

GENERAL SYNOD 2012

REPORT OF THE COVENANT COUNCIL

Proposer: The Very Revd Nigel Dunne, Diocese of Cork

EMBARGOED UNTIL DELIVERY

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

Your Grace,

The Covenant Council continues to work towards greater organic unity between our traditions and greatly welcomes the warm reception both by the General Synod and the Methodist Conference of our proposals to move towards the full interchangeability of ministry. As noted in our report it is ten years since the Covenant was signed. I for one had hoped that it would be on this anniversary that the full interchangeability of ministry would at least be enacted. It is now a matter of urgency that the Church of Ireland put in place the necessary legislation to enable this to come about and I would hope such legislation or amendments to current legislation will be among the resolutions presented next year. The Methodist Church in Ireland is far less constrained by ecclesiastical law and therefore, ‘the ball is in our court’ so to speak.

Contact with some of the Local Ecumenical Partnerships currently under way over the last year has been most useful to both the Partnerships and the work of the Council. The Council is committed to continuing this kind of contact not least because it can help joint projects to develop further and keep the Council informed of any amendments that might be needed in its Guidelines published some years ago.

Finally, I draw your attention to the fact that there will be several events across the island to celebrate the tenth anniversary of the signing of the Covenant later this year and encourage you all to attend the nearest one to you.