

# CHURCH OF IRELAND – GENERAL SYNOD 2013

## MOTIONS

Motions received by the Honorary Secretaries of the General Synod not less than one month before the day appointed for the opening of the session of the General Synod at which the motion is to be moved (Standing Order 31).

### 1. TIMETABLE

#### THE HONORARY SECRETARIES

A motion or motions to allocate the time available between the items listed on the agenda paper (Standing Order 56). (See Timetable Motion on separate sheet).

### 2. STANDING COMMITTEE: PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO CONSTITUTION OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE (1)

#### THE HONORARY SECRETARIES

That the Constitution of the Standing Committee of the General Synod be amended by inserting the following after Section 5 (3) 2 (3):

(4) Where a member-elect nominates by email it shall only be valid where:

(a) the nomination and the confirmation of consent to the nomination provided for in (b) below are sent to an email address designated by the Honorary Secretaries (email nominations and confirmations sent to an Honorary Secretary's personal email address are not valid); and,

(b) the member-elect being nominated confirms by email (separately or forwarded with the nominator's email) that they consent to the nomination; and,

(c) where both the nomination and the consent are sent to the Honorary Secretaries at the designated email address so as to reach them not later than three weeks before the first day of the forthcoming session of the General Synod.

### 3. STANDING COMMITTEE: PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE (2)

#### THE HONORARY SECRETARIES

That the Constitution of the Standing Committee of the General Synod be amended by inserting the following after the word 'bishop' in Section 1:

and the words "in writing" shall include communication by email.

**4. SELECT COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SEXUALITY IN THE CONTEXT OF CHRISTIAN BELIEF**

**THE ARCHBISHOP OF DUBLIN  
MR SAMUEL HARPER**

That, pursuant to the resolution adopted by the General Synod in 2012, the General Synod appoints the following as members of a Select Committee on Human Sexuality in the Context of Christian Belief:

The Rt Rev Kenneth Good  
The Rt Rev Trevor Williams  
Rev Patrick Bamber  
Rev Darren McCallig  
Very Rev John Mann  
Very Rev Sandra Pragnell  
Rev Pat Storey  
Rev George Davison  
Rev Trevor Johnston  
Rev Alison Calvin  
Mr David Bird  
Mr Greg Fromholz  
Mrs Phyllis Grothier  
Mrs Hilary McClay  
Mrs Helen McClenaghan  
Mrs Thea Boyle

The Committee may co-opt up to two additional members of the General Synod.

The Select Committee remit is to enable the listening, dialogue and learning process on all issues concerning human sexuality in the context of Christian belief to continue. The Select Committee may address any issue under the heading ‘Human Sexuality in the context of Christian Belief’.

The Select Committee is appointed for an initial two year period, which may be extended for a further two years by the General Synod on the recommendation of the Standing Committee. The Select Committee shall report to the Standing Committee twice per year at the meetings in November and April.

The Select Committee is empowered to bring whatever motions it deems appropriate via the Standing Committee to the General Synod and to consult as widely as possible.

Any casual vacancies that arise in the membership of the Select Committee may be filled by the Standing Committee.

**5. BOARD FOR SOCIAL THEOLOGY IN ACTION**

**REV ADRIAN DORRIAN  
THE ARCHBISHOP OF DUBLIN**

That the General Synod approves the following terms of reference for the Church in Society Commission.

## **The Church of Ireland Church and Society Commission (“CASC”)**

### **‘Putting faith into action’**

#### **TERMS OF REFERENCE**

The Church of Ireland Church and Society Commission is the new name for The Board for Social Theology in Action which was established by the General Synod of the Church of Ireland in 2010 to help to meet the needs of the Church in respect of social action and the theology of social action. It replaces three previous Church of Ireland committees: The Board for Social Action NI, The Board of Social Responsibility RI and the Church in Society Committee. It exists alongside, but separate to, independent legal entities (with a remit for) undertaking social services such as the BSR (NI).

The Commission reports annually to the General Synod and functions under the oversight of the Standing Committee.

#### **Mission**

The mission of the Church and Society Commission is to provide oversight and direction of the Church’s work in respect of social theology in action.

As such, it seeks to undertake the following functions:

- To be proactive in seeking to identify, contribute to, challenge, encourage and develop areas of living today where the mission of the Church can be active and the love of God shared. To do this through:
  - The publication of reports;
  - The development of appropriate resource materials;
  - The identification and communication of Good Practice;
  - The implementation of projects that apply theological perspectives to Christian living.
- To seek to be reactive in order to provide a relevant response to:
  - Consultation documents;
  - Public statements;
  - Policy debates;
  - Research and reports;
  - Social issues in every day living.

In order to further these two functions the Commission will also seek relationships with other groups within and beyond the Church of Ireland. It may also be appropriate from time to time for the Commission to refer matters to other bodies in the Church of Ireland.

- The Commission’s area of interest may include (but not be limited to):
  - Health and Social Care;
  - Medical Ethics;
  - Public Policy;
  - Political issues.
  - Poverty;
  - Family support;
  - Environment.

#### **Governance**

## **Membership**

The membership of the Commission includes those with expertise in and experience of a wide range of social issues and areas of special interest who have been accepted through an appropriate interview process.

It comprises of:

- 8 ordinary members (clergy and lay);
- Up to 4 co-opted members;
- An Honorary Secretary of the General Synod;
- The Chairperson of the General Purposes and Finance Committee of the Church of Ireland Board for Social Responsibility (NI) (*ex officio*);
- The Archbishops (*ex officio*);
- A Bishop.

The Commission elects from within its membership, on an annual basis, a Chairperson, vice-Chair and also an Honorary Secretary.

The Commission may elect up to 4 co-opted members who must be approved by Standing Committee before taking up membership. Co-opted members may serve until the end of the current triennium before their membership either expires or is renewed by the Commission.

Resignations of the ordinary members of the Commission must be replaced by application and interview process and the Standing Committee must approve successful applicants. Ordinary members are normally appointed for two triennia.

## **Sub-Groups**

Sub-groups may be formed by the Commission on an *ad hoc* basis to undertake specific areas of responsibility. These groups may also undertake specific projects or may make public responses on behalf of the Commission within the remits of the Commission's governance procedures.

If a member wishes to set up a sub-group, he or she should do so only after gaining agreement from the Chair.

## **Meetings**

The Commission will meet at least 4 times per year, one of which may be a residential. Ad hoc sub-groups, chaired by a member of the Commission may be convened to address specific issues suitable to their areas of responsibility.

One of the Commission meetings will be in May/June of each year, at which meeting a review of the previous year's activities will take place and objectives agreed for the year ahead.

## **Triennium Review**

The Church and Society Commission will review its objectives and terms of reference at the end of each triennium, beginning in 2013 and 2016.

## **Statements and consultations**

The Commission may release statements in its own name but, for the statements to be recognised as coming from the Church of Ireland, they must first be submitted to the Standing Committee for approval.

Any responses or statements prepared by a sub-committee must be circulated to members for their views. After an opportune amount of time has elapsed for this consultation the Chair may be presumed to act on comments received.

Any public response will be issued on behalf of the Commission by the Chairman or an appropriate spokesperson, as long as they are appointed with reference to the Chair and the Church of Ireland Press Office.

Under exceptional circumstances\* it will be permissible for the Chair of the Commission to release public statements on behalf of the Commission, provided that the advice of the Press Office and the Synod Department is sought and that statements are consonant with agreed Church of Ireland positions. The Chair will inform Commission members of the content of statements as soon as possible afterwards.

(\*An exceptional circumstance may be a media request or public consultation with a very short timescale for response.)

## **6. ENOUGH FOOD FOR EVERYONE – THE IF CAMPAIGN**

### **MR DAVID THOMAS THE BISHOP OF DOWN AND DROMORE**

That, we share Jesus' pain and disappointment at a world where there is enough food for everyone, but where that food is not fairly shared, and where one person in eight goes hungry.

We seek to obey Christ's command to feed hungry people, to care for our neighbours of all races and countries, and to pursue justice.

As the G8 gathering of world leaders takes place in Northern Ireland this year, and the Republic of Ireland holds the EU presidency until July, the eyes of the world are upon us, and we will speak out faithfully.

We commit to pray for our governments and specifically for the G8 leaders, and to campaign for change persistently and prophetically.

We call on the UK and Irish governments to do everything in their power to fight the injustice of hunger.

## **7. TAXATION AND DEVELOPMENT**

### **THE BISHOP OF LIMERICK AND KILLALOE MS SANDRA DUKELOW**

That, the General Synod of the Church of Ireland:

1. Recognises the importance of taxation in developing countries for ensuring development and building accountability between states and citizens;
2. Requests that both the Irish Government and the British Government support the call for a new international accounting standard requiring companies to report on profits made and taxes paid in every country where they operate - so called country-by-country reporting.

## **8. CLERGY CODE OF DUTY AND CONDUCT COMMITTEE**

### **THE HONORARY SECRETARIES**

That the General Synod acknowledges with thanks the work of the members of the Clergy Code of Duty and Conduct Committee, notes the important issues raised by the work of the committee and their implications for the Church and requests that the Honorary Secretaries explore how to progress them and report their conclusions to Standing Committee.

**9. DIVERSITY AND PARTICIPATION IN DIOCESAN AND CHURCH DECISION MAKING BODIES (HARD GOSPEL IMPLEMENTATION GROUP)**

**REV ANDREW FORSTER  
MRS ETHNE HARKNESS**

That diocesan bishops shall present the statistics on gender participation to diocesan synods and other bodies and discuss the issue of gender participation in these decision-making bodies in order to increase the participation of women in decision-making bodies of the Church.

Further, in 2014, each committee shall review its membership with a view to expanding the diversity of participants to reflect the membership of the Church in terms of age, gender, geographical location, churchmanship, experience and recently arrived migrant groups.

**10. SECTARIAN DIVISION**

**VEN ROBERT MILLER  
REV ANDREW FORSTER**

That the General Synod of the Church of Ireland notes the work of the Hard Gospel Implementation Group will conclude on 11<sup>th</sup> May 2013. Given the continuing evident challenges of community conflict and sectarian division it agrees with the findings of the independent evaluator for The Hard Gospel Project, as presented to General Synod in 2009, *'that the Church of Ireland should put in place the necessary structures, strategies and resources to continue its Hard Gospel process as a long-term mainstream initiative within the Church that will create both internal change and practical action in local communities'* and urges the Standing Committee to give consideration to this.

**11. SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC CHANGE**

**REV CANON IAN POULTON  
MRS PHYLLIS GROTHIER**

Recognizing that Ireland is passing through profound social and economic changes which have had impacts at societal, community and individual levels, and which have substantially changed the context of the mission of the church, this Synod requests dioceses, parishes and individual church members to reflect upon the nature of those changes and to initiate conversations on how we may practically respond to the challenges we now face.

**12. ALLOCATIONS**

**MR ROBERT NEILL  
THE BISHOP OF CORK**

That the General Synod hereby authorises the Representative Body to make the following allocations from General Funds in 2013:

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Group A – Maintenance of the Stipendiary Ministry	1,493,792
Group B – Pension Related Costs	448,910
Group C – Training of Ordinands	1,254,951
Group D – General Synod Activities	905,216
Group E – Miscellaneous	5,500
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	4,108,369
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**13. PROPERTY TAX (RB EXECUTIVE)**

**MR ROBERT NEILL**

That the General Synod hereby authorises the Representative Body:

- (i) to pay the Local Property Tax due in respect of residential properties vested in the Representative Body within parishes in the Republic of Ireland;
- (ii) to recover the amounts paid from the parishes through the dioceses; and
- (iii) to require Select Vestries to provide and certify valuations in respect of properties.

**14. CHURCH OF IRELAND COUNCIL FOR MISSION - MEMBERSHIP**

**VERY REV STEPHEN LOWRY**

**VEN WAYNE CARNEY**

That the Very Rev Stephen Lowry, the Rev Ruth West, Mrs Felix Blennerhassett, the Rev Paul Hoey and Capt Colin Taylor be elected as Representatives of the General Synod on the Church of Ireland Council for Mission for the forthcoming year.

**15. MISSION PRIORITY - CHURCH OF IRELAND COUNCIL FOR MISSION**

**VERY REV STEPHEN LOWRY**

**VEN WAYNE CARNEY**

That the General Synod of the Church of Ireland, recognising this to be a time of critical need and of missional opportunity in Ireland, north and south, calls on every parish, diocese and body within the Church, to make it a priority to fulfil the Great Commission of Christ with urgency, imagination and energy.

**16. SECONDARY EDUCATION COMMITTEE – MEMBERSHIP**

**REV CANON IAN ELLIS**

**VEN ROBIN BANTRY WHITE**

That the General Synod notes and affirms the election of the following as the Church of Ireland representatives on the Secondary Education Committee:

Rt Rev Paul Colton  
 Mrs Joan Bruton  
 Mr Edward Lindsey  
 Mrs Patricia O'Malley  
 Rev Brian O'Rourke  
 Ms Elizabeth Oldham  
 Mr Adrian Oughton  
 Mr Geoffrey Perrin

## **17. TEACHER TRAINING**

### **MR RICHARD CODD**

That the house requests that the General Synod Board of Education seeks a review of the current teacher education proposals which appear to have a potentially detrimental effect on the life of school communities under the patronage of the Church of Ireland and other Protestant churches.

## **18. CHURCH OF IRELAND COLLEGE OF EDUCATION**

### **THE ARCHBISHOP OF DUBLIN**

That the house endorses the four core principles as promulgated by the Board of Governors of CICE namely,

- Safeguarding and enhancing the holistic educational experience of all students in CICE;
- Protection of the rights of CICE staff;
- Retention of CICE's identity in terms of its ethos and culture, including its relationship with and responsibility to the Church of Ireland network of primary schools throughout the State;
- Affirmation of and formal positive acknowledgement of, and respect for, the values, origins and traditions of CICE;

And asks that those negotiating on behalf of the College to ensure that these principles are included in any agreement reached with any educational grouping under the proposals of the Minister for Education and Skills for the restructuring of teacher training in the Republic.

## **19. COVENANT COUNCIL - MEMBERSHIP**

### **VERY REV NIGEL DUNNE**

That the following be elected as Church of Ireland representatives on the Covenant Council for the coming year:

The Most Rev Dr Richard Clarke  
 Ms Elva Byrne  
 Very Rev Nigel Dunne



Rev Dr Maurice Elliott  
 Rev Barry Forde  
 Rev Canon Ginnie Kennerley  
 Rev Dr Peter Thompson

**20. MOTION FOR SPECIAL BILL IN 2014 (COVENANT COUNCIL)**

**VERY REV NIGEL DUNNE**

That, in accordance with the provisions of Section 26 (1) of Chapter I of the Constitution, leave be given for the introduction of a Bill in the General Synod 2014, to amend Chapter IX of the Constitution in the following terms:-

WHEREAS it is the will of the Church of Ireland to work towards the unity of all God's people;

AND WHEREAS for this purpose it is desirable to enable interchangeability of ministry between the Church of Ireland and the Methodist Church in Ireland;

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

BE IT ENACTED by the Archbishops and Bishops and clergy and laity of the Church of Ireland in General Synod assembled in Dublin in the year 2014 and 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 Canon 10, there shall be inserted the following Canon:

**10A Interchangeability of Ministry with the Methodist Church in Ireland**

- (1) For the purposes of this Canon, 'in full Connexion with the Conference of the Methodist Church in Ireland' shall mean a presbyter who has completed his or her period of training and probation and has been admitted as a member of the Conference of the Methodist Church in Ireland or admitted into connection therewith.
- (2) Pursuant to the will of the Church of Ireland to work towards the unity of all God's people, and that its mission may be further strengthened, the Church of Ireland,
  - (a) recognizes all three expressions of personal, communal, and collegial episcopate in the polity of the Methodist Church in Ireland, in the person of the Methodist President and his or her predecessors and successors, in the Methodist congregations and in the Methodist Conference respectively;
  - (b) discerns consonance between the office and function of a bishop within the Church, (as expressed in the Ordinal and the Preamble and Declaration) and in the office and function of a President and a past President within the Methodist Church in Ireland and understands that 'Episcopal Minister' gives

expression to the office and function of Presidents and Past Presidents of the Methodist Church in Ireland;

- (c) requires that at least two bishops of the Church participate in all future Installations and Consecrations of the President of the Methodist Church in Ireland;
  - (d) recognizes those who have been, at any time, installed and consecrated as a President in the Methodist Church in Ireland and who are in full Connexion with the Conference of the Methodist Church in Ireland, as being entitled to participate in the laying on of hands in the ordination of bishops and priests in the Church.
- (3) When both events referred to in 10A(2)(c) and 10A(2)(d) have first occurred the Church of Ireland shall;
- (a) consider any presbyter of the Methodist Church who is in full Connexion with the Conference of the Methodist Church in Ireland, as being equivalent to those ordained priest within the Church solely for the purposes of being considered for or appointed to any role which necessitates being in priest's orders within the Church;
  - (b) consider any President or former President of the Methodist Church in Ireland, who is in full Connexion with the Conference of the Methodist Church in Ireland, as being equivalent to those ordained bishop within the Church solely for the purposes of being considered for election and translation into a vacant see within the Church, or any other role which necessitates being in priest's orders within the Church;
  - (c) require that ministers and Episcopal Ministers of the Methodist Church in Ireland exercising ministry within the Church be made subject to the ecclesiastical polity, laws and tribunals and authority of the Church including its Canons, Constitution, and discipline for the duration of the exercise of that ministry, and shall have no part in nor be subject to, the same polity, authority, Canons, Constitution, and discipline except during such time as that ministry is exercised within the Church of Ireland;
- (4) When both events referred to in 10A(2)(c) and 10A(2)(d) have first occurred the Church shall acknowledge a period of anomaly during which there shall be those who were installed as President by, and presbyters received in full Connexion with, the Conference of the Methodist Church in Ireland, before the coming into force of both 10A(2)(c) and 10A(2)(d), and those installed as President by, and presbyters received in full Connexion with, the Conference of the Methodist Church in Ireland after both 10A(2)(c) and 10A (2)(d) have come into force, and shall not distinguish between the same provided they are in full Connexion with the Conference of the Methodist Church in Ireland.

## **21. COVENANT COUNCIL - CELEBRATIONS**

**VERY REV NIGEL DUNNE**

That General Synod continues to encourage congregations to celebrate the Covenant relationship with neighbouring Methodist congregations on or around September 26 each year.

**22. LITURGICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE - MEMBERSHIP**

**THE BISHOP OF CASHEL AND OSSORY  
REV ADRIAN DORRIAN**

That the following be elected to the Liturgical Advisory Committee for the triennium term May 2013 – May 2016:

The Rt Rev Harold Miller  
Ven Richard Rountree  
Rev Canon Gerald Field  
Rev Canon Michael Kennedy  
Rev Adrian Dorrian  
Rev Robert Ferris  
Rev Peter McDowell  
Rev Kenneth Rue  
Rev Alan Ruffi  
Rev Dr Peter Thompson  
Ms Julie Bell  
Mrs Alison Cadden  
Ms Jacqueline Mullen

**23. LITURGICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE – HYMNAL SUPPLEMENT**

**THE BISHOP OF DOWN AND DROMORE  
REV CANON GERALD FIELD**

That General Synod welcomes the progress made towards an authorized supplement to the Hymnal, approves the proposed content subject to any final revision necessary, and directs the Standing Committee to make whatever arrangements needed for its publication as soon as is practicable.

**24. COMMISSION ON MINISTRY – PIONEER MINISTRY**

**REV DR MAURICE ELLIOTT  
VERY REV KATHARINE POULTON**

That this House instructs the Commission on Ministry and respectfully requests the House of Bishops;

- To identify the issue of vocation to, and training for, Pioneer Ministry as a priority in the ministry strategy of the Church;
- To appoint a working group representative of both above mentioned bodies and of the Church of Ireland Theological Institute to explore ways forward in this matter;
- To report their findings to the General Synod as soon as possible.

**25. COMMISSION ON MINISTRY – MEMBERSHIP**

**REV DR MAURICE ELLIOTT**  
**VERY REV KATHARINE POULTON**

That the following be elected to fill the casual vacancy in the Commission on Ministry for the remainder of the triennium:

Mr Trevor Douglas

**26. COMMISSION FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY AND DIALOGUE**

**REV CANON PATRICK COMERFORD**  
**REV DARREN MCCALLIG**

That the following be appointed members of the Commission for Christian Unity and Dialogue:

The Archbishops and Bishops  
Rev Ása Björk Ólafsdóttir  
Rev Canon Patrick Comerford  
Rev Canon David Crooks  
Rev Daniel Nuzum  
Rev Niall Sloane  
Rev Canon Helene Tarneberg Steed  
Rev Canon Dr Ian Ellis  
Rev Darren McCallig  
Ms Georgina Coptý  
Mr Samuel Harper  
Mrs Roberta McKelvey  
Mr Philip McKinley  
Dr Kenneth Milne  
Mr Trevor Morrow  
Ms Catherine Turner

**27. JOURNAL 2013**

**THE HONORARY SECRETARIES**

That the Honorary Secretaries of the General Synod be instructed to publish with as little delay as possible, the Journal of the Proceedings of the General Synod during this session, with such appendices as they think expedient.