

Bill No 6**Explanatory Memorandum**

This Bill seeks to revise, amend and consolidate the provisions of earlier legislation relating to the regulation and management of the Cathedral Church of the Holy Trinity, Downpatrick and to make provision for the appointment by the Bishop of Down of two Ecumenical Canons of the said Cathedral.

Clause 1 seeks to provide for the repeal of earlier legislation and the substitution of the provisions contained in Schedule 1 for those of the statutes so repealed.

Clause 2 seeks to amend the First Schedule to Chapter VII of the Constitution by substituting a summary of the provisions of this Bill for the summary of the earlier statutes which this Bill seeks to repeal.

The detailed provisions relating to the regulation and management of the Cathedral are set out in Schedule 1.

Paragraph 1 seeks to provide that the existing Dean, Dignitaries and Prebendaries of the said Cathedral shall continue to hold office and retain the same rights, powers and privileges as heretofore except as they may be extended or modified by the provisions of this Bill.

Paragraphs 2-5 contain provisions for the appointment by the Bishop of Down of the members of the Chapter, for the arrangement of their duties and responsibilities and for the making of rules and regulations governing meetings of the Chapter. The only new provisions is that the Dignitaries and Prebendaries shall undertake by arrangement with the Dean, one Sunday in residence each year in the Cathedral.

Paragraph 6 restates provisions to enable the appointment by the Dean and Chapter of two Minor Canons.

The provisions of paragraph 7, which are entirely new, enable the Bishop of Down to appoint two Ecumenical Canons to the Chapter. Each Ecumenical Canon must be a Minister or accredited preacher of another Christian denomination which is specified by the House of Bishops and which is not in full communion with the Church of Ireland. The Declaration for Subscription, which must be made before the Bishop of Down by the prospective Ecumenical Canon, is contained in Schedule II to this Bill.

Paragraphs 8 and 9, which contain provisions for the maintenance and revision of a register of vestrypersons and the election of synodspersons for the Cathedral are very similar to earlier legislation except that the time within which the revision and the election shall take place has been altered to bring it into line with that for parochial general vestry meetings to elect select vestries. Paragraph 8(iii), which is also new, enables the Dean to appoint from the list of registered vestry persons a Dean's Cathedral Warden to act for one year.

The Constitution, powers and responsibilities of the Cathedral Board are detailed in paragraphs 10 and 11 and restate the provisions of Chapter III of 2005 with some additional provision, namely the right of the Board to appoint a People's Cathedral Warden. Under the provisions of Paragraph 10, the People's Cathedral Warden, together with the Dean's Cathedral Warden appointed under paragraph 8(iii), will become ex-officio members of the Board and their appointment may be renewed. New provision is also made for the triennial election by the Board of a Secretary and a Lay Treasurer and for the duties of the Lay Treasurer.

Under paragraph 12, the Dean is authorised to act on behalf of the Board in directing the officers appointed by the Board in the discharge of their duties and paragraph 13 enables the Board to determine those matters which are not subject to the rights of the Dean and the Chapter or otherwise provided for in this Bill.

THE VERY REV HENRY HULL
THE BISHOP OF DOWN AND DROMORE

BILL

To amend the provisions relating to the regulation and management of the Cathedral Church of the Holy Trinity at Downpatrick

WHEREAS it is expedient to amend the provisions relating to the regulation and management of the Cathedral Church of the Holy Trinity at Downpatrick;

AND WHEREAS it is desirable to make consequential amendment of the First Schedule to Chapter VII of the Constitution 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 2014 and by the authority of the same as follows:-

1. The Statutes of the General Synod, Chapter VI of 1872, Chapter III of 1883, Chapter II of 1900, Chapter IX of 1922, Chapter II of 1958, Chapter II of 1985 and Chapter III of 2005 are hereby repealed and the provisions contained in Schedule I hereto annexed are substituted therefor.
2. For paragraph (3) of the First Schedule to Chapter VII of the Constitution of the Church of Ireland there shall be substituted:-

(3) Down Cathedral

2014, Cap VI

Under the Statute, the Bishop of Down is the Ordinary and has the right of appointment to the Deanery, Dignities and Prebends. The Statute also provides for the appointment of Minor Canons and two Ecumenical Canons; the management and regulation of the Cathedral's affairs; the registration of vestry members; the return of Synod members and the election of lay members of the Cathedral Board and its constitution.

Schedule I

1. The existing Dean, Dignitaries and Prebendaries of the Cathedral of the Holy Trinity, Downpatrick shall (subject to the provisions of the Irish Church Act, 1869) continue to hold their respective offices therein and shall retain the same rights, powers and privileges as they have heretofore enjoyed, and shall be liable to the discharge of all duties to which they have hitherto been subject, except so far as the same may be extended or modified by the provisions of this Act.
2. The Bishop of Down shall be the Ordinary of the said Cathedral, and shall have the right of appointment of the members of the Chapter which shall consist of the Dean, Chancellor, Precentor, Treasurer and Archdeacon and the three Prebendaries, all of whom shall be selected from the Diocese of Down.
3. The Dean, shall be subject to the authority and control of the Ordinary. The Dean shall order the services of the Cathedral and, in matters pertaining thereto, shall direct the clergy and officials.
4. The officers, who shall continue to constitute the Cathedral Body shall be the Dignitaries; namely the Dean, Chancellor, Precentor, Treasurer and Archdeacon in that order, and the Prebendaries; namely, the Prebendary of Dunsford, Prebendary of St Andrew, and Prebendary of Talpestone in no particular order. The Dignitaries shall undertake the customary duties pertaining to their office. Each Dignitary and Prebendary shall undertake, by arrangement with the Dean, one Sunday in-residence each year in the Cathedral. The Dignitaries and Prebendaries shall also undertake any other duties as decided from time to time by the Dean and Chapter.
5. The Dean and Chapter shall have power to make rules and regulations for the times and conduct of meetings of the Chapter and the discharge of its responsibilities. Meetings of the Chapter shall be presided over by the Dean or, in the absence of the Dean, by the member of the Chapter next in order of precedence who is present.
6. It shall be in the power of the Dean and Chapter, with the consent of the Ordinary, to appoint Minor Canons, not exceeding two in number.
7. (i) The Bishop of Down may appoint two Ecumenical Canons to the Chapter. An Ecumenical Canon shall mean a minister or accredited preacher of one or more such Christian denominations, not in full communion with the Church of Ireland, as may from time to time be specified by the House of Bishops. The Ecumenical Canons shall each have a designated seat in the Cathedral and shall be non-voting members of the Chapter.
 - (ii) Such Ecumenical Canons may be removed by the Bishop of Down for cause shown. Each Ecumenical Canon, if not so removed, shall hold office for a term of five years from the date of appointment or until such Ecumenical Canon shall resign from such office. An Ecumenical Canon who has served five years may be reappointed.
 - (iii) The appointment of an Ecumenical Canon shall not be effective unless and until that person shall make and subscribe before the Bishop of Down the declaration contained in Schedule II hereto annexed.
 - (iv) An Ecumenical Canon may be invited by the Dean to perform all or any of the following duties insofar as the same are consistent with the provisions of Canon 10 –

- (a) To say or sing Morning or Evening Prayer or the Litany;
- (b) To read the Holy Scriptures;
- (c) To deliver an address;
- (d) To assist at a Baptism, Marriage or Funeral Service or at the Celebration of the Holy Communion;

if the Ecumenical Canon is authorised to perform a similar duty in his or her own Church.

(v) The Court of the General Synod shall have authority to determine all questions or disputes that may arise respecting the appointment or removal of an Ecumenical Canon.

8. (i) There shall be a register of vestrypersons for the Cathedral, and every member of the Church of Ireland of the age of 18 or over, who shall have been for one year immediately prior to registration an accustomed member of the congregation and a contributor towards the funds of the Cathedral, shall be entitled to register.

(ii) The Register shall be revised annually during Lent by the Dean and the Lay Treasurer of the Cathedral Board in the manner set forth in sections 5, 6 and 7 of Chapter III of the Constitution of the Church of Ireland.

(iii) The Dean may appoint from the list of registered vestrypersons, a Dean's Cathedral Warden to act for one year; the person so appointed shall become ex officio a member of the Board for the term of his or her appointment. Such appointment may be renewed.

9. Those registered shall meet triennially, not earlier than twenty days before and not later than twenty days after Easter Day, to elect out of their own number:-

(i) Two Lay members of the Cathedral Board as hereinafter constituted.

(ii) Synodspersons to sit as members of the Down and Dromore Diocesan Synod who shall possess the same rights and privileges as synodspersons elected by parishes. The number of such synodspersons shall be in proportion to the number of clergy of the said Cathedral who are not otherwise qualified to sit as members of the Down and Dromore Diocesan Synod.

The registered vestrypersons shall also meet at such other times as the Dean may decide.

10. (1) There shall be a Cathedral Board constituted as follows:

- (a) The Dean
- (b) The Incumbent of any Parish, Group or Union of Parishes of which the said Cathedral is from time to time annexed if such Incumbent be not the Dean of Down.
- (c) Two members of the Chapter elected every third year by the Dean and Chapter.
- (d) Two lay persons elected every third year, by the registered Vestry members of the Cathedral out of their own body.
- (e) Two lay persons elected every year by the lay members of the Down and Dromore Diocesan Council whose qualification for election shall be the same as that as for the Diocesan Synod.

(2) Any vacancy occurring in the interval between triennial elections shall be filled:

- (i) as to those elected by the Dean and Chapter, by the Dean and Chapter;
- (ii) as to those elected by the Registered Vestry Members by co-option of persons qualified as in the section provided;
- (iii) as to those elected by the lay members of the Down and Dromore Council by the lay members of the Down and Dromore Council.

Any person chosen to fill such vacancy shall hold office until the next triennial elections.

(3) The Board may appoint from the list of registered vestrypersons, a People's Cathedral Warden to act for one year; the person so appointed shall become an ex officio member of the Board for the term of his or her appointment. Such appointment may be renewed.

(4) The Board shall triennially elect a Secretary, who shall record the proceedings of the meetings of the Board, and a lay Treasurer who shall submit annually to the Board for its approval an audited financial statement of all funds under the control or management of the Board. If either is not already a member of the Board, he or she may be co-opted.

(5) At least four members, excluding any co-opted members, must be present to form a quorum.

11. The Cathedral Board shall have power to make rules and regulations for the times and conduct of its meetings and the discharge of its responsibilities. It shall be presided over by the Dean, or in the absence of the Dean, by the member of the Chapter next in order of precedence who is present, such President having both an ordinary and a casting vote. A special meeting of the said Board shall be summoned by the Dean or, in the absence of the Dean, by one of the Chapter members who is also a member of the Board, or at any time on the written requisition of three members of the Board.

The Board shall have the appointment and removal of the Organist, Choristers and other officials of the Cathedral and the regulation of their salaries, the control and management of collections and generally the arrangement of financial and other matters relating or appertaining to the said Cathedral, not otherwise provided for,

12. The Dean shall act on behalf of the Board in directing the officers appointed by the Board in the discharge of their duties.
13. Matters relating to the Cathedral not herein otherwise provided for and not heretofore subject to the rights of the Dean and Chapter shall be determined by the Board.

Schedule II – Declaration for Subscription

I, A.B., do hereby solemnly declare that:

1. I am a minister or accredited preacher of Church.
2. I agree to be bound by the provisions of Schedule I to the Statute of the General Synod, Chapter VI of 2014 and to that extent only, I submit myself to the authority of the Church of Ireland, and to the laws and tribunals thereof.
3. I A.B. do declare that I will perform Canonical obedience to the Ordinary of the Cathedral Church of the Holy Trinity, Downpatrick, and *his* successors, Bishops of Down and Dromore. I will observe the statutes and ancient customs of the Cathedral Church, so far as they are not repugnant to the laws of the Church of Ireland and will maintain in confidence all matters entrusted as such to the Chapter.

I subscribe to the above declaration to be appointed to the office of Ecumenical Canon of the Cathedral Church of the Holy Trinity, Downpatrick.

This day of 20....