

**GENERAL SYNOD
OF THE
CHURCH OF IRELAND**

2014

BILLS

AND

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDA

INTRODUCTION

This pamphlet contains those Bills which were lodged with the honorary secretaries at least six weeks before the first day of the session.

A Bill is a proposal for legislation which, if passed, will become a Statute, binding on all members of the Church of Ireland. The procedure is designed to ensure that the proposed legislation is considered carefully, both in principle and in detail, and that there is a day's interval for reflection before final approval is given.

The Bills will be taken into consideration in the order in which they appear in this pamphlet, unless the Synod directs otherwise. On the first stage, the proposer moves "That leave be given to introduce Bill no. ___" unless leave has been given in the previous session. This is a formal motion which is normally put to the Synod without debate, but in certain circumstances one speech in support of the motion, and one in opposition to it, may be permitted.

If that motion is passed, the Synod proceeds to the Second Reading, when the principles of the Bill are open to debate. At the conclusion of the debate on this stage, the motion "That the Bill be approved in principle and given a second reading" is put to the Synod. If this motion is passed, indicating that the Synod approved the Bill in principle, the Committee stage follows.

In the case of Special Bills leave to introduce such a Bill may be given only at an ordinary session of the Synod; leave having been given, the Bill shall be deemed to have been read a first time, but it shall not be processed further until the next ordinary session when it will come before the Synod for second reading.

On the Committee stage, the Bill is considered in detail, the clauses being put to the Synod one by one for debate and decision. The clauses are taken first in their order; then, the schedules (if any); and, finally, the Preamble (the introductory matter). Amendments, notice of which was given to the honorary secretaries not later than the Friday before the session, will appear on the agenda paper for the first day; no other amendment may be moved on Committee stage except with the leave of the Synod. An amendment is taken on the clause to which it relates, and is disposed of before the clause itself is put to the Synod.

In the case of Special Bills, an amendment can be moved on Committee stage only if notice has been given in the previous session except for any dealing with omissions or grammatical errors.

When the Committee stage has been concluded, the Bill is reported to the Synod, and a day – usually the third day – is fixed for the remaining stages.

On the third day the Report stage is taken. Any amendments which have been lodged with the honorary secretaries before the close of business on the second day will appear on the supplemental agenda paper for the third day. After these amendments have been disposed of – or immediately if there are not any amendments – the Synod proceeds to the Third Reading. At this stage, debate is confined to the provisions of the Bill, and at its conclusion the motion "That the Bill be now read a third time and passed" is put to the Synod.

A simple majority of the House of Representatives is required to pass any and every motion during the passage of a Bill through the Synod, except when

- (a) a vote by orders has been requisitioned by ten members of either order (which may be done on any motion), in which case a simple majority of each order, voting separately, is required.
- (b) a two-thirds majority of each order, voting separately, is required to pass the Second Reading and the Third Reading of a Bill which proposes a modification or alteration in the articles, doctrines, rites, rubrics or formularies of the Church.

For fuller information on Bill procedure reference should be made to Part II of Chapter I of the Constitution and to the Standing Orders. A leaflet on Bill procedure is available on application to the Honorary Secretaries.

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Bill No 1**Explanatory Memorandum**

In 2002 a Covenant between the Church of Ireland and the Methodist Church in Ireland was signed acknowledging that the ordained ministries of both Churches are equally given by God, and looking "forward to the time when our ministries can be fully interchangeable and our churches visibly united". In addition the Covenant acknowledged that "personal, collegial and communal oversight is embodied and practised in both churches, as each seeks to express continuity of apostolic life, mission and ministry".

As part of the journey of learning more about the practice of oversight in both churches an 'Interchangeability of Ministry Working Group' was set up by the Church of Ireland to consider the issues that arise for the Church of Ireland, and to work alongside a counterpart group within the Methodist Church. The two working groups, meeting together, produced a Statement of Agreed Principles on the Interchangeability of Ministry which was presented to General Synod in 2010. This was followed by a Second Statement entitled "Interchangeability of Ministry and Episcopate", produced for both General Synod and the Methodist Conference in 2011 as part of the Covenant Council Report. The Bill gives legislative effect to the Statements received and accepted by Synod.

This Bill provides that the polities of the Church of Ireland and Methodist Church in Ireland remain distinct for each church, whilst giving effect to both the aspirations of the 2002 Covenant, and the Agreed Principles put before, and accepted by, General Synod on Interchangeability of Ministry. The Ordinal, Preamble and Declaration of the Church of Ireland maintain inviolate the threefold order of bishop, priest or presbyter, and deacon. What has been discerned is sufficient consonance between the understanding of the threefold ministry in each tradition. There is the recognition of collegial episcopate, communal episcopate, and personal episcopate (in the person of the Methodist President, his or her predecessors and successors), in the polity of the Methodist Church in Ireland, such that interchangeability of ministries between the two polities may now be permitted to take effect.

In this context the title 'Episcopal Minister' is used within the polity of the Methodist Church in Ireland to give expression to the personal episcopate that has always been present in the role of the Methodist President. The role, office, and function of Episcopal Minister commences upon the installation of, and prayer of consecration for, the President of the Conference and of the Methodist Church in Ireland, and remains on the person when the term as President comes to its end. It is an articulation of the role of President, and applies not just to the current President and her successors, but indeed to all past Presidents. It is therefore not a new concept created by the Methodist Church in Ireland to give effect to the Covenant, nor an attempt to impose language from within the polity of the Church of Ireland on the Methodist Church in Ireland. Rather, it is an articulation within the Methodist Church in Ireland as to how it understands itself, helpfully providing the Church of Ireland with the language of 'Episcopal', over and above the real substance of recognising personal episcopate in the role, office, and function of the Methodist President, successors and predecessors. Given this understanding the Bill considers as equal all Presidents of the Methodist Church in Ireland as Episcopal Ministers, whether installed before or after the time at which it is hoped the Bill comes into effect. Having therefore discerned sufficient consonance in the threefold ministry of each church, and in the understanding of episcopate within the Methodist Church in Ireland, the logic of interchangeability is not to seek to 're-ordain' or 'further consecrate' those who have already been considered to be ordained or consecrated within this understanding of the threefold order.

The effect of the Bill is to permit interchangeability of ministry to happen in practice, but also to make clear that the impact of the Bill does not mean, for example, that a Methodist presbyter is *de facto* a Church of Ireland priest, or a Church of Ireland bishop is *de facto* a president of the Methodist Church. Rather, what is provided for is that, having recognised the validity of the other, an ordained minister in either denomination may come under the discipline and oversight of the other for the exercise of ministry. This will allow participation, subject to the appropriate permissions required by the existing polities of either church, in the liturgies and rites of the other church. For example, a Church of Ireland priest might administer sacraments in a Methodist Church according to the Methodist rite through invitation and with permission, but without becoming a circuit minister in connexion with Conference or for the purpose of District Synod. Furthermore, and as expressly stated in and described by the Bill, a number of Church of Ireland bishops will participate in the Installation and prayer of consecration of a Methodist President. In both instances the corollary will apply.

The Bill would also permit Methodist ministers to be considered for and appointed to a cure or similar role within the Church of Ireland including election to a vacant see, and Episcopal Ministers to be considered for such election without further consecration. In such circumstances those appointed to an office within the Church of Ireland will become a part of the polity of the Church of Ireland, its Dioceses, Synods, Ecclesial offices and functions.

It is appreciated, and in the Agreed Principles was expressly stated, that there will be a period of anomaly during which time there will exist priests and presbyters, bishops and episcopal ministers of both churches from before and after the commencement of interchangeability. Such periods of anomaly have ample precedence in other ecumenical processes and, given that from the outset there has always been the greater acknowledgement of the continuity of apostolic life, mission and ministry embodied and practised in the oversight and ministry of both churches, this period is one that each church can, and should accept, in the full knowledge that with the passing of time those ordained and consecrated during the era of interchangeability will become the norm.

Progress in relation to the Covenant and the Working Groups on Interchangeability has been communicated both through representation on, and communication to, wider ecumenical groups including the Anglican-Methodist International Commission for Unity in Mission (AMICUM), whilst due regard has been given to those within the Anglican Communion through memorandum and presentation to the Inter Anglican Standing Commission on Unity Faith and Order (IASCUFO).

In summary therefore the Bill represents a significant step in bringing the aspirations of the Covenant into being, through a fulfilment in the deepening of communion, and in sharing a common life and mission.

THE VERY REV NIGEL DUNNE
THE BISHOP OF CASHEL AND OSSORY

BILL

To provide for interchangeability of ministry between the Church of Ireland and the Methodist Church in Ireland

WHEREAS it is the will of the Church of Ireland to work towards the unity of all God's people;

AND WHEREAS for this purpose it is desirable to enable interchangeability of ministry between the Church of Ireland and the Methodist Church in Ireland;

AND WHEREAS for this purpose it is necessary to amend Chapter IX of the Constitution of the Church of Ireland;

BE IT ENACTED by the Archbishops and Bishops and clergy and laity of the Church of Ireland in General Synod assembled in Dublin in the year 2014 and the authority of the same as follows:-

1. In this Statute, 'Chapter IX' means Chapter IX of the Constitution of the Church of Ireland.
2. In Chapter IX, immediately after Canon 10, there shall be inserted the following Canon:

10A Interchangeability of Ministry with the Methodist Church in Ireland

- (1) For the purposes of this Canon, 'in full Connexion with the Conference of the Methodist Church in Ireland' shall mean a presbyter who has completed his or her period of training and probation and has been admitted as a member of the Conference of the Methodist Church in Ireland or admitted into connection therewith.
- (2) Pursuant to the will of the Church of Ireland to work towards the unity of all God's people, and that its mission may be further strengthened, the Church of Ireland,
 - (a) recognizes all three expressions of personal, communal, and collegial episcopate in the polity of the Methodist Church in Ireland, in the person of the Methodist President and his or her predecessors and successors, in the Methodist congregations and in the Methodist Conference respectively;
 - (b) discerns consonance between the office and function of a bishop within the Church, (as expressed in the Ordinal and the Preamble and Declaration) and in the office and function of a President and a past President within the Methodist Church in Ireland and understands that 'Episcopal Minister' gives expression to the office and function of Presidents and Past Presidents of the Methodist Church in Ireland;
 - (c) requires that at least two bishops of the Church participate in all future Installations and Consecrations of the President of the Methodist Church in Ireland;
 - (d) recognizes those who have been, at any time, installed and consecrated as a President in the Methodist Church in Ireland and who are in full Connexion with the

Conference of the Methodist Church in Ireland, as being entitled to participate in the laying on of hands in the ordination of bishops and priests in the Church.

- (3) When both events referred to in 10A(2)(c) and 10A(2)(d) have first occurred the Church of Ireland shall;
 - (a) consider any presbyter of the Methodist Church who is in full Connexion with the Conference of the Methodist Church in Ireland, as being equivalent to those ordained priest within the Church solely for the purposes of being considered for or appointed to any role which necessitates being in priest's orders within the Church;
 - (b) consider any President or former President of the Methodist Church in Ireland, who is in full Connexion with the Conference of the Methodist Church in Ireland, as being equivalent to those ordained bishop within the Church solely for the purposes of being considered for election and translation into a vacant see within the Church, or any other role which necessitates being in priest's orders within the Church;
 - (c) require that ministers and Episcopal Ministers of the Methodist Church in Ireland exercising ministry within the Church be made subject to the ecclesiastical polity, laws and tribunals and authority of the Church including its Canons, Constitution, and discipline for the duration of the exercise of that ministry, and shall have no part in nor be subject to, the same polity, authority, Canons, Constitution, and discipline except during such time as that ministry is exercised within the Church of Ireland;
- (4) When both events referred to in 10A(2)(c) and 10A(2)(d) have first occurred the Church shall acknowledge a period of anomaly during which there shall be those who were installed as President by, and presbyters received in full Connexion with, the Conference of the Methodist Church in Ireland, before the coming into force of both 10A(2)(c) and 10A(2)(d), and those installed as President by, and presbyters received in full Connexion with, the Conference of the Methodist Church in Ireland after both 10A(2)(c) and 10A (2)(d) have come into force, and shall not distinguish between the same provided they are in full Connexion with the Conference of the Methodist Church in Ireland.

Bill No 2**Explanatory Memorandum**

In 2012, the General Synod passed a statute (Chapter II of 2012) which established a Commission on Episcopal Ministry and Structures. Under section 2 of that statute, the members of the Commission were to be appointed by resolution and were to hold office 'until the termination of the ordinary meeting of the General Synod which shall be held in 2014'. Casual vacancies were to be filled by election by the Standing Committee. Shortly after adopting the statute, the General Synod passed a resolution on the appointment of members of the Commission.

The terms of reference of the Commission are contained in a schedule to the original statute. The first paragraph of that schedule directs the Commission to "report to General Synod not later than May 2014, with conclusions and recommendations on appropriate future arrangements for episcopal ministry and structures in the Church of Ireland."

The adoption of the proposed Bill will extend the term of office of the current Commission membership until 2016, with provisions to deal with any current or future vacancies should they arise, and give the Commission a new deadline of May 2016 by which to report to the General Synod with conclusions and recommendations on appropriate future arrangements for episcopal ministry and structures in the Church.

THE BISHOP OF TUAM, KILLALA AND ACHONRY
MRS ETHNE HARKNESS

BILL

To Amend Chapter II of 2012

WHEREAS in 2012, the General Synod established the Commission on Episcopal Ministry and Structures;

AND WHEREAS it is desirable to extend the time available for the Commission to complete its work;

AND WHEREAS it is desirable to make additional provision in relation to membership of the Commission;

AND WHEREAS for this purpose it is necessary to amend Chapter II of 2012;

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. In this Statute, "Chapter II of 2012" means the Statute of the General Synod, Chapter II of 2012.
2. For Section 2 of Chapter II of 2012, the following shall be substituted:
 2. The members of the Commission in office immediately before the termination of the ordinary meeting of the General Synod in 2014 shall hold office until the termination of the ordinary meeting of the General Synod which shall be held in the year 2016. The Commission shall have the power to co-opt up to two additional members.
 - 2A. Casual vacancies, including any casual vacancies in the membership of the Commission immediately before the termination of the ordinary meeting of the General Synod in 2014, shall be filled in the following manner:
 - Where the outgoing member is a Bishop, by election by the House of Bishops;
 - Where the outgoing member is an Honorary Secretary, by election by the Honorary Secretaries;
 - Where the outgoing member is a representative of the Methodist Church in Ireland or the Roman Catholic Church, by appointment by the relevant Church;
 - In all other cases, by election by the Standing Committee.
3. In the first paragraph of the Terms of Reference for the Commission on Episcopal Ministry and Structures contained in the Schedule to Chapter II of 2012, the year '2014' shall be replaced by the year '2016'.

Bill No 3**Explanatory Memorandum**

While preserving the ancient prebendaries attaching to St Mary's Cathedral, Tuam, this Bill seeks to set out in a single piece of legislation the composition of the Chapter of the said Cathedral and to enable any member of the Chapter to hold an additional prebend stall.

Clause 1 seeks to provide for the reconstitution of the Chapter, as detailed in the Schedule, with seven stalls and the entitlement of any member to hold an additional stall but with only one vote, since Clause 2 seeks to provide that only the Dean (or the Chair of the Chapter for the time being) shall have both an ordinary and a casting vote.

THE VERY REV ALISTAIR GRIMASON
THE VEN GARY HASTINGS

BILL

**To provide for the future management and regulation of St Mary's Cathedral, Tuam, in the
United Dioceses of Tuam, Killala and Achonry**

WHEREAS it is expedient to alter the provisions for the appointment of clergy to the dignities and canonries of St. Mary's Cathedral, Tuam in the United Dioceses of Tuam, Killala and Achonry;

AND WHEREAS it is desirable to preserve the ancient prebendaries attaching to the said Cathedral Church;

AND WHEREAS to give effect to the alteration of the said provision it is necessary to repeal and replace the provisions of the following statute, namely 1891, Chapter III;

AND WHEREAS the Cathedral Chapter has agreed to the provisions contained in this Act which have been approved at a meeting of the Diocesan Synod of the United Dioceses of Tuam, Killala and Achonry held in Tuam on 28th September 2013.

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 Chapter of the Cathedral Church of St. Mary, Tuam, shall be reconstituted in accordance with the provisions of the Schedule to this Act.
- 2.No person shall have more than one vote in the Chapter, except the Dean or the Chair of the said Chapter for the time being, who shall have both an ordinary vote and a casting vote.
- 3.The provisions of the Statute of 1891 Chapter III and the resolution adopted by the General Synod of 1925 relating to the Dignitaries of the Diocese of Tuam are hereby repealed.

Schedule

The Chapter of St Mary's Cathedral, Tuam

1. The Chapter of St. Mary's Cathedral, Tuam shall consist of the following:

- i. The Dean of Tuam
- ii. The Archdeacon of Tuam
- iii. The Provost of Tuam
- iv. The Prebendary of Balla and Killabegs
- v. The Prebendary of Faldown and Kilmainmore
- vi. The Prebendary of Kilmeen and Kilmoylan
- vii. The Prebendary of Taghsaxon and Laccagh

2. Subject to section 2 of this Act, it shall be lawful for any member of the Chapter of St. Mary's Cathedral, Tuam, to hold an additional Prebend Stall in the said Cathedral.

Bill No 4**Explanatory Memorandum**

Although wordy, this Bill has a very simple purpose, namely to ensure that those who act as parochial nominators at a time of vacancy have within their ranks a measure of gender balance. One of the aspirations of the Hard Gospel process was to increase the participation of women in the counsels of the church, and this Bill would ensure that at a time of great importance in the life of a parish neither gender was left unrepresented. At present all of the parochial nominators could be male or (less frequently) all female and this Bill aims to eliminate such a situation which would not be permitted in modern appointment procedures in any other professional context. Priests who are female should not encounter parochial nominators who are all men, and priests who are male should not encounter nominators who are all female. This adjustment to the method of selecting nominators should not cause inconvenience even in extensive parochial groups, where for the specific purpose of appointing nominators a group of parishes functions as a single unit and is deemed to be akin to a union in accordance with Chapter III section 29 of the Constitution.

THE BISHOP OF CASHEL, FERNS AND OSSORY
THE VENERABLE ANDREW ORR

BILL

To amend Chapter IV of the Constitution

WHEREAS it is desirable that the parochial nominators for each cure should include at least one woman and at least one man;

AND WHEREAS for this purpose it is necessary to amend Chapter IV of the Constitution of the Church of Ireland;

BE IT ENACTED by the Archbishops and Bishops and by 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. In this Statute, 'Chapter IV' means Chapter IV of the Constitution of the Church of Ireland.

2. In Chapter IV, section 5 (1) shall be amended to read;

5 (1) At the Easter vestry in the year 2017 and in every third year thereafter, the registered vestry members of each parish, parochial district or union or group of parishes under one incumbent, and, in the case of chapels without districts, the registered vestry members of such chapels

- (a) shall elect the requisite number of qualified persons to be parochial nominators for the said parish, of whom at least one shall be a woman and at least one shall be a man, and
- (b) shall then elect by ballot an equal number of persons to be supplemental nominators, of whom at least one shall be a woman and at least one shall be a man. The names of the supplemental nominators so elected shall be placed in order on a list in accordance with the number of votes received; in any case of equality of votes the order upon the list shall be determined by lot. Any vacancy in the number of parochial nominators shall be filled by the person whose name stands highest on the list of supplemental parochial nominators unless such action would result in the parochial nominators all being men or would result in the parochial nominators all being women, in which case the qualified person whose name stands nearest to the top of the list shall fill the vacancy.

3. In Chapter IV, section 6 (1) shall be amended to read

(1) Upon the occurrence of a vacancy, by death or otherwise, in the number of the parochial nominators during their period of office which cannot be filled by a supplemental nominator, the registered vestry members shall, at a special general vestry duly convened in accordance with the provisions of Chapter III, elect a qualified person to fill such vacancy and shall also fill any vacancies in the list of supplemental nominators provided only that the parochial nominators must at all times include at least one man and at least one woman, as must the list of supplemental nominators.

4. In Chapter IV, section 7, shall be amended to read

7. In the event of a general vestry failing to elect nominators, or to supply a vacancy in their number within two months after its occurrence, it shall be competent for the diocesan council to appoint nominators, or to supply such vacancy; provided that the person or persons so appointed shall hold office only until the next Easter vestry, when the registered vestry members shall be at liberty to fill the vacancy, and provided also that at all times at least one of the nominators shall be a man and at least one a woman.

5. In Chapter IV, section 8 (3) shall be amended to read

(3) If a nominator or supplemental nominator fails to comply with the provisions of sub-section (2) of this section, the bishop shall order a new election for a nominator or supplemental nominator as the case may be; Provided that the bishop shall have power to extend the time for such compliance if it be certified to the bishop that the failure to comply has been caused by absence or other unavoidable circumstances; and Provided also that in ordering any fresh election the bishop shall ensure that at least one parochial nominator shall be a man and at least one a woman, and at least one supplemental nominator shall be a man and at least one a woman.

6. In Chapter IV, section 9 shall be amended to read

9. Whenever a vacancy in a cure of souls shall occur, if the bishop, after communicating or endeavouring to communicate with the parochial nominators, has reason to believe that any one or more of them is unable, by reason of illness, absence or other reasonable cause, to take part in the proceedings for filling the said vacancy, the bishop shall direct that a supplemental nominator shall be summoned and shall act in the place of each absent parochial nominator in such proceedings, until the said vacancy has been filled. The supplemental nominators shall be summoned in their order as returned by the vestry, unless the effect of such action would result in all those acting as parochial nominators being men or if such action would result in all of those acting as parochial nominators being women, in which case the bishop shall summon the qualified supplemental nominator whose name stands highest on the list returned by the vestry.

7. Nothing in this statute shall affect the parochial nominators and supplemental nominators elected at the Easter Vestry of 2014 who shall remain in office until the Easter Vestry of 2017. Any vacancies that occur in the parochial nominators and supplemental nominators elected at the Easter Vestry of 2014 shall be filled in the manner provided for had this statute not been adopted.

Bill No 5**Explanatory Memorandum**

While the Church has talked a good deal of late concerning increasing the levels of participation by various groups such as women and young people in its decision making bodies, it has never formally examined the size of Select Vestries, surely a factor affecting the extent of access to membership of them. For generations the elected membership of Select Vestries, over and above the parochial officers such as churchwardens and glebewardens, has been fixed at twelve – this rooted in a time when many parishes were small and rural and all members were men.

The existing paragraph 13 (c) of the Constitution varies that basic requirements for Select Vestry membership in two ways. First of all, it prescribes that not more than three members of the Select Vestry should be under 21 – surely an anachronistic provision at a time when we want to reduce the number of even symbolic impediments to the participation of young people.

The paragraph also permits, in one situation only, an increase in vestry size for a seven year period to a maximum of twenty. This may be permitted by the diocesan council when a number of churches which previously had a separate Select Vestry either though having an incumbent of their own or being part of a Group of parishes are joined together in a Union with a single Select Vestry. To facilitate the bedding down of such an arrangement and to avoid the instant exclusion of talented and committed people, the Constitution permits the existence of an enlarged Select Vestry for seven years.

This Bill proposes to do away with the limitation on Select Vestry participation by young adults, and to extend the powers of a Diocesan Council to permit the operation of enlarged Select Vestries in particular situations for specified periods. Councils will be expected to examine each particular situation on its merits, and to report in writing their reasons for exercising their powers. They would also be obliged to review their decisions on a regular basis.

This Bill would allow a Diocesan Council, where a cure is growing or changing, to draw greater numbers of parishioners into its governance. It could permit a Council to facilitate the enlargement of a Select Vestry for a specified period in order to encourage the involvement of a larger number of women or young people or newcomers to the Church of Ireland the administrative life of a parish. These goals, set before us by the Hard Gospel process, are difficult to achieve where Select Vestries are small and where their membership is traditionally associated with families who have been parishioners perhaps through several generations.

This Bill also reflects the experience of rural dioceses where cures with many churches have in recent times made a courageous transition from Group to Union. Such an arrangement is not merely administratively convenient; it also brings about a sense of interdependence and common purpose in ministry and stewardship, a worthy requirement to bear one another's burdens. In such a situation the present permitted transitional period of up to seven years with an enlarged Select Vestry has tended to prove too brief – such arrangements need time to bed down and work fruitfully and to be 'owned' by all. In a cure with seven or more churches, for example, a Select Vestry of only twelve means in reality that, over and above the churchwardens, perhaps just one person from a particular congregation will be numbered among the elected Select Vestry members. Both in changing and growing city parishes and in extensive rural cures the possibility of a Select Vestry of twenty rather than merely twelve might be considered eminently reasonable.

THE BISHOP OF CASHEL, FERNS AND OSSORY
MR SAMUEL HARPER

BILL

To amend Chapter III of the Constitution

WHEREAS it is desirable, in certain circumstances, to increase the prescribed size of Select Vestries in order to enhance participation in the governance of the Church;

AND WHEREAS for such purposes it is necessary to amend Chapter III 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. In this statute 'Chapter III' means Chapter III of the Constitution of the Church of Ireland.
2. That in Chapter III, section 13 (c) of the Constitution be amended to read as follows –

(c) Not more than twelve other persons elected by the registered vestry members to be members of the select vestry; Provided that the diocesan council may direct an alternative number of other persons be elected by the registered vestry members to be members of the select vestry. Such number shall not be less than twelve or more than twenty. Any directions given by the diocesan council in accordance with this provision shall be reviewed at least every seven years and the reasons for such directions shall be reported in writing to the diocesan synod.

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 provision 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....