

**Bill No 6****Explanatory Memorandum**

At present, under Chapter III of the Constitution of the Church of Ireland, every vestry member must sign a 'Form of declaration' that they are *inter alia* members of the Church of Ireland and either resident in the parish (Form No 1) or an accustomed member of the Congregation (Form No 2).

The relevant forms used for this purpose, the 'Form of declaration by a resident' and the 'Form of declaration by an accustomed member of a congregation' are contained in the Schedule to Chapter III of the Constitution of the Church of Ireland. Neither form explicitly states the requirement for a signature. However, a signature is clearly required for both of these forms of declaration under Section 4 of Chapter III of the Constitution.

The lack of an explicit requirement for a signature on the form may cause confusion and accordingly, the following Bill is proposed to change the layout of the forms and include an explicit requirement for a signature on these forms.

REV GEORGE DAVISON  
MR SAMUEL HARPER

**BILL**

**To amend Chapter III of the Constitution**

WHEREAS the Schedule to Chapter III of the Constitution of the Church of Ireland contains a Form of declaration by a resident and a Form of declaration by an accustomed member of a congregation;

AND WHEREAS the said forms do not contain reference to the requirement for a signature referred to in Section 4 of the said Chapter of the said Constitution;

AND WHEREAS it is desirable that the said forms should indicate that a signature and the name in block capitals are required;

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 'the Constitution' means the Constitution of the Church of Ireland and 'Chapter III' means Chapter III of the said Constitution.
2. For the 'Form of declaration by a resident' and the 'Form of declaration by an accustomed member' contained in the Schedule to Chapter III of the Constitution there shall be substituted the 'Form of declaration by a resident' and the 'Form of declaration by an accustomed member' contained in the Schedule to this Statute.

**Schedule**

**No 1 - Form of declaration by a resident**

I, A.B., of \_\_\_\_\_, do hereby solemnly declare that I am a member of the Church of Ireland, and that I am usually resident at \_\_\_\_\_, in the parish or district of \_\_\_\_\_, in the diocese of \_\_\_\_\_, and that I am not registered as a vestry member in any church or chapel or church hall within the same parish or district as an accustomed member of the congregation.

Signed .....

Name (in block capitals) .....

Address .....

Date .....

**No 2 - Form of declaration by an accustomed member of a congregation**

I, A.B., of \_\_\_\_\_, do hereby solemnly declare that I am a member of the Church of Ireland, and that I have for three calendar months last past been, and now am, an accustomed member of the congregation attending the church or chapel or church hall of \_\_\_\_\_, in the parish or district of \_\_\_\_\_, in the diocese of \_\_\_\_\_, and that I am not registered as a vestry member in any other church or chapel or church hall in Ireland as an accustomed member of the congregation.

Signed .....

Name (in block capitals) .....

Address .....

Date .....