Bruce
	0/1	°	Mr Adam Pearson

Clogher	5/6		Rev Canon John Stewart
	6/6		Rev Brian Kerr
	6/6		Mr Walter Pringle

Standing Committee – Report 2012

	3/6	Mr Glenn Moore
Derry	4/6	Rev Patricia Storey
	5/6	Rev Robert Miller
	6/6	Mr Robert Pollock
	2/6	Mr Kenneth Witherow
Down	6/6	Ven Phillip Patterson
	5/6	Rev Simon Doogan
	6/6	Mrs Hilary McClay
	6/6	Mr Andrew Brannigan
Connor	4/6	Ven Stephen McBride
	4/6	Rev Stephen Fielding
	3/6	Mr Roy Totten
	5/6	Mr Peter Hamill
Kilmore	5/6	Very Rev Raymond Ferguson
	5/6	Rev Craig McCauley
	4/6	Mr David Gillespie
	5/6	Mrs Brigid Barrett
Tuam	3/6	Rev Canon Denis Sandes
	4/6	Ven Gary Hastings
	6/6	Mr Denzil Auchmuty
		None available
Dublin	5/6	Very Rev Katharine Poulton
	6/6	Rev Gillian Wharton

Standing Committee – Report 2012

	6/6	Dr Valerie Jones
	2/6	Mr Lyndon MacCann SC
Meath	3/6	Very Rev Robert Jones
	3/6	Rev Lynda Peilow
	5/6	Mrs Joan Bruton
		None available
Cashel	5/6	Ven John Murray
	4/6	Rev Arthur Minion
	5/6	Mr Cecil Wellwood
	1/6	Mr Eric Driver
Cork	2/6	Very Rev Christopher Peters
	4/6	Rev Adrian Wilkinson
	5/6	Mr Wilfred Baker
	0/1 °	Mr Gordon Benn
Limerick	3/6	Rev Canon Stephen Neill
	4/4	Rev Jane Galbraith
	6/6	Mr Adrian Hilliard
	2/6	Mr Edward Hardy

Co-opted Members

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

Standing Committee – Report 2012

- | | |
|----------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Elected Bishop of Clogher | |
| μ May 2011 | ± Elected Bishop of Tuam April 2011 |
| Elected Honorary Secretary | |
| # November 2011 | ¶ Elected November 2011 |
| ° Elected Feb 2012 | |

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

Mr Roy Totten	Rev Andrew Forster
Mrs Joan Bruton	Ven Stephen McBride
Rev George Davison	Mr Glenn Moore
Mr Sam Harper	Rev Adrian Wilkinson

BUDGET SUB-COMMITTEE

Mr Wilfred Baker	Rev John McDowell (resigned September 2011)
Mr Sam Harper	Mr Andrew McNeile
Mr Roy Totten	

Standing Committee – Report 2012

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

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 QC	Mr John Wilson QC

3. ANGLICAN ORTHODOX DIALOGUE

In April 2011, the Standing Committee welcomed the appointment of the Bishop of Meath and Kildare to the Anglican-Orthodox Dialogue, one of a number of bi-lateral and multi-lateral dialogues between the Anglican Communion and other Christian religions and other faiths.

4. APPOINTMENTS

Committees etc.	Name
Annual Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends, Dublin, April-May 2011	The Most Rev Dr Richard Clarke Rev Niall Sloane
General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church, Belfast, June 2011	The Most Rev Dr Michael Jackson The Rt Rev John McDowell
Conference of the Methodist Church, Newtownards, June 2011	Ven Philip Patterson Ms Elva Byrne
Governing Body of the Church in Wales, Lampeter, Sept 2011	Mr Samuel Harper
Moravian Church of Great Britain and Ireland Provincial Synod June 2012	Miss Catherine Turner
Anglican Consultative Council Lay Representative	Mr Wilfred Baker
Irish Inter-Church Meeting, Oct 2011	The Most Rev Dr Michael Jackson The Rt Rev Alan Abernethy

Standing Committee – Report 2012

	Rev Barry Forde Ms Margaret McNulty Dr Katie Heffelfinger Ms Linda Frost Mr Graham Spence Ms Caroline Farrar
Irish Inter-Church Committee	Dr Kenneth Milne
Four Nations' Faith and Order Consultation, May 2011	The Most Rev Dr Michael Jackson Rev Niall Sloane
Irish Council of Churches	The Most Rev Dr Richard Clarke The Most Rev Dr Michael Jackson The Rt Rev Trevor Williams Very Rev John Mann Rev Canon David Crooks Rev Canon Ian Ellis Rev Canon Timothy Kinahan Rev Canon Walter Lewis Rev Bernie Daly Rev Adrian Dorian Rev Daniel Nuzum Rev Niall Sloane Rev Gillian Wharton Ms Ruth Handy Mr Robert Roe Mr Sam Morrow Dr Kenneth Milne Ms Caroline Farrar Mr Peter Jones Mr Robert Clements
World Council of Churches	The Rt Rev Alan Abernethy
Association of Church of Ireland Press Ltd	Rev Gillian Wharton
Irish Council of Churches Board of Overseas Affairs	Mr Colin Ferguson Dr Kenneth Milne
Governing Council of the Church of Ireland Theological Institute	Rev Adrian Wilkinson Mr Roy Totten

Standing Committee – Report 2012

United Society for the Propagation of the Gospel (USPG) Council	Rev Canon Patrick Comerford Rev Lynne Gibson
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. BISHOPS' APPEAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The World Development Bishops' Appeal Advisory Committee report is included in Appendix B on page 212.

7. BISHOPS CONFERENCE ON HUMAN SEXUALITY IN THE CONTEXT OF CHRISTIAN BELIEF

At the September 2011 meeting of the Standing Committee, the Primate made a statement concerning the Civil Partnership of the Very Rev Thomas Gordon, Dean of Leighlin. In October 2011, the Bishops issued a pastoral letter announcing their intention to hold a special conference in Spring 2012 to which members of General Synod would be invited.

At the November 2011 meeting of the Standing Committee, the committee welcomed the decision by the Archbishops and Bishops to hold the conference and authorised the Honorary Secretaries to invite members of the General Synod when requested. The committee further requested that the Archbishops and Bishops report on the proceedings of the conference to General Synod in 2012.

The Conference took place in the Slieve Russell Hotel in Co Cavan on 9-10 March 2012 and the Archbishops' press release and a summary of the evaluations given by participants is attached as Appendix C on page 220.

8. BOARD FOR SOCIAL THEOLOGY IN ACTION

The Board for Social Theology in Action report is included in Appendix D on page 225.

9. CENTRAL COMMUNICATIONS BOARD

At its meeting of 22 November 2011, the Standing Committee appointed the following to be members of the Central Communications Board to serve until 2012:

Rt Rev Trevor Williams	Dr Kenneth Milne
Rev Eileen Cremin	Dr Raymond Refaussy
Ms Ruth Buchanan	Ven Robin Bantry White

Standing Committee – Report 2012

Dr Valerie Jones
Mrs Jane Leighton

Mr Denis Reardon
Mrs Janet Maxwell

At the same meeting, the Standing Committee approved a resolution to keep the membership of the Broadcasting Committee and the Literature Committee in place until September 2012.

At its meeting of 13 March 2012, the Standing Committee also appointed the Rev Kenneth Rue and Mr Richard Ryan to the Literature Committee of the 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 227.

10. CHILDREN'S MINISTRY NETWORK

The Children's Ministry Network met for the first time in June 2011 and a further two times subsequently. Their statement appears in Appendix F on page 235.

11. 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 of the Anglican Communion and denominations and concerns relating to clergy mobility and retirement.

The Working Group presented its report to Standing Committee in March 2012 and a copy appears in Appendix G on Page 237.

12. CLERGY CODE OF DUTY AND CONDUCT COMMITTEE

At its last meeting the General Synod appointed the following to the Clergy Code of Duty and Conduct Committee (with power to co-opt). The General Synod requested that they report to the General Synod in 2012 and to make an interim report to the Standing Committee in January 2012:

Rt Rev Paul Colton
Rev Stephen Farrell
Very Rev Maria Jansson

Mrs Ethne Harkness
Ven Stephen McBride
Rev Terence Dunlop (Consultant)

The report of the Clergy Code of Duty and Conduct Committee is included in Appendix H on page 242.

13. 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*

Standing Committee – Report 2012

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 2012. The report is included as Appendix I on page 243.

14. EU SINGLE FARM PAYMENTS WORKING GROUP

In November 2011, the Standing Committee received a communication from the Diocese of Cashel and Ossory noting the EU Single Farm Payment Scheme is due to end in 2013 and calling on the Church of Ireland at local and national levels to make representations in defence of rural communities.

In response to this communication the Standing Committee appointed a Working Group to study the issue and requested that the group report its findings to the Standing Committee at its meeting of June 2012. The members of the working group elected were

Rev Canon Ian Poulton (Convenor)	Mr Roger Boyd
Rev Eithne Lynch	Mr John Moore
Mr Samuel Morrow	Mr Ray Elkin
Mr John Thompson	Mr John Shirley
Mr Eric Driver	

The Working group has the power to co-opt (specifically to encourage greater gender-balance).

15. GENERAL SYNOD 2013

The Standing Committee agreed that the meeting of the General Synod 2013 be held in Armagh on 9, 10 and 11 May.

16. GENERAL SYNOD / STANDING COMMITTEE FINANCES

At the June 2011 meeting of the Standing Committee, a request was conveyed from the Representative Church Body for continued restraint in budgets in 2012. In September 2011, the Budget Sub-Committee met with representatives of various committees to discuss the situation and many agreed to curtail their plans in the light of the current financial situation. At the September 2011 Standing Committee, the Chairman of the Budget Sub-Committee reported that although committees had been conscientious further savings of €30,000 would have to be made. An extensive debate then took place at which the Primate summed up by saying that the mind of the meeting was for the

Standing Committee – Report 2012

Budget Sub-Committee to return to the Sub-Committee with radical proposals to address the shortfall.

The Budget Sub-Committee presented its report at the November 2011 Standing Committee meeting. Amendments were proposed to recommendations related to ecumenical groups and the report (as amended) was adopted.

17. GENERAL SYNOD ROYALTIES FUND

The Standing Committee approved the following payments from the Royalties Fund.

A grant of €4000 to APCK for the publication of two information leaflets focusing on the Irish language in the life of the Church and Mission in the Church of Ireland.

A grant of €3,500 and £2,250 to the Internet Committee to cover the hosting and support of the Church of Ireland website for 2012.

A grant of €2,000 to the Liturgical Advisory Committee towards the ongoing development of electronic liturgy for 2012.

A grant of €2,000 to the Liturgical Advisory Committee to enable its ongoing work for 2012.

18. HARD GOSPEL IMPLEMENTATION GROUP

On 13 May 2011, the General Synod appointed the following to the Hard Gospel Implementation Group for the period June 2011 to May 2013:

Rt Rev Trevor Williams (Chair)
Mrs Ethne Harkness

Rev Andrew Forster
Mr Geoffrey Perrin

At its meeting on 24 January 2012, the Standing Committee also appointed, the Rev Gillian Wharton to the Hard Gospel Implementation Group.

The report of Hard Gospel Implementation group appears in Appendix J, page 244.

19. HISTORICAL CENTENARIES WORKING GROUP

At its meeting on 12 April 2011, the Standing Committee invited the Ven Robin Bantry White, the Rt Rev John McDowell and Dr Kenneth Milne to advise and make recommendations on the historical, theological/pastoral and logistical aspects of centenary commemorations of the period 1912-22.

In June 2011, the Standing Committee considered their report which appears in Appendix K on Page 246.

In September 2011, the Standing Committee appointed the Rev Earl Storey to the Working Group and empowered them to co-opt up to an additional five. In January 2012, the Rev Earl Storey stepped down from the Working Group but continued to assist them in a consultancy capacity.

At the request of the Standing Committee, the Dean of Belfast prepared a liturgy for use to mark the centenary of the Ulster Covenant. At the time of writing the Centenaries

Standing Committee – Report 2012

Working Group is planning their first event to mark the centenary of the Ulster Covenant.

20. HISTORIOGRAPHER'S REPORT

A report from the Church of Ireland Historiographer, Dr K Milne, is included as Appendix L on page 248.

21. LEUENBERG CHURCH FELLOWSHIP

At its meeting on 24 January 2012, the Standing Committee approved the inclusion of a memorandum of agreement between the British and Irish Anglican Churches and the Community of Protestant Churches in Europe (the Leuenberg Church Fellowship). The memorandum of agreement is included as Appendix M on page 250.

22. MINIMUM APPROVED STIPENDS

Under Section 51(1) of Chapter IV of the Constitution of the Church of Ireland as revised by Chapter IV of 2011, the Standing Committee is required to consider recommendations from the Representative Church Body as to the rates of Minimum Approved Stipends to take effect from 1 January 2012.

At its meeting of 20 September 2011, the Standing Committee heard an address by Mr Robert Neill of the Representative Church Body detailing the difficult financial background to the RCB's recommendations.

The Standing Committee approved the recommendations of the Representative Church Body by adopting the following resolution:

That, in accordance with Section 51 (1) of Chapter IV of the Constitution of the Church of Ireland, Minimum Approved Stipends shall be as follows with effect from 1 January 2012:

- (a) *no stipend shall be less than £26,008 per annum in Northern Ireland or €36,219 per annum in the Republic of Ireland in the case of an Incumbent or a member of the clergy appointed as Bishop's Curate under the provisions of Section 42 of Chapter IV or of a Diocesan Curate over the age of 30 years appointed under the provisions of Section 43 of Chapter IV.*
- (b) *the stipend for a Curate-Assistant shall be in accordance with the following scale:*

<i>First Year</i>	<i>75.0% of minimum stipend for incumbent</i>
<i>Second Year</i>	<i>77.5% "</i>
<i>Third Year</i>	<i>80.0% "</i>
<i>Fourth Year</i>	<i>82.5% "</i>
<i>Fifth and succeeding Years</i>	<i>85.0% "</i>

23. PARISH DEVELOPMENT WORKING GROUP

The report of the Parish Development Working Group is included as Appendix N on page 253.

24. PENSIONABLE STIPENDS

Under Section 2 of Chapter XIV of the Constitution of the Church of Ireland as revised by Chapter V of 2011, the Standing Committee is required to consider a recommendation from the Representative Church Body and the Church of Ireland Clergy Pensions Trustee Limited as to the rates of Pensionable Stipend to take effect from 1 January 2012.

At its meeting of 20 September 2011, the Standing Committee heard an address by Mr Robert Neill of the Representative Church Body detailing the difficult financial background to the RCB's and the Church of Ireland Clergy Pensions Trustee Limited's recommendations.

The Standing Committee approved the recommendations of the Representative Church Body by adopting the following resolution:

That as recommended by the Representative Church Body and the Trustee, in accordance with Section 2 of Chapter XIV of the Constitution of the Church of Ireland, Pensionable Stipend shall be as follows with effect from 1 January 2012:

- (a) *Pensionable Stipend shall be £25,498 per annum in Northern Ireland and €36,219 per annum in the Republic of Ireland in the case of an Incumbent or a member of the clergy appointed as Bishop's Curate under the provisions of Section 42 of Chapter IV or of a Diocesan Curate over the age of 30 years appointed under the provisions of Section 43 of Chapter IV.*
- (b) *Pensionable Stipend for a Curate-Assistant shall be in accordance with the following scale:*

<i>First Year</i>	<i>75.0% of Pensionable Stipend for incumbent</i>
<i>Second Year</i>	<i>77.5% "</i>
<i>Third Year</i>	<i>80.0% "</i>
<i>Fourth Year</i>	<i>82.5% "</i>
<i>Fifth and succeeding Years</i>	<i>85.0% "</i>

25. PRIORITIES FUND

- (a) The following allocations from the Priorities Fund were approved by the Standing Committee in March 2012:

Standing Committee – Report 2012

ALLOCATION OF GRANTS FROM 2011 PRIORITIES FUND

Ministry	€
Arrow Leadership Ireland – Funding to enable this organisation to award bursaries to those from a Church of Ireland background, to participate in the leadership programme	5,000
Biblical Association for the Church of Ireland – Financial support for a three year programme of conferences and training and to establish BACI as fiscally independent for the future	2,000
Parish Development Working Group – Funding to enable a third programme of parish development for the Church of Ireland – (Stg£10,000 per year for 2 years) – Second year	11,972
The Church of Ireland Theological Institute – Funding to facilitate a programme for Continuing Ministerial Education and lay training – (€65,000 per year for 5 years) – Second year	65,000
The House of Bishops – To support continuing ministerial education in the dioceses	40,000
United Dioceses of Cashel and Ossory – Funding for the development of new programmes of theological, historical, pastoral and faith formation, in conjunction with St Patrick's College, Maynooth	1,000
Sub-total	€124,972
Retirement	
C of I Clergy Pensions Fund – Additional income for most needy	1,857
Sub-total	€1,857
Education	
Drumgoon Parish (Kilmore) – Funding for the development of Religious Education in St Aidan's Comprehensive School, Cootehill, Co Cavan	1,250
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) – Third year	1,000
Love for Life (NI) – Financial assistance for pastoral core training, advice and support to church and clergy, around sexuality issues – (€7,000 – First year : €5,000 – Second year : €3,000 – Third year) – Third year	3,000
The following applications all concern youth work and the grants allocation take into consideration recommendations made by the Executive Committee of the Church of Ireland Youth Department	
3Rock Youth (Dublin and Glendalough) – Funding for competent, imaginative and accredited training of leaders in the dioceses	2,000
Ballymena Rural Deanery Youth Project (Connor) – Financial assistance for the creation of an innovative approach to youth ministry within the greater Ballymena area – (Stg£1,500)	1,796
C of I Youth Department – To assist CIYD in meeting the running costs of the Jump Programme – (Stg£15,000 per year for 3 years) – Third year	17,958

Standing Committee – Report 2012

Clogher Diocesan Board of Social Theology in Action – Financial assistance for the provision of a resource for young people, dealing with the results of alcohol misuse – (Stg£1,500)	1,796
Clogher Diocesan Council – Funding for a three year project called ‘The Wells Project Youth Ministry’ – (Stg£12,000 – First year : Stg£9,000 Second year : Stg£9,000 – Third year) – Second year	10,775
Cork, Cloyne and Ross Diocesan Youth Council – Funding to further progress the dioceses’ new initiative, of Mission to secondary schools, over a three year period – (€10,000 – First year : €6,000 – Second year : €4,000 – Third year) – Third year	4,000
Derry and Raphoe Youth – To assist financially with the running of the diocesan youth programme and outreach into the community – (Stg£1,800)	2,155
Down and Dromore Youth and Children’s Department – Financial assistance for the production of a family faith resource, for teaching children faith in the home – (Stg£1,000)	1,197
Dungiven Parish (Derry) – Funding for the establishment of a project, aimed at providing a fresh expression of youth orientated church, in a rural context – (Stg£20,000 – First year : Stg£15,000 – Second year : Stg£10,000 – Third year) – Third year	11,972
Elemental (Diocesan Youth Initiative for Cashel and Ossory) – To assist with funding for the sustainability of diocesan youth work, in urban and rural areas across the southeast – (€10,000 – First year : €5,000 – Second year) – Second year	5,000
Greenisland Realway Adopt a Station Project (Connor) – To assist with the continuing development of the GRASP drop-in centre – (Stg£5,000 – First year : Stg£3,000 – Second year : Stg£2,000 – Third year) – Third year	2,394
Kilkeel Parish Bridge Association Limited – Funding to establish the new youth outreach work between Jims and Kingdom Youth Club, to build on relationships between Catholic and Protestant young people, in the Kilkeel and surrounding areas – (Stg£2,000 – First year : Stg£1,000 – Second year : Stg£1,000 – Third year) – Third year	1,197
Magheraculmoney Parish (Clogher) – Funding to develop a variety of new programmes, to reach the youth in Kesh and wider area – (Stg£10,000 – First year : Stg£5,000 – Second year : Stg£3,000 – Third year) – First year	11,972
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) – Second year	11,972
Saintfield Parish (Down) – To assist financially with a project to encourage young people and children, in Saintfield village and district, to discover there is a better way of living – (Stg£5,000)	5,986
Solas Project – CORE at St Catherine’s (Dublin) – Financial support for the costs involved in four new initiatives, to develop these into sustainable programmes	10,000
Summer Madness (NI) – Funding for the ‘Wear It Out’ initiative, to enable young people address the issue of consumerism in our lives and the impact of our lifestyle choices on others – (Stg£1,500)	1,796
The Basement Youth Centre, Newry (Dromore) – Financial assistance for further development of this youth project, in St Patrick’s and St Mary’s parishes, over the next three years – (Stg£10,000)	11,972
Xpression (Armagh) – To assist with the ongoing development of the Xpression cross community outreach initiative – (Stg£1,000)	1,197
Sub-total	€122,385

Standing Committee – Report 2012

Community

Church of Ireland Board for Social Responsibility (NI) – To assist with the production of materials on social work/counselling services, in a range of European languages – (Stg£4,750)	5,687
Church of Ireland Historical Centenaries Working Group – Funding for a series of Day Seminars for bishops, clergy and laity, where historians and theologians will advise and facilitate the response of the Church of Ireland, to the significant historical commemorations during the next decade	3,000
Church of Ireland Working Group on Disability – To assist financially with a needs assessment of the disabled community in the Church of Ireland, across the whole of Ireland – (Stg£2,000)	2,394
St John's Parish, Stoneyford (Connor) – Funding for the purpose of overcoming sectarianism and parading issues in Stoneyford, by working in partnership with community stakeholders and certain groups in particular – (Stg£10,000 – First year : Stg£5,000 – Second year : Stg£5,000 – Third year) – First year	11,972
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) – Second year	29,929
The Mageough Home, Dublin – Funding to assist with the cost of fittings for the chapel	1,500
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) – Second year	23,943
WellSprings of Life (Connor) – To assist with the fitting out of a suitable area, for provision of support and intervention to recovering addicts – (Stg£1,500)	1,796
Willowfield Parish Community Association (Down) – Funding for a project providing advocacy and encouraging community development, in an area of sectarian tension – (Stg£15,000 – First year : Stg£10,000 – Second year) – First year	17,958
Sub-total	€98,179

Areas of Need

Armagh – Madden Schoolhouse Heritage Committee – Financial assistance for community development and regeneration, in an isolated rural community – (Stg£15,000)	17,958
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) – Third year	2,993
Clogher – Muckcross Parish – Financial assistance for programmes and the purchase of equipment – (Stg£2,000)	2,394
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) – Third year	7,183
Elphin – Lissadell Parish – Financial assistance for the furnishing and equipping of the Lissadell Centre, to open it up as a resource for the wider community	12,000

Standing Committee – Report 2012

Ossory – St Lachtain’s Church, Freshford – Funding to enable this parish realise its vision, of using the annexe attached to the church, to reach out to the entire Freshford community	3,000
Sub-total	€45,528
Outreach Initiatives	
Christ Church, Londonderry (Derry) – Funding for a project to allow the Church of Ireland to take a leading role in reconciliation within the city, by use of a series of Forum-Theatre workshops, to address a painful aspect of the city’s past – (Stg£2,500)	2,993
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) – Third year	5,986
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) – Second year	11,972
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) – Third year	17,958
CORE at St Catherine’s (Dublin) – Funding to develop new outreach initiatives	4,000
Grouped Parishes of Finaghy and Upper Malone (Connor) – Financial assistance for community and youth outreach ministries in these parishes – (Stg£3,000)	3,592
Holy Trinity and Immanuel Families Outreach Project (Connor) – Funding to enable the development of Messy Church and a holiday club, for largely unchurched families in these urban parishes – (Stg£1,500)	1,796
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) – Second year	8,380
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) – Third year	5,986
Parish of Rathmines with Harold’s Cross (Dublin) – To assist with start-up funding for new expression of church, especially outreach	2,000
St Andrew’s Church, Ballysally (Connor) – Financial assistance to develop ministry to the poor, needy and vulnerable of the parish, through the ‘Show the Love – Care in the Community’ project – (Stg£10,000 – First year : Stg£8,000 – Second year : Stg£5,000 – Third year) – First year	11,972
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) – Second year	9,577
St Mary’s Parish, Ballybeen (Down) – Financial assistance to establish the ‘ACTS’ project as a legally constituted community/caring association and to provide seed capital to develop an already established community based outreach – (Stg£3,000)	3,592
The Dock, Belfast – Seed funding to establish a ministry of connection and outreach, to the unchurched and centreless community in Belfast’s Titanic Quarter – (Stg£25,000)	29,929
Tullamore Union (Meath) – To assist with the provision of a parish based community facility and resources, providing support to the local community, which is not currently available	15,000

Standing Committee – Report 2012

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) – Third year	5,986
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Sub-total	€140,719
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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) – Second year	23,943
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Clones Group of Parishes (Clogher) – Funding for an innovative rural outreach project, cross border with three groups of parishes	1,250
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St Guaire's Parish, Aghadowey (Derry) – Funding to provide an avenue for companionship, for older members of the community, in a rural setting – (Stg£4,172)	4,995
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Sub-total	€30,188
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Total Allocated	€563,828
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Sterling grants have been converted to Euro using the 2011 end of year rate of 0.8353.

Accounts for the year ended 31 December 2011 are included as Appendix O on Page 256
Contributions to the Fund do not close until the end of February. The amount actually received by 28 February 2012 was €531,212.

Following a recommendation from the Priorities Fund Committee, the Standing Committee in March 2012, agreed that diocesan targets for contributions to the 2013 Fund should not be increased.

26. PROVINCIAL MEDIATION PANELS AND SEVERANCE FUND REVIEW

The Review of the Provincial Mediation Panels and the Severance Fund was presented to the Standing Committee at its meeting of January 2012.

The full review appears in Appendix P on Page 258.

The Standing Committee accepted the findings of the Review and asked that its recommendations be progressed. At its March meeting, the Standing Committee agreed to recommend a bill to abolish the Provincial Mediation Panels and a resolution to require Standing Committee to prepare guidelines on pastoral resolution, mediation and arbitration for the use of the Church of Ireland and to make recommendations on the future of the Severance Fund.

27. REVIEW OF EPISCOPAL MINISTRY AND EPISCOPAL STRUCTURES

In April 2011, the Standing Committee established a working group to examine the scope and nature of contemporary issues in the provision of Episcopal ministry in the Church of Ireland.

The working group reported to the Standing Committee in March 2012 and its report is Appendix Q on page 263.

The Standing Committee further agreed to submit a list of names to the General Synod for consideration for setting up a Commission on Episcopal Ministry and Episcopal Structures in the Church of Ireland.

28. WORKING GROUP ON DISABILITY

In April 2011, the Working Group on Disability requested that the Standing Committee review its terms of reference. The Standing Committee agreed and approved new terms of reference at its April meeting. It further agreed that members of the Disability Working group be appointed in June 2012 for a period of three years.

The report of the Working Group on Disability is Appendix R at page 274.

29. OBITUARY

The following members of General Synod died since the last session:

Mr Leslie Johnston

Mr Harold Stewart

Mrs Olive Stanley-Wetzel

Mr Henry Webb