

Council of Churches for Britain and Ireland, Assembly (to attend the Assembly in Swanwick, Derbyshire, February 1999 and continue until after the Assembly in 2002)

Rt Rev MHG Mayes  
Rev RJ Gray  
Rev TR Williams  
Ms Janet Barcroft  
Ms Roberta McKelvey  
Mr W Nixon  
Rev GV Wharton  
Rev MA Parker  
Mr D Nuzum  
Very Rev LDA Forrest  
Rev RJ Gray  
Rev Canon JAA Condell  
Rev FJ McDowell  
Rev JE Rutter

Irish Council of Churches, Executive Committee  
Church of Ireland Youth Council, Central Board  
Broadcasting Committee  
Methodist/Church of Ireland Joint Theological Working Group

Rev Canon JAA Condell  
Ms Vivienne Darling

The Church of England General Synod, York, July 1998  
PACT (as Council member in November 1998 and President from March 2000)

Ms Elaine McKay  
The Archbishop of Armagh  
Rev Dr IM Ellis  
Rev RJ Gray  
Rt Rev JRW Neill  
Rt Rev BDA Hannon  
Mr T Morrow  
Ms J Barcroft  
Ms R McKelvie  
Rt Rev MHG Mayes

The German Evangelical Kirchentag, Stuttgart, June 1999  
Irish Inter-Church Meeting, Swords, 23-24 April 1999

World Development - Bishops' Appeal Advisory Committee

Ms A Wills  
Rev RH Whiteside  
Ms VA Jones

Priorities Fund Committee

Church of Ireland Press

#### 4. AUDIT OF ACCOUNTS

The Standing Committee, with the approval of the Archbishop of Armagh, appointed PricewaterhouseCoopers to audit the accounts of the Representative Church Body.

PricewaterhouseCoopers undertook a limited review of the accounting procedures of the accounts of both the World Development – Bishops' Appeal Fund and the Priorities Fund. The Audit Committee concluded that given the nature of the various financial transactions involved it would be more practical and cost effective to undertake a programme of agreed procedures rather than a full audit. This programme of work was completed by PricewaterhouseCoopers for the year ending 31 December 1998.

#### 5. BISHOPS' APPEAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The World Development – Bishops' Appeal Advisory Committee submitted a report, including accounts for the year ended 31 December 1998, to the Standing Committee

in March 1999, which is included as Appendix B. The appointment of Ms E Aalen as Education Adviser was extended to 31 December 2000.

#### 6. CENTRAL COMMUNICATIONS BOARD

The Standing Committee approved a report from the Central Communications Board, which included the work of the Broadcasting Committee, the Internet Committee and the Literature Committee. The report is included as Appendix C.

#### 7. COMMISSION ON EPISCOPAL NEEDS

The General Synod in 1998 adopted the report from the Commission on Episcopal Needs and requested the Standing Committee to take the necessary action for the implementation of its proposals.

Under Section 31 of Chapter 1 of the Constitution, the consent of the Diocesan Synod of each diocese affected by the proposals to alter diocesan boundaries is required. The Standing Committee directed that the proposals be conveyed to the Honorary Secretaries of each Diocesan Synod affected and that the decision of each Diocesan Synod be conveyed to the Honorary Secretaries of the General Synod.

The Standing Committee at its January 1999 meeting noted that four Diocesan Synods, namely Clogher; Tuam, Killala and Achonry; Meath and Kildare and Cork, Cloyne and Ross voted in favour of the proposals and three, namely Armagh; Kilmore, Elphin and Ardagh and Limerick and Killaloe voted against. As all of the affected Diocesan Synods were not in favour of the proposals, the Standing Committee was not in a position to take the matter any further. The decisions of the Diocesan Synods were noted and are contained in a report to the General Synod included as Appendix D.

#### 8. COMMITTEES ETC REPORTING TO THE GENERAL SYNOD

The General Synod in 1998 adopted the following resolution:

- (a) That commencing in the year 1999 the following shall report to General Synod at least once every two years:

Council for Church Overseas  
Church of Ireland Youth Council  
Council for Mission in Ireland  
Commission on Church Buildings  
Church's Ministry of Healing  
Christian Stewardship Committee  
Board for Social Responsibility (NI)  
Board for Social Responsibility (RI)  
Committee for Christian Unity  
Church of Ireland Marriage Council

- (b) That the identity of those bodies reporting in any given year shall be determined by agreement between the bodies listed above and the Honorary Secretaries of the General Synod subject to the approval of the Standing Committee at its January meeting. Where such agreement is not forthcoming the Standing Committee shall make a ruling.

**LITERATURE COMMITTEE**

Two members of the Committee resigned in the course of the past year. The Bishop of Down and Dromore was unable to continue because of increasing episcopal responsibilities and Mr Robin Montgomery elected to leave the Committee after retiring from his bookselling business. Both members brought valuable insights and practical experience of publishing to the work of the Committee and they will be missed. It was decided not to nominate new members to the Committee until the results of the consultation on the future of publication in the Church of Ireland were known.

Grants from the General Synod Royalties Fund were recommended to support the publication of the new Church Hymnal; to assist the publication of a guide to the Church Hymnal, to be written by the Bishop of Limerick; to finance the printing and distribution of copies of a proposed experimental form of baptismal service which had been approved by the House of Bishops; and to subvent the publication, by APCK, of a book of essays, edited by the Dean of Raphoe, to mark the millennium.

The Committee continued to meet with the various publishing interests in the Church of Ireland to share information on forthcoming publishing projects, and provided a stand at the General Synod as part of a day devoted to communications.

A submission was made by CHL Consultants who had been retained by the Standing Committee to examine the publication needs of the Church of Ireland. The Committee reiterated its belief that the appointment of a Publications Officer was essential and expressed the view that the Committee might have a role as a support body for such an officer.

**APPENDIX D****COMMISSION ON EPISCOPAL NEEDS****Resolutions of the General Synod and Standing Committee**

The report of the Commission on Episcopal Needs was adopted by the General Synod in 1998 and the Standing Committee was requested to take the necessary action for the implementation of its proposals. The Standing Committee at its meeting in June 1998 adopted the following resolution:

That the Standing Committee notes the following resolution adopted by the General Synod of 1998:

That the report of the Commission on Episcopal Needs be adopted and that the Standing Committee be requested to take the necessary action for implementation of its proposals.

That the proposals contained in the report of the Commission on Episcopal Needs to the General Synod of 1998 be conveyed to the Honorary Secretaries of each Diocesan Synod affected with a request that approval of the alteration to Diocesan Boundaries affecting each particular Diocese be sought at a meeting of the Diocesan Synod and that the decision of the Diocesan Synod be conveyed to the Honorary Secretaries of the General Synod.

That the Honorary Secretaries report to the Standing Committee when a decision has been received from each Diocesan Synod affected by alterations to Diocesan Boundaries.

That the Standing Committee on receipt of a report from the Honorary Secretaries then considers what action should be taken to implement further the proposals contained in the report of the Commission on Episcopal Needs.

**Decisions of Diocesan Synods**

The resolution of the Standing Committee was conveyed to the Diocesan Secretaries of the Dioceses affected by the proposals for consideration by the various Diocesan Synods. The following decisions have been received from the relevant Diocesan Synods.

***Armagh***

“On behalf of the Honorary Secretaries of Armagh Diocesan Synod, I am to inform you that the Synod at its meeting on 20 November 1998 decided to withhold its consent to the proposals affecting Armagh Diocese as stated in the report of the Commission on Episcopal Needs 1998.”

***Clogher***

“In reference to your letter of 19 June '98 (Commission on Episcopal Needs), we as a Diocesan Synod met on Friday 25 September 1998 and unanimously accepted the proposed recommendation for increasing Clogher Diocese by four additional parishes from the Diocese of Kilmore {or from within the creation of the new Diocese of the Midlands} as outlined in the General Synod report page 279 D4.19.

This change, which was widely discussed by Diocesan Council and Diocesan Synod, was accepted in order to facilitate the Church of Ireland as a whole and to assist the Church to move forward in challenging and changing demographic trends of the twenty first century.

The above proposal was proposed by the Precentor, the Rev Canon BJ Courtney and seconded by the Rev Canon DP Hoey and accepted on an unanimous vote.”

***Kilmore, Elphin and Ardagh***

“At a meeting of the Joint Synods of Kilmore, Elphin and Ardagh, held last Saturday in Longford, the proposal to adopt the findings of the Commission on Episcopal Needs was rejected.”

***Tuam, Killala and Achonry***

“I refer to your letter 19 June last regarding the report of the Episcopal Needs Commission which was adopted by the Standing Committee. The matter was discussed at our recent Diocesan Synod. The following motion was passed:

That the Synod approves the recommendations contained in the report of the Commission on Episcopal Needs approved by the General Synod in May this year.”

***Meath and Kildare***

“The Diocesan Synod for this diocese took place on 19 September at which the proposals for the change in diocesan boundaries was discussed.

Following discussion on this matter the synod proceeded to vote in favour of the changes to the diocesan boundaries but emphasised the need to discuss administrative backup for the proposed changes.”

***Cork, Cloyne and Ross***

“I refer to your letter of 19 June, 1998, regarding approval by Diocesan Synods of the proposals contained in the Report of the Commission on Episcopal Needs. At the meeting of the Cork, Cloyne and Ross Diocesan Synod, on 8 October, 1998, the following resolution was passed:

That this Synod approves the alterations to diocesan boundaries proposed in the Report of the General Synod Commission on Episcopal Needs as they affect these United Dioceses.”

***Limerick and Killaloe***

“We wish to inform you that at a meeting of the Diocesan Synod of the United Dioceses of Limerick, Killaloe and Ardfert held on Saturday 6 June 1998 at Gurteen Agricultural College Ballingarry Roscrea Co Tipperary the following motion was passed:

That the Diocesan Synod of Limerick, Killaloe and Ardfert in exercise of its rights under section 31 (1) of Chapter 1 of the Constitution does not consent to the proposals contained in the Report of the Commission of Episcopal Needs 1998 insofar as they refer to these dioceses; nor will it consent to alternative proposal which would have the effect of separating any of these dioceses from the others.”