

APPENDIX

STATUTES

OF

THE CHURCH OF IRELAND

PASSED IN

THE SESSION OF THE GENERAL SYNOD, 1976

CHAPTER I

To separate the diocese of Kildare from the dioceses of Dublin and Glendalough; to unite the diocese of Kildare with the diocese of Meath; to separate the diocese of Emly from the dioceses of Cashel, Waterford and Lismore; to unite the dioceses of Killaloe, Kilfenora, Clonfert and Kilmacduagh with the dioceses of Limerick, Ardfert and Aghadoe; to unite the diocese of Emly with the dioceses of Limerick, Ardfert, Aghadoe, Killaloe, Kilfenora, Clonfert and Kilmacduagh; to unite the dioceses of Ossory, Ferns and Leighlin with the dioceses of Cashel, Waterford and Lismore; to unite the dioceses of Tuam, Killala and Achonry with the dioceses of Kilmore, Elphin and Ardagh; to transfer the diocese of Meath from the Province of Armagh to the Province of Dublin.

WHEREAS by Statute of the General Synod, No. III of 1974 a commission was appointed to submit proposals for the provision of an episcopate adequate for the needs and compatible with the resources of the Church of Ireland;

AND WHEREAS all the powers and functions of the respective Diocesan Synods concerned under Section 30 of Chapter I of the Constitution are vested in the said Commission by virtue of the said Statute for the purposes of this scheme;

AND WHEREAS the said Commission has by resolution dated the 28th day of January 1976 consented to the provisions of this Statute;

AND WHEREAS the Archbishop of Armagh and the Archbishop of Dublin have consented to the transfer of the diocese

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of Meath from the Province of Armagh to the Province of Dublin :

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 1976, and by the authority of the same, as follows :—

PART 1

1. Subject to Part 2 hereof and in accordance with the provisions for succession which are set out therein each Province of the Church shall contain the following dioceses or groups of dioceses and each such diocese or group of dioceses shall be united under the jurisdiction of a single bishop :

Province of Armagh

Armagh

Clogher

Derry and Raphoe

Down and Dromore

Connor

Tuam, Killala, Achonry, Kilmore, Elphin and Ardagh.

Province of Dublin

Dublin and Glendalough

Meath and Kildare

Cashel, Waterford, Lismore, Ossory, Ferns and

Leighlin

Cork, Cloyne and Ross

Limerick, Ardfert, Aghadoe, Killaloe, Kilfenora,

Clonfert, Kilmacduagh and Emly.

PART 2

2. The diocese of Meath shall, on a date to be fixed by the Standing Committee, be transferred from the Province of Armagh to the Province of Dublin but the precedence attaching to that See shall be retained.

3. The diocese of Kildare on a date to be fixed by the Standing Committee of the General Synod shall be united with the diocese of Meath under one bishop in accordance with the provisions of Part 3 hereof.

4. (i) Subject to the provisions of this section the dioceses of Ossory, Ferns and Leighlin shall be united with the dioceses of Cashel, Waterford and Lismore under one bishop on the occurrence of a vacancy in either See.
 - (ii) When sub-section (i) hereof has come into effect the diocese of Emly shall be united with the dioceses of Limerick, Ardfert and Aghadoe and if at that time the union of those dioceses with the dioceses of Killaloe, Kilfenora, Clonfert and Kilmacduagh has already taken place in accordance with this Statute the diocese of Emly shall enter that union.
 - (iii) When either the present bishop of Ossory, Ferns and Leighlin or the present bishop of Cashel, Emly, Waterford and Lismore ceases to hold his See the union herein provided for shall then take place provided that the other bishop consents thereto within one month of such vacancy arising.
 - (iv) In the event of such consent not being forthcoming the Archbishop of Dublin shall make such arrangements as he may deem necessary for the supervision and pastoral care of the vacant dioceses and he may (with the approval of the Standing Committee of the General Synod) convene an electoral college to elect a bishop thereto who will also become bishop of the other dioceses upon the See thereof becoming vacant.
5. The dioceses of Killaloe, Kilfenora, Clonfert and Kilmacduagh shall be united with the dioceses of Limerick, Ardfert and Aghadoe under one bishop when a vacancy shall occur in either See and shall also be united with the diocese of Emly as herein provided.
6. (i) Subject to the provisions of this section the dioceses of Tuam, Killala and Achonry shall be united with the dioceses of Kilmore, Elphin and Ardagh under one bishop when a vacancy shall occur in either See.
 - (ii) If the See of Tuam, Killala and Achonry shall become vacant before the See of Kilmore, Elphin and Ardagh becomes vacant and the present bishop of Kilmore, Elphin and Ardagh then holds his pre-

sent See the union herein provided for shall thereupon take place if the said bishop consents thereto within one month of the occurrence of the vacancy.

- (iii) If the consent required under sub-section (ii) above shall not be forthcoming the Archbishop of Armagh shall make such arrangements as he may deem necessary for the supervision and pastoral care of the dioceses of Tuam, Killala and Achonry and he may (with the approval of the Standing Committee of the General Synod) convene an electoral college to elect a bishop of Tuam, Killala and Achonry who will also become bishop of the dioceses of Kilmore, Elphin and Ardagh on the occurrence of the next vacancy in that See.

7. In the absence of agreement to the contrary by the diocesan council or councils concerned, the residences of the bishops and archbishops shall be located in the areas specified herein after the date or dates on which succession to any of the Sees herein provided for comes into effect:

<i>Diocese</i>	<i>Area</i>
Armagh	Armagh
Clogher	Fivemiletown
Derry and Raphoe	Londonderry
Down and Dromore	Belfast
Connor	Belfast
Tuam, Killala, Achonry, Kilmore, Elphin and Ardagh	Sligo
Dublin and Glendalough	Dublin
Meath and Kildare	Dunboyne
Cashel, Waterford, Lismore, Ossory, Ferns and Leighlin	Kilkenny
Cork, Cloyne and Ross	Cork
Limerick, Ardfert, Aghadoe, Killaloe, Kilfenora, Clonfert, Kilmacduagh and Emly	Limerick

PART 3

8. (i) Episcopal electors appointed for any of the dioceses or groups of dioceses herein provided for shall continue to hold office until the next triennial election.

- (ii) On the next triennial election of episcopal electors each diocese or group of dioceses hereby created in accordance with Part 2 of this Statute shall be entitled to elect such number of episcopal electors as a diocese or group of dioceses shall be entitled to elect in accordance with the provisions of Chapter VI of the Constitution as for the time being in force.
9. (i) Subject to the provisions of this section an electoral college convened to appoint a bishop to any of the Sees specified in Part 2 hereof shall be constituted as if the reorganisation herein provided for had already come into effect.
- (ii) The Standing Committee shall have power to make such arrangements and give such directions as may be necessary to enable an election to be so held. If, in such cases, a ballot to appoint new or additional electors is required the Standing Committee shall be empowered to direct that any such elections for the appointment of episcopal electors, clerical and lay, be conducted by postal ballot, if it sees fit.
- (iii) In making such arrangements the Standing Committee shall provide as nearly as possible that the number of electors, clerical and lay, for each diocese or jointly represented groups of dioceses shall bear the same proportion to the total number of electors for the new united dioceses as the number of synodsmen, clerical and lay, which each such diocese or jointly represented groups of dioceses is entitled to elect to the General Synod, bears to the total number of such general synodsmen for such new united dioceses.
10. (i) On the union of the dioceses of Meath and Kildare in accordance with section 3 hereof all episcopal electors representing the diocese of Meath shall be transferred from the register of electors maintained for the Province of Armagh to the register maintained for the Province of Dublin.
- (ii) Within three months of the passing of this Statute episcopal electors to the number determined in accordance with section 9 hereof shall be elected to the united dioceses of Meath and Kildare. Within

two months of the election of the said episcopal electors an electoral college shall be convened to appoint a bishop to the said united dioceses.

11. (i) If the unions or groupings provided for in Part 2 of this Statute or any of those groupings or unions have not taken effect prior to the ordinary meetings of the synods of the dioceses concerned in 1978 the Standing Committee of the General Synod shall on or before the 1st May, 1978 give directions as to the number of episcopal electors and supplemental episcopal electors to be elected by each of the synods of such dioceses but such directions shall observe the requirements of section 9 (iii) hereof.
 - (ii) All electoral colleges convened on or after the 1st December, 1978, shall be constituted as though the unions or groupings provided for in Part 2 of this Statute had already come into effect.
 - (iii) An electoral college convened before the 1st December, 1978, for a diocese or united diocese not affected by Part 2 of this Statute shall be constituted as if this Statute had not been enacted except where new electors have already been elected as provided for in Section 10 (ii), and subject also to the provisions of Section 10 (i) hereof, save that in a case where new electors have been elected pursuant to directions of the Standing Committee given under sub-section (1) hereof on or before the 1st of May, 1978, those electors shall from the date of their election be the appropriate electors for all the purposes of this Statute.
12. If an electoral college be convened prior to the election of episcopal electors for the new dioceses herein created in consequence of a vacancy in any of the Sees provided for in Part 2 of this Statute caused by the translation of the bishop thereof to be Archbishop of Armagh the allocation of seats in the electoral college shall, notwithstanding sections 8, 9, 10 and 11 of this Statute, be made by the Standing Committee of the General Synod and such allocation shall conform as closely as possible to the relevant provisions of Chapter VI of the Constitution and of section 9 (iii) hereof.
13. (i) Subject to the provisions of this section all representatives in the General Synod and supplemental

representatives holding such offices on the date of enactment of this Statute shall continue to hold office until the termination of the period for which they have been elected.

- (ii) On the coming into effect of any of the unions or groupings provided for in Part 2 of this Statute the representatives of the synods of the dioceses concerned in the General Synod on the date of any such union or grouping coming into effect shall continue to hold office until the end of the term for which they were elected.
- (iii) On the next election of representatives to the General Synod after the union of any of the dioceses under one bishop has come into effect the Standing Committee shall give directions as to the number of representatives to be elected by such united dioceses and shall submit a Bill at the next ordinary meeting of the General Synod to amend the relevant provisions of the Constitution. In giving such directions the Standing Committee shall ensure that the number of representatives for any such united dioceses be not less than the number of synodsmen representing the several dioceses concerned in the General Synod at the date of the union or grouping coming into effect.

14. The elected members of the Standing Committee of the General Synod and the Board of Education of the General Synod representing any of the dioceses affected by Part 2 of this Statute on the date or dates on which the several or all of the unions come into effect shall continue to hold office until the end of the term for which they were elected. Thereafter the number of persons to be elected to the Standing Committee shall be amended to comply with section 5 of the Constitution of the Standing Committee 1967 and the number of elected or co-opted members of the Board of Education shall be amended to comply with section 1 of the Constitution of the Board of Education 1965.

- 15. (i) The elected members of the Representative Body, who, on the date of the union or grouping of any of the several dioceses in accordance with the provisions of Part 2 of this Statute, represent any of

the dioceses therein affected shall cease to hold office six months after the date of any such union or grouping. One clerical and two lay representatives shall be elected as soon as convenient thereafter in accordance with section 3 (iv) of Chapter X of the Constitution to represent the dioceses so united or grouped. Such representatives shall take office six months after the date of any such union or grouping and the term of office of each such representative shall be determined by lot.

- (ii) All co-opted members of the Representative Body, holding office on the date of any or all of the unions or groupings of the several dioceses shall continue to hold office until the end of the term for which they were co-opted. Co-options of members of the Representative Body thereafter shall be of such numbers as comply with the provisions of section 4 (ii) of Chapter X of the Constitution.

16. The holders of prebendal stalls in St. Patrick's Cathedral, Dublin, appointed respectively by the present dioceses of Tuam, Killala and Achonry, Kilmore, Elphin and Ardagh, Ossory, Ferns and Leighlin, Cashel, Emly, Waterford and Lismore, Killaloe, Kilfenora, Clonfert and Kilmacduagh, Limerick, Ardferf and Aghadoe, Meath, Dublin, Glendalough and Kildare and holding such stalls on the date or dates of the coming into effect of any of the several unions or groupings of dioceses in accordance with the provisions of Part 2 of the Statute shall continue in office until the termination of their respective appointments. On the occurrence of any vacancy thereafter, each of the new united or grouped dioceses shall have the right of appointment to one prebendal stall, and the appointment to any prebendal stalls thus unappropriated shall be made by the Dean and Chapter. On the coming into effect of any such unions or groupings the Standing Committee of the General Synod shall submit a Bill at the next ordinary session of the General Synod to amend the table contained in section 22 of Chapter VII.

17. The Representative Body is hereby authorised (subject to any requirements of Civil Law and the stipulations of any particular trust) to sanction and implement proposals submitted by the Synods (or should such synods so authorise the Diocesan Councils), of any dioceses affected by this

Statute for the division of any assets or trusts affecting assets held on behalf of the said Dioceses as well as for the merging of such assets or trusts affecting assets with those of other Dioceses affected by this Statute.

18. The Standing Committee of the General Synod is hereby authorised to make any interim arrangement for the carrying into effect of any of the provisions of this Statute or for the holding of or in connection with any elections arising out of the same so long as such interim arrangements shall not be in conflict with any of the provisions of this Statute.

19. In this Statute, the terms "diocese" and "synod" shall, save where the context otherwise indicates, have the same meanings as in Chapter VI, Section 1, of the Constitution.

CHAPTER II

To amend Chapter I of the Constitution

WHEREAS it is expedient to amend Chapter I 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 1976, and by the authority of the same, as follows :—

1. The following new section is hereby inserted in Chapter I of the Constitution :

17.A. The President may, at his discretion, invite any member of the House of Bishops to act as Chairman for such period during a session as the President may determine; and the person so acting as Chairman shall have, and may exercise, all the powers and functions conferred by Standing Orders on the President.

COMMISSION ON EPISCOPAL NEEDS**REPORT 1976**

Since the publication of our Interim Report, representatives of the following dioceses have come to meet the Commission :

Cashel, Emly, Waterford and Lismore	Tuam, Killala and Achonry
Dublin, Glendalough and Kildare	Killaloe, Kilfenora, Clonfert and Kilmacduagh
Kilmore, Elphin and Ardagh	Limerick, Ardferf and Aghadoe

We have also received written submissions from the following dioceses :

Armagh	Ossory
Clogher	Ferns
Meath	Leighlin
Derry and Raphoe	Cashel, Emly, Waterford and Lismore
Down and Dromore	Cork, Cloyné and Ross
Connor	Limerick
Kilmore	Ardferf and Aghadoe
Elphin and Ardagh	
Tuam, Killala and Achonry	

Similarly a number of written submissions were received from interested individuals.

We are most grateful for all of these submissions, and in particular for the way in which they all, although deeply felt and forcefully presented, were nonetheless invariably put before us in a way which showed a willingness to submit to necessary change and a sympathetic understanding of our problems. As a result of these submissions we have decided to alter some of the proposals in the original draft Scheme. We propose that the Church be organised into the following eleven dioceses, each under a single Bishop :

Province of Armagh

Armagh
Clogher
Derry and Raphoe
Down and Dromore
Connor
Tuam, Killala, Achonry, Kilmore, Elphin and Ardagh

Province of Dublin

Dublin and Glendalough

Meath and Kildare

Cashel, Waterford, Lismore, Ossory, Ferns and Leighlin

Cork, Cloyne and Ross

Limerick, Emly, Ardferf, Aghadoe, Killaloe, Kilfenora, Clonfert and Kilmacduagh

We have paid careful attention to the wishes of the people in the various dioceses concerned but it is perhaps too much to hope that the scheme will please everyone. To those who may not be satisfied with these proposals we would appeal to consider whether they are not the best which can now be put forward for the Church as a whole, even if they do not and cannot meet the individual requirements of every Church member. If anyone feels he has worked out a scheme which he considers better than ours, we believe we can say with some confidence that it is probably one that has been considered already, but found to be subject to flaws which may not be readily apparent to anyone who does not have the vast amount of information and assistance which was so generously given to us.

Assistant Bishops

In the Interim Report it was stated that 'a ministry of assistant or suffragan Bishops is neither justifiable nor compatible with the concept of the Church of Ireland Episcopacy'. Because the Commission did not give any reasons for this opinion, it has been widely, but wrongly, assumed either that we did not have any reasons or that we had not considered the matter fully. The Commission was, and still remains, firmly of the view that suffragan, auxiliary or assistant Bishops should not be introduced. We have been gratified to hear that since the publication of the Interim Report the diocesan council of Connor, the diocese in which most *other* dioceses wished to place an assistant Bishop, has rejected the idea and has asked instead for the continuation of the office of full-time Archdeacon of Connor. The large Church of Ireland population in this diocese is served by 111 parochial clergymen at present. The Commissioners' principal reasons for their opinion are :—

1. The report on the Office and Work of a Bishop (1970) repeatedly emphasised the role of the Bishop as pastor of *his* clergy, and father-in-God to the clergy and people of *his* diocese. He is not simply an administrator, and indeed, following the example of the Apostles as recorded in chapter 6 of the Acts of the Apostles, he may leave administration to others. He is not only a dispenser of Confirmation or an ordainer of new ministers. Above all he is the centre and focus of the local Church in a Christian community. This is exactly the role which would be weakened by the creation of assistant Bishops.

2. We are clear in our own minds that the assistance which a diocesan Bishop might need does not require a clergyman in episcopal orders. Help in administration or in the theological training of Auxiliary Ministers or Lay Readers could be given by Archdeacons or by priests with theological learning and teaching skill. An assistant Bishop whose only episcopal function would be an occasional Confirmation would simply deprive the diocesan Bishop of opportunities of contact with his people.

3. The contemporary trend is away from assistant Bishops.

(a) As an outcome of the Commission on Clerical Manpower of the Governing Body of the Church in Wales, the Bangor Diocesan Survey (242 pages) was published in 1973. It contains a discussion on the organisation of a diocese and emphasises that in each diocese there are three levels only—Bishop, priest and people—with archdeacons and rural deans exercising some part of the Bishop's oversight of the clergy and people of his diocese. The diocese of Bangor, which is one of the six dioceses of the Church in Wales, has 126 clergy in 116 parishes. There is no assistant Bishop and no proposal for one.

(b) The system of suffragan Bishops in the Church of England has not worked easily, and has caused frustration. The current practice there is to sub-divide the larger dioceses into areas of individual episcopal responsibility in which each Bishop or suffragan Bishop can be a true father-in-God to the clergy and people of his area.

- (c) In 1974, the Committee for the Review of Diocesan Boundaries in the Roman Catholic Church in England and Wales published its report 'Ground Plan'. The report recommended the sub-division of the existing 19 dioceses into 37 new dioceses, each with its own Bishop. The existing 19 dioceses are served by a total of 35 diocesan, coadjutor and auxiliary Bishops. A Roman Catholic theologian commenting on 'Ground Plan' says, 'There is the tacit by-passing of the system of auxiliary Bishops. The increase in their number over the last twenty years has not eased the burden of work on the diocesan Bishops'.

4. We have tried to avoid giving too much or too little importance to the financial aspect of our proposals, but an assistant Bishop must either have or not have an incumbency or other position of his own apart from his episcopal one. If he has such a position, the episcopal aspect of his work might become subsidiary, and thus demean the Order. If he has no such post, the charge upon the funds of the Church would in practice be as great or very nearly as great as for a diocesan Bishop.

The Bill

The Statute of 1974 requires us to "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", and we have prepared the Bill and it will be introduced at the Synod. By Section 7 of the 1974 Statute, the power to consent to alteration of diocesan boundaries, which is normally vested (by Chapter I Section 30 of the Constitution) in Diocesan Synods, has been transferred to the Commission, and the Commission has, by Resolution passed on the 28th day of January, 1976, consented to the alterations proposed in this Bill. By Chapter I Section 30 of the Constitution also the consent of the Archbishops of Armagh and Dublin is required for the transfer of any diocese from one Province to the other; and both Archbishops have consented to the proposed transfer of Meath from Armagh to Dublin.

The Bill is in three parts, the first of which sets out the groupings of dioceses and adjustments in Provincial boundaries which the Commission has recommended, and which will be achieved when all of the proposed unions have come into effect.

Part 2 sets out the steps by which these new groupings are to be achieved. Broadly it provides that where any two dioceses or groups of dioceses which are now separate are to be united, the union shall take place as soon as a vacancy occurs in either See; but in the case of Bishops who were appointed to their present Sees before May of 1968 the area of their own jurisdiction cannot be altered without their consent, and accordingly transitional provisions have also had to be made to meet the situation which would arise if any such Bishop did not consent to the alteration to his jurisdiction. In that case, the Archbishop of the Province may make interim arrangements for the vacant diocese, and may with the consent of the Standing Committee convene an Electoral College to elect a new Bishop to that diocese, who would then automatically succeed to the other diocese when it becomes vacant.

Part 3 contains some necessary consequential provisions, relating to the composition of Episcopal Electoral Colleges, Diocesan Synods, and other organisations which would be affected by the proposed changes. These cannot be too detailed in the Bill for two reasons. Firstly, a Bill is to be proposed to the 1976 General Synod for altering the arrangements for Episcopal Electoral Colleges, and therefore final arrangements, for such matters as the number of electors to be allotted to each diocese in a new union, cannot be made in our Bill because we do not know exactly how Episcopal Electoral Colleges will be constituted after the close of the 1976 Synod. Secondly, any matters such as re-organisation of Synods and financial schemes are best worked out by the Diocesan Synods and Councils concerned, where necessary in co-operation with their new colleagues, under the supervision of the Standing Committee, and could not appropriately be included in the Bill. Part 3 therefore confines itself to the principles according to which the re-organisation should be carried out, leaving the details to the Standing Committee and to those concerned.

Other Recommendations

Although not strictly within our brief, there are two other recommendations we would like to make, as they formed part of the thinking which led to our Scheme :

- (1) We hope that arrangements will be made for a close relationship between Dublin/Glendalough and Meath/Kildare including if possible arrangements for a single diocesan administration. We do not however feel it is our province to specify these arrangements in detail, nor to attempt to impose them.
- (2) We also believe that the maintenance of a full-time Archdeacon in the diocese of Connor is essential.

Conclusion

Finally, we express our very sincere thanks to our Secretary, Mr. Robert H. Sherwood of Church of Ireland House, whose labours were unflagging, and whose contribution often went beyond the secretarial. We also received a great deal of assistance from other members of the staff of the Representative Church Body, particularly Mr. John Buttimore, and for this too we are most grateful.