

Bill No 3**Explanatory Memorandum**

At present, much communication between the central offices of the Church in Dublin and Belfast and members of General Synod is conducted by post. This means of communication has served the Church well in the past but allowing the use of email communication would be quicker, less expensive, require less staff time and resources and be more environmentally friendly (in terms of the quantity of paper used in postal communication).

At present, the secretaries of each diocesan synod of the Church of Ireland are required to supply names and addresses of representatives elected to General Synod to the Secretaries of the General Synod.

This Bill will (if passed) require dioceses to also seek the email addresses (if any) and telephone numbers of members and supply these to the secretaries of the General Synod.

This Bill does not amend the Standing Orders of the General Synod and therefore notice of the meeting of the General Synod (the envelope containing the Book of Reports and voting cards etc sent out about 2-3 weeks in advance of the Synod) will still be sent by post. The bill also does not amend the Constitution of the Standing Committee and therefore, the members of the Standing Committee will still be elected by means of a postal ballot.

The Bill will, however, allow more routine communication to be conducted by email.

VEN ROBIN BANTRY WHITE
MRS BRIGID BARRETT

BILL

To amend Chapter I of the Constitution

WHEREAS at present most communication between members of the General Synod and the offices of the General Synod is conducted by post;

AND WHEREAS it is desirable that greater use is made of electronic communication as a quicker, less expensive and more environmentally friendly means of communication;

AND WHEREAS to facilitate this, it is necessary to amend Chapter I of the Constitution;

BE IT ENACTED by the Archbishops and Bishops and the clergy and laity of the Church of Ireland, in General Synod assembled in Armagh in the year 2013, and by the authority of the same, as follows:-

1. In this Statute 'Chapter I' refers to Chapter I of the Constitution of the Church of Ireland.
2. For section 10 (1) (a) of Chapter I there shall be substituted:
 - (a) within one week, the names, addresses, telephone numbers and email addresses of all such representatives and supplemental representatives;