

CHAPTER III

To provide for the episcopal needs of the Church of Ireland and other matters connected therewith.

WHEREAS it is expedient that proposals should be prepared for submission to the General Synod to provide an episcopate adequate for the needs, and compatible with the resources, of the Church of Ireland:

Be it enacted by the archbishops and bishops, and the clergy and laity of the Church of Ireland, in General Synod assembled in Dublin in the year 1974, and by the authority of the same, as follows:—

1. In this statute

“the commissioners” shall mean the commissioners for the time being appointed as by this statute provided;

“the Standing Committee” shall mean the Standing Committee of the General Synod;

“bishop” shall include an archbishop.

2. (1) The persons whose names are set forth in the schedule to this statute shall be the commissioners, and shall hold office until the termination of the ordinary meeting of the General Synod which shall be held in the year 1976, and the General Synod at such meeting may re-appoint, reconstitute or abrogate the commission as it may think fit. Any casual vacancy arising in the meantime, through the death, legal incapacity, or resignation of any commissioner, shall be filled by election by the Standing Committee, and any persons so elected shall have and exercise all the powers of an original commissioner.

(2) The secretaries of the General Synod shall summon a meeting of the commissioners to be held within two months after the passing of this statute. At the said meeting or any adjournment thereof the commissioners shall elect out of their own number a chairman and a deputy chairman. The commissioners shall make such arrangements as may seem to be desirable in regard to their meetings, the procedure thereat, the determination of a quorum, and generally for the purpose of giving effect to the provisions of this statute.

(3) A commissioner may resign his office by notice in writing to that effect to the secretaries of the General Synod.

(4) The commissioners shall have an office at Church of Ireland House, Dublin, and shall have power to appoint such officers as they shall deem necessary.

(5) The commissioners shall not receive any salary, but their expenses incurred while acting on the commission shall be defrayed on the scale determined by the Representative Body in accordance with section 15 of Chapter X of the Constitution.

3. (1) The Standing Committee, the Representative Body, each bishop, each diocesan synod, and each diocesan council shall on the request of the commissioners furnish to the commissioners any information which may appear to the commissioners to be necessary to enable them to consider and determine any matter referred to them by this statute for their consideration and determination.

(2) The secretaries of the General Synod shall not later than 30th June 1974 furnish to the commissioners copies of all reports on the episcopate and matters relating thereto presented to the General Synod or to the Standing Committee since 1st January 1947 and copies of all relevant statutes of the General Synod and resolutions adopted by the General Synod and resolutions adopted by the General Synod or by the Standing Committee.

(3) The Representative Body shall not later than 30th June 1974 furnish to the commissioners a statement setting out the current and estimated future expenditure on the episcopate, the sources of the funds currently being expended, and an estimate of the funds likely to be available for this purpose in the future.

4. The commissioners, after consideration of the episcopal needs of the Church of Ireland and of the resources likely to be available for this purpose, shall prepare and publish not later than 30th April 1975 a draft scheme specifying the number of bishops required in the opinion of the commissioners to meet the needs of the Church of Ireland, the city, town or other place in which each such bishop should reside, and the territory to come within the episcopal jurisdiction of each such bishop; in the event of the commissioners recommending the establishment of the office of Assistant Bishop, they shall specify the functions proposed for such office, the number and the location of the assistant bishops considered required, and the extent and source of their

emoluments. The commissioners shall, forthwith on the publication of the said draft scheme, furnish copies of it to the House of Bishops, the Standing Committee, the Representative Body, each diocesan synod and each diocesan council.

5. The House of Bishops, the Standing Committee, the Representative Body, each diocesan synod and each diocesan council may not later than 31st October 1975 submit to the commissioners observations on the draft scheme and may suggest to the commissioners any alternative scheme. Any of the said bodies may also not later than 31st October 1975 request the commissioners to receive a deputation, and the commissioners shall make all reasonable efforts to comply with such request.

6. The commissioners, after consideration of any observations and any alternative schemes suggested in accordance with section 5 of this statute, shall prepare and publish a final scheme to be submitted as a bill to the General Synod at its ordinary meeting to be held in the year 1976.

7. (1) In determining the territory to come within the episcopal jurisdiction of each bishop, the commissioners shall not be obliged to adhere to all or any of the existing diocesan boundaries.

(2) For the purposes of the final scheme published by the commissioners as provided by this statute there shall be vested in the commissioners as regards all dioceses affected by the scheme all the powers and functions of the respective Diocesan Synods concerned under section 30 of Chapter I of the Constitution.

8. The commissioners in their draft and final schemes shall provide for an adequate episcopal ministry in all parts of Ireland and may submit, if thought desirable, to the General Synod legislative proposals in respect of all or any of the following:

- (a) to enable the office of assistant bishop to be established in the Church of Ireland;
- (b) to provide for the method of election or appointment of an assistant bishop;
- (c) to enable the office of assistant bishop to be held in conjunction with another ecclesiastical office;
- (d) other matters related thereto.

9. Without prejudice to the generality of the matters to be taken into consideration by the commissioners, they shall consider whether a relationship of collegiality between any two or more bishoprics is desirable, and, if they consider it to be desirable, shall submit to the General Synod a bill to give effect to it.

10. The commissioners shall include in the final scheme a statement specifying how and when each part of it is to come into effect, but without prejudice to the rights of the archbishop of Armagh or of any bishop elected to fill a vacancy which occurred before 16th May, 1968.

SCHEDULE

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| The Bishop of Cork | D. A. S. Butler |
| The Bishop of Clogher | A. W. R. Fitzmaurice |
| Very Rev. F. R. Bourke | D. F. Goodbody |
| Rev. E. Lovell | R. C. Lewis-Crosby |
| Ven. W. J. McCappin | T. J. Rainsford |
| Very Rev. H. A. Lillie | John A. Young |
| | Very Rev. V. G. B. Griffin, |
| | Rev. Canon W. G. Wilson, |
| | Dr. K. Milne, |
| | F. G. G. Quayle. |

with a direction to co-opt a member from each of the three united dioceses unrepresented.

CHAPTER IV

To amend Chapter IV of the Constitution.

WHEREAS it is expedient to amend Chapter IV 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 Dublin in the year 1974, and by the authority of the same, as follows:—

1. Sub-section (1) of section 46 of Chapter IV of the Constitution is hereby amended by substituting "1975" for "1974", "£1,710" for "£1,520" and "£1,240" for "£1,100".