

## **GENERAL SYNOD 2013**

### **Motion relating to the Four Core Principles of CICE**

**Proposed by The Rt Revd Michael Jackson, Archbishop of Dublin & Glendalough**

**EMBARGOED UNTIL DELIVERY**

**CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY**

The four core and equal principles which frame this Motion in themselves express the spirit of the Church of Ireland College of Education of today. They recognise its pivotal public role as a state college in which the values and aspirations of the Church of Ireland for society at large are afforded central place. They shape the learning environment for all who contribute to its life and educational input and output. 85% of our full-time staff are members of the majority community in the Republic of Ireland, as indeed are 75% of the students whom we admit to the courses in the College each year. This has long been the case and ought to be no surprise to any Member of General Synod. Both groups are attracted by and contribute to its Anglican ethos of open inclusion, critical enquiry and compassionate service of others irrespective of race, gender, creed or denomination. It is not, nor can it ever be, a place of tribal identity. It is first and last a place which is a community of respect and of generosity of spirit.

The excellence of what CICE is and what it does is well attested and well documented. Extensive meetings with contemporary stakeholders across the country undertaken by the Principal and chairperson have underwritten the urgency of making concrete and making

public the four core principles before you today. They have received universal acceptance.

These four together underline the need for the broadest possible engagement of today's CICE students in the life of a university on a daily basis, something which has been lacking since the decision of Dublin University to withdraw its staff from all teaching of and engagement with CICE students in 2010. The members of the staff of CICE are a treasured component and integral to the life of CICE. They show impressive and sustained commitment to all students. The Board of CICE unanimously endorsed these core principles in November 2012 in a clear understanding that they reflect the community which CICE is and the very best of what we have to offer to another learning community.

Ethos to me is a very precious word. It is always in danger of being diminished and taken for granted. Ethos is a series of living relationships. These relationships express a commitment of appropriate care to other members and also to the world outside the College. It looks out every bit as much as it looks in. It already lives out what it is and prepares others to live in the same ways. This regular engagement with the world for its own sake is essential for ethos to fulfil Christ's mission in a ministry of service.

It is in this confident conviction that the Board of CICE has undertaken and is well advanced with negotiations around structured membership of Dublin City University with the securing not only of the four core principles but also of the practicalities which

enables the College to continue to serve the needs of our network of National Schools under Church of Ireland and Reformed patronage. I should like to pay tribute to those from the Board of CICE who already have been working on securing accreditation for the degrees of CICE students as part of our bona fides. I should like also to thank Professor Brian MacCraith, President of DCU, and Mr Ruairi Quinn, Minister for Education and Skills, in giving us the opportunity to move in this direction and in making a clear written statement guaranteeing our future role in this regard within a larger institution. My thanks also go to the Provost of Trinity College Dublin who, following many months of negotiation, has graciously stated and agreed with me that the University of Dublin is not, nor will it be, in a position to give CICE what we need, as encapsulated in the four core principles. He and I issued a shared statement at the end of March acknowledging the integrity and good intentions of all those who were involved, over a protracted period of time, in negotiations which did not reach agreement in spite of everyone's best efforts.

My thanks most of all go to the students, staff and Principal of CICE for maintaining and developing the ethos of CICE through their daily living it out in practical, joyful and generous ways.

I therefore encourage you to accept this Motion.