

Standing Committee - 2015

STANDING COMMITTEE

REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS LAID BEFORE

THE GENERAL SYNOD AT ITS

ONE HUNDRED AND FORTY-FIFTH ORDINARY SESSION 2015

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**THE GENERAL SYNOD
OF THE
CHURCH OF IRELAND**

HONORARY SECRETARIES OF THE GENERAL SYNOD

The Ven George Davison, 12 Harwood Gardens, Carrickfergus, Co Antrim, BT38 7US

Mr Samuel Harper, Cramer's Grove, Kilkenny, Co Kilkenny

Mrs Ethne Harkness, 134 Coagh Road, Stewartstown, Co Tyrone, BT71 5LL

Rev Gillian Wharton, The Rectory, Cross Avenue, Booterstown, Blackrock, Co Dublin

ASSISTANT SECRETARY – Mrs Janet Maxwell

SYNOD OFFICER – Mr Garrett Casey

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1. SUMMARY

Some significant matters dealt with during the period 11 March 2014 to 10 March 2015 were:

- Significant work on the registration of dioceses and parishes as charities in Northern Ireland and (more recently) the Republic of Ireland;
- An analysis of the results of the Census undertaken in November 2013;
- Continuing work on the development of the Hymnal Supplement.

2. NAMES AND ATTENDANCE OF MEMBERS

Ex-officio Members

THE ARCHBISHOPS AND BISHOPS

THE HONORARY SECRETARIES OF THE GENERAL SYNOD

4/5		Ven George Davison
5/5		Mr Samuel Harper
5/5		Mrs Ethne Harkness
5/5		Rev Gillian Wharton

ELECTED MEMBERS

Armagh	4/5		Rev Brian Harper
	5/5		Rev Canon Shane Forster
	2/5		Mr Paul Bruce
	0/3	*	Mr Adam Pearson
	2/2	*	Mrs Wendy Walsh
Clogher	2/5		Rev Canon John Stewart
	5/5		Very Rev Bryan Kerr
	4/5		Mr Walter Pringle
	5/5		Mr Glenn Moore
Derry & Raphoe	5/5		Rev Canon Henry Gilmore
	4/5		Ven Robert Miller
	5/5		Mrs Wendy Donaghy
	2/5		Mr Kenneth Witherow
Down & Dromore	4/5		Ven Roderic West
	3/5		Rev Kevin Graham
	5/5		Mrs Hilary McClay
	5/5		Mr Andrew Brannigan

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Connor	2/5		Rev Dr Alan McCann
	5/5		Rev Trevor Johnston
	4/5		Mr Roy Totten
	4/5		Mrs Pauline High
Kilmore, Elphin & Ardagh	0/1	¥	Very Rev Raymond Ferguson
	3/3	¥	Rev Hazel Hicks
	1/5		Ven Craig McCauley
	5/5		Mr Alan Williamson
	5/5		Mrs Brigid Barrett
Tuam, Killala & Achonry	4/5		Ven Alan Synnott
	3/5		Very Rev Gary Hastings
	5/5		Mr Denzil Auchmuty
	0/5		Ms Karen Duignan
Dublin & Glendalough	4/4	μ	Rev Canon Patrick Comerford
	4/5		Rev Stephen Farrell
	4/5		Ms Ruth Handy
	0/5		Mr Gregory Fromholz
Meath & Kildare	5/5		Rev Peter Rutherford
	3/5		Rev Canon Lynda Peilow
	4/5		Mrs Joan Bruton
	1/5		Mr Ronan McKenna
Cashel, Ferns & Ossory	2/5		Very Rev Katharine Poulton
	2/5		Rev Canon Robert Gray
	3/5		Mr Cecil Wellwood
	3/5		Ms Hazel Corrigan
Cork, Cloyne & Ross	3/5		Very Rev Christopher Peters
	5/5		Ven Adrian Wilkinson
	5/5		Mr Wilfred Baker
	4/5		Mr Gordon Benn
Limerick & Killaloe	4/5		Rev Jane Galbraith
	4/5		Rev Stephen Neill

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4/5 Mr Adrian Hilliard
4/5 Mr Edward Hardy

Co-opted Members

Rev Dr Maurice Elliott	5/5	Ven Andrew Forster	4/5
Mr Andrew McNeile	5/5	Rev Dorothy McVeigh	2/5
Ven Richard Rountree	5/5	Rev Alison Calvin	3/5
Miss Catherine Turner	3/5		

The Secretary General is entitled to attend and speak at meetings of the Standing Committee. The Assistant Secretary of the General Synod is also entitled to attend and speak at meetings.

*Mr Adam Pearson resigned from the Standing Committee in November 2014. Mrs Wendy Walsh was elected to succeed him.

¥ The Very Rev Raymond Ferguson retired in June 2014. The Rev Hazel Hicks was elected to succeed him.

µ The Rev Canon Patrick Comerford was elected to succeed the Rev Gillian Wharton following her election as an Honorary Secretary of the General Synod.

COMMITTEES OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE

FINANCE AND ARRANGEMENTS SUB-COMMITTEE

Mr Wilfred Baker
Rev Canon Shane Forster
The Honorary Secretaries

LEGAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Hon Mr Justice Declan Budd	Mr William Prentice
His Honour Judge Tom Burgess	His Honour Judge Derek Rodgers
The Rt Hon Sir Anthony Campbell	His Honour Judge Alistair Devlin
Mr Michael Davey	The Hon Mr Justice Benjamin Stephens
Mr Lyndon MacCann SC	Mr John Wilson QC
The Hon Mrs Justice Catherine McGuinness	The Honorary Secretaries

PRIORITIES FUND COMMITTEE

Mr Roy Totten	Ven George Davison
Mrs Joan Bruton	Mr Samuel Harper
Ven Andrew Forster	Mr Glenn Moore

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Ven Adrian Wilkinson
Mrs Brigid Barrett

Rev Stephen Neill

BUDGET SUB COMMITTEE

Mr Wilfred Baker
Mr Samuel Harper
Ven George Davison

Mr Roy Totten
Rt Rev John McDowell

WORLD DEVELOPMENT – BISHOPS’ APPEAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Rt Rev Patrick Rooke
Rt Rev Ferran Glenfield (from Jan 2014)
Rev Canon Jonathan Pierce
Rev Canon Noel Regan
Rev Elizabeth Hanna

Rev Olive Donohoe
Ms Iris Sutor
Mr William Kingston
Mr Albert Smallwoods
Ms Ruth Handy

LAY JUDGES OF THE COURT OF THE GENERAL SYNOD

The Hon Mr Justice Declan Budd
His Honour Judge Tom Burgess
The Rt Hon Sir Anthony Campbell
The Rt Hon Lord Justice Paul Girvan
Mr Patrick Good QC

Mr Lyndon MacCann SC
The Hon Mrs Justice Catherine Mc Guinness
Mr Ronald Robins
The Hon Mr Justice Benjamin Stephens
Mr John Wilson QC

3. APPOINTMENTS

During the period covered by this report, the Standing Committee made the following appointments.

Irish Council of Churches AGM
(Sydenham, Belfast March 2015)

Most Rev Dr Michael Jackson
Rt Rev Harold Miller
Rt Rev John McDowell
Rt Rev Patrick Rooke
Rt Rev Dr Kenneth Kearon
Very Rev John Mann
Rev Canon Daniel Nuzum
Rev Canon David Crooks
Rev Canon Ian Ellis
Rev Canon Timothy Kinahan
Rev Ása Björk Ólafsdóttir
Rev Niall Sloane
Dr Kenneth Milne
Mrs Roberta McKelvey

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	Ms Ruth Handy Mr Samuel Harper Mr Philip McKinley Ms Uta Raab Mr Chris McBruithin Ms Rebecca Guildea
Irish Inter Church Committee (Portarlinton, Co Laois, November 2014)	Ven Andrew Orr Rev Patrick Burke Ven Leslie Stevenson Mr Samuel Harper
Irish Council of Churches Executive	Rt Rev Dr Kenneth Kearon
Irish Council of Churches European Affairs Committee	Rev Canon Dr Adrian Empey Ms Maxine Judge
Irish Inter Church Committee	Dr Kenneth Milne
Methodist Church Faith and Order Committee	Rev Canon Dr Ian Ellis
Provincial Synod of the Moravian Church of Great Britain and Ireland (Swanwick, Derbyshire, June 2014)	Dr Kenneth Milne
Church Leaders' Consultation and PCG Meeting (York, England, September 2014)	Mr Adrian Clements
Conference of the Methodist Church (Belfast, June 2015)	Rt Rev Patrick Rooke Mr Michael Webb Mrs Hilary McClay (alternate)
General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (Belfast, June 2015)	Rt Rev John McDowell Mrs Roberta McKelvey
Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends (Dromantine, Co Down, April 2015)	Dr Kenneth Milne

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Here2Help

Rev Ása Björk Ólafsdóttir
Ms Elva Byrne

Scouting Ireland (National Spiritual and Religious Advisory Panel)

Rt Rev Dr Paul Colton

4. ARCHDEACONRY OF ARDBOE (ARMAGH DIOCESE)

In November 2014, the Standing Committee received a request from the diocese of Armagh that approval be given for the creation of a new Archdeaconry of Ardboe in the Diocese. The Standing Committee approved the request. Subsequently, the Ven Andrew Forster was appointed to the post.

5. AUDIT OF ACCOUNTS

In June 2014 the Standing Committee appointed PricewaterhouseCoopers as Auditors of the accounts of the Representative Church Body.

6. BILLS PROCEDURE

In January 2015, the Standing Committee considered a discussion paper from the Honorary Secretaries concerning the Bills procedure used at General Synod. The paper recommended changes to the procedure including using less parliamentary jargon and more self-explanatory terms and attempting to make the procedure simpler and easier to understand.

The paper appears in Appendix B on page 189.

The Standing Committee noted the discussion paper and asked the Honorary Secretaries to take the process further in consultation with the Legislation Committee, the Standing Orders Committee, the Assessor and other such individuals and committees as they think appropriate.

7. BISHOPS' APPEAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The report of the Bishops' Appeal Advisory Committee appears in Appendix C on page 193.

8. BOARD FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY (NI)

The Church undertook a restructuring of its committees that examined social justice and welfare issues in the years between 2008 and 2010 which established the Board for Social Theology in Action (now the Church and Society Commission). The proposal was that the Board for Social Theology in Action (as it then was) would maintain an 'arms length' relationship with the Board for Social Responsibility Northern Ireland Ltd, a

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Limited Company. This proposal was approved by the General Synod in 2009 and again in 2010.

In June 2014, the Honorary Secretaries reported to the Standing Committee that Directors of the Board for Social Responsibility Northern Ireland had expressed concerns to them indicating that there was a lack of clarity as to the meaning of 'arms length'. The Honorary Secretaries expressed their view to the Standing Committee that the Church could not be held accountable for something which, as a limited company, was not accountable to the Church or the Synod and over which neither the Church nor the Synod had any control. They expressed the view that the Standing Committee should ensure that the Board for Social Responsibility Northern Ireland should be clearly understood to be a stand-alone body with independent governance similar to the situation that exists with PACT or Here2Help. The Standing Committee agreed with the position expressed by the Honorary Secretaries.

The Honorary Secretaries met with representatives of the Board for Social Responsibility Northern Ireland in October and November 2014. It was agreed that a consultant should be appointed to assist in developing a clear plan for the Board that provides an appropriate solution both for the Board and the Church of Ireland.

A consultant was appointed in early February 2015 to undertake this work.

9. CENSUS

In 2012, the General Synod passed a Statute (Chapter I of 2012) to facilitate the collection of reliable statistical information to assist decision making in the Church. A census entitled 'Statistics for Mission' was undertaken in 2013 with clergy throughout the Church of Ireland being asked to distribute cards as a means of evaluating the age and gender profile of the worshipping population.

In June 2014, the Standing Committee heard a presentation from Dr Bev Botting, Head of Statistics in the Church of England who conducted an analysis of the census returns obtained from the census undertaken in 2013.

An analysis of the 2013 census results appears in the supplement provided separately from the Book of Reports.

The Standing Committee wishes to acknowledge with thanks the commitment of many clergy and laity throughout the Church of Ireland in undertaking this work. Particular thanks are due to Diocesan Secretaries and their staff for their efforts.

10. CENTRAL COMMUNICATIONS BOARD

A report from the Central Communications Board incorporating the reports of the Broadcasting Committee and the Literature Committee can be found in Appendix D on page 206.

11. CHARITIES LEGISLATION

In November 2014, it became clear that the Irish Charities Regulatory Authority in the Republic of Ireland were beginning the process of registering charities there and it was felt important to learn from the experience of the registration process in Northern Ireland. Accordingly, the Standing Committee appointed Mrs Jennifer Byrne and the Ven Leslie Stevenson to the Charities Registration Monitoring Group (with Mrs Sylvia Heggie as an alternate to Mrs Byrne if required).

The report of the Charities Registration Monitoring Group can be found in Appendix E on page 217.

12. CHILDRENS' MINISTRY NETWORK

A report from the Children's Ministry Network can be found in Appendix F on page 219.

13. CHURCH AND SOCIETY COMMISSION

During the year, the Minister for Justice, Mr David Forde MLA announced there would be a consultation on abortion law in Northern Ireland. A reference group was established under the auspices of the Church and Society Commission to assist that Commission in drafting a response.

In November 2014, the Standing Committee received a draft response from the Church and Society Commission and discussed the contents. The Church and Society Commission considered the contributions by members of the Standing Committee when deliberating further. A final draft was prepared by the Church and Society Commission and presented to the Department of Justice in January 2015.

The Church and Society Commission's report (including their response to the Department of Justice's consultation on Abortion) can be found in Appendix G on page 221.

14. CLERGY PENSIONS LEVY

In September 2014, the Standing Committee adopted a resolution on the recommendation of the Representative Church Body that in accordance with section 34 of Chapter XIV of the Constitution, the rate of levy to be paid by each diocese towards the cost of securing the solvency of the Clergy Pensions Fund from 1 January 2015 be set at 13% of the Minimum Approved Stipend in force at 1 January 2015 (unchanged as a percentage from the previous year).

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15. COMPLAINTS AND DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURE

Under Chapter VIII of the Constitution of the Church of Ireland, the Complaints Committee consists of one clerical and one lay member from each diocese, elected by the diocesan synods of each diocese. An additional two members are elected by the Standing Committee. Those elected hold office for six years.

During 2014 the following were elected to the Complaints Committee:

Armagh	Rev Canon Robert Boyd Mrs Helen McClenaghan
Clogher	Ven Cecil Pringle Dr Norman Baxter
Derry and Raphoe	Rev Canon David Ferry Mr Des West
Down and Dromore	Very Rev Bryan Kerr Mr Gavin Pantridge
Connor	Rev Dr Alan McCann Mr Ken Gibson
Kilmore, Elphin and Ardagh	Rev Canon Ronald Bourke Miss Maud Cunningham
Tuam, Killala and Achonry	Ven Gary Hastings Mr Denzil Auchmuty
Dublin and Glendalough	Rev Niall Sloane Mr Geoffrey Perrin
Meath and Kildare	Ven Leslie Stevenson Mrs Joan Bruton
Cashel, Ferns and Ossory	Rev James Mulhall Ms Mary Goodall-Turner
Cork, Cloyne and Ross	Very Rev Nigel Dunne Mr Derek Johnston
Limerick and Killaloe	Ven Wayne Carney

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Mr John Donovan

Standing Committee (November 2014) Mr Andrew Walker BL
Mr Patrick Good BL

In accordance with Chapter VIII 21 (a) and 21 (f) of the Constitution, the Standing Committee appointed Mr Patrick Good BL and Mr Andrew Walker BL as Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson respectively.

In accordance with Chapter VIII 22 (b) of the Constitution, the Standing Committee appointed the following to the Disciplinary Panel:

The Rt Hon Sir Paul Girvan	Ven Stephen McBride
The Hon Mrs Justice Catherine McGuinness	Rev Elaine Murray
The Hon Sir Benjamin Stephens QC	Very Rev Sandra Pragnell
Mr William Prentice	Ven David Pierpoint
Mrs Karen Erwin	Ven Helene Steed
Mr Patrick Cross	Mrs Cynthia Cherry
Mr Charles Galloway	Mrs Claire Missen
Very Rev John Mann	Mrs Avril Forrest

In accordance with Chapter VIII 22 (d) of the Constitution, the Standing Committee appointed Mr William Prentice and the Rt Hon Sir Paul Girvan as Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson respectively of the Disciplinary Panel.

Separately, in January 2015, the Standing Committee also considered the Income and Expenditure report for the Complaints Committee in 2014 as required under Chapter VIII 23 (e). The same report is appended as Appendix H on page 232.

16. GENERAL SYNOD 2016

In September 2014, the Honorary Secretaries presented their conclusions following consideration of various venues for General Synod 2016. The Standing Committee debated the alternatives considered and authorised the Honorary Secretaries to determine the date and venue for the 2016 General Synod.

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In November 2014, the Honorary Secretaries reported that they decided that the General Synod of 2016 would take place in the Royal Marine Hotel, Dun Laoghaire from Thursday 12 May to Saturday 14 May 2016.

17. GENERAL SYNOD/STANDING COMMITTEE FINANCES

In September 2014, the Budget Sub-Committee presented its report to the Standing Committee. The report was accepted by the Standing Committee. The Sub-Committee renewed its appreciation to committees for their efforts to contain expenditure.

18. GENERAL SYNOD ROYALTIES FUND

During the year the following allocations were made from the Royalties Fund:

- A grant of €1,000 to subvent the publication of Dr Caroline Gallagher's book on 'First Fruit Churches and the Diocese of Meath, 1798-1823.
- A grant of up to £43,000 and up to €5,000 for purposes relating to the *Supplement to the Church Hymnal*.
- A grant of €1,000 to Canon David Crooks for his clerical succession list of the diocese of Limerick to be published by the Ulster Historical Foundation.
- A grant of €1,000 to be made to St Patrick's Cathedral, Dublin for 'Decani: The Deans of St Patrick's Cathedral, Dublin' by Albert Fenton, which will consist of illustrated biographies of the Deans.
- A grant of €1,800 to the Select Committee on Human Sexuality in the Context of Christian Belief for editing and design of a 'Guide' which is being produced as an educational resource for the use of the Church of Ireland.
- A grant of £3,500 to the Bishop of Down and Dromore for a liturgy book and a related readers' book for Palm Sunday through to Easter Day on the understanding that of the print run of 10,000 and 1,000, 3,000 and 300 copies will be available for the wider church.

19. HISTORICAL CENTENARIES WORKING GROUP

The report of the Historical Centenaries Working Group is included as Appendix I on page 233.

20. HISTORIOGRAPHER'S REPORT

A report from the Church of Ireland Historiographer, Dr Kenneth Milne, is included as Appendix J on page 235.

21. HYMNAL SUPPLEMENT

In June 2014, the Standing Committee authorised the Honorary Secretaries, with the assistance of Church House staff to enter contractual negotiations with Hymns Ancient and Modern and that subject to a successful outcome to these negotiations, the RCB

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could enter into a contract on behalf of the Church for the publishing of the Hymnal Supplement.

During the same meeting, the Standing Committee also appointed Mr Stephen Carson to the Hymnal Supplement Committee.

22. IRISH CHURCHES PEACE PROJECT

The Irish Churches Peace Project was established in 2012 as an initiative of the Presbyterian Church, the Church of Ireland, the Roman Catholic Church, the Methodist Church and the Irish Council of Churches and was funded under the PEACE III programme, due to end in June 2015.

In November 2014, a meeting was held with representatives of all the Churches involved in the project to consider the future of the project following the ending of PEACE III. The Standing Committee appointed the Rt Rev John McDowell, the Ven George Davison and Mrs Kate Williams to represent the Church of Ireland at this meeting.

At the meeting it was agreed that the current Irish Churches Peace Project would be wound down (but endeavouring where possible to allow projects initiated by the programme to continue) and that a fresh application should be put under PEACE IV for a new project based on the experience gained from working together with the Irish Churches Peace Project.

In January 2015, the Standing Committee appointed the Rt Rev John McDowell and Mr Trevor Douglas to a working group comprising representatives from the Church of Ireland, the Roman Catholic Church, the Presbyterian Church, the Methodist Church and the Irish Council of Churches to prepare a fresh application under PEACE IV for such a new project.

The report of the Irish Churches Peace Project appears as Appendix K on page 237.

23. LONG TERM CHURCH

The Long Term Church project was launched by the Primate at the 2014 General Synod. A steering group comprising the Archbishops, an Honorary Secretary of the General Synod (Ven George Davison) and the Chairman of the RB Executive Committee (Mr Robert Neill) were appointed to progress this work.

The House of Bishops asked the group to give consideration to Human Resources issues and Dignity in Church Life and this matched the aspirations expressed under the Long Term Church project. With the assistance of a reference group and experts in Human Resources it was agreed that legislation should be brought before General Synod to

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address these areas. The Legislation Committee's assistance was sought and three Bills were drafted.

In March 2015, the Standing Committee and the Representative Church Body both considered and approved these three draft Bills which will be considered by the General Synod this year. These are:

- A Bill (Bill No 1) to adopt a 'Dignity in Church Life Charter' and authorise the RCB to propose policies and procedures to give effect to it and for Standing Committee to approve these. General Synod will retain overriding authority as any policy or procedure approved under the Charter will have to be laid before General Synod who will have the right to annul or amend it;
- A Bill (Bill No 2) to amend Section 34 Chapter IV of the Constitution to create procedures to address a situation where a clergyperson is permanently incapacitated on medical grounds from performing the duties of his or her office. If passed the Bill will enable these procedures to be grounded on the advice of medical experts;
- A Bill (Bill No 3) to amend Chapter XVI of 2003 which currently provides for the establishment of a Severance Fund for clergy to change its name to the 'Clergy and Ministry Protection Fund' and allow for its use in circumstances where a clergyperson is forced from ministry through illness.

Further information on other aspects of the Long Term Church Project can be found in the report of the Representative Church Body.

24. MINIMUM APPROVED STIPENDS

Under Section 51(1) of Chapter IV of the Constitution of the Church of Ireland as revised by Chapter IV of 2011, the Standing Committee is required to consider recommendations from the Representative Church Body as to the rates of Minimum Approved Stipends to take effect from 1 January 2015.

At its meeting of 16 September 2014, the Standing Committee heard a submission by Mr Robert Neill, Chairman of the Executive of the Representative Church Body detailing the background to the RCB's recommendations.

The Standing Committee approved the recommendations of the Representative Church Body with the adoption of the following resolution:

That, in accordance with Section 51 (1) of Chapter IV of the Constitution of the Church of Ireland, Minimum Approved Stipends shall be as follows with effect from 1 January 2014:

- (a) *no stipend shall be less than £27,324 per annum in Northern Ireland or €36,219 per annum in the Republic of Ireland in the case of an Incumbent or a*

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member of the clergy appointed as Bishop's Curate under the provisions of Section 42 of Chapter IV or of a Diocesan Curate over the age of 30 years appointed under the provisions of Section 43 of Chapter IV.

(b) the stipend for a Curate-Assistant shall be in accordance with the following scale:

<i>First Year</i>	<i>75.0% of minimum stipend for incumbent</i>
<i>Second Year</i>	<i>77.5% "</i>
<i>Third Year</i>	<i>80.0% "</i>
<i>Fourth Year</i>	<i>82.5% "</i>
<i>Fifth and succeeding Years</i>	<i>85.0% "</i>

25. MORAVIAN CHURCH OF GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND

In September 2014, the Standing Committee received a report from the Commission for Christian Unity and Dialogue on the continuing theological discussions with the Moravian Church of Great Britain and Ireland.

This report appears in Appendix L to this report on page 239.

The Standing Committee approved the recommendations for further action in the report.

26. NORTHERN IRELAND COMMUNITY RELATIONS WORKING GROUP

In September 2014, Ms Kate Turner and Mr Peter Munce were appointed to the Northern Ireland Community Relations Working Group.

The report of the Northern Ireland Community Relations Working Group appears as Appendix M on page 244.

27. PARISH DEVELOPMENT WORKING GROUP

The Parish Development Working Group report appears as Appendix N on page 246.

28. PENSIONABLE STIPENDS

Under Section 2 of Chapter XIV of the Constitution of the Church of Ireland as revised by Chapter V of 2011, the Standing Committee is required to consider a recommendation from the Representative Church Body and the Church of Ireland Clergy Pensions Trustee Limited as to the rates of Pensionable Stipend to take effect from 1 January 2015.

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At its meeting of 16 September 2014, the Standing Committee heard a presentation by Mr Robert Neill, Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Representative Church Body detailing the financial background to the RCB's and the Church of Ireland Clergy Pensions Trustee Limited's recommendations.

The Standing Committee approved the recommendations of the Representative Church Body by adopting the following resolution:

That as recommended by the Representative Church Body and the Trustee, in accordance with Section 2 of Chapter XIV of the Constitution of the Church of Ireland, Pensionable Stipend shall be as follows with effect from 1 January 2014:

- (a) *Pensionable Stipend shall be £25,498 per annum in Northern Ireland and €36,219 per annum in the Republic of Ireland in the case of an Incumbent or a member of the clergy appointed as Bishop's Curate under the provisions of Section 42 of Chapter IV or of a Diocesan Curate over the age of 30 years appointed under the provisions of Section 43 of Chapter IV.*
- (b) *Pensionable Stipend for a Curate-Assistant shall be in accordance with the following scale:*

<i>First Year</i>	<i>75.0% of Pensionable Stipend for incumbent</i>
<i>Second Year</i>	<i>77.5% "</i>
<i>Third Year</i>	<i>80.0% "</i>
<i>Fourth Year</i>	<i>82.5% "</i>
<i>Fifth and succeeding Years</i>	<i>85.0% "</i>

29. PRIORITIES FUND

- (a) The following allocations from the Priorities Fund were approved by the Standing Committee in March 2015:

ALLOCATION OF GRANTS FROM 2014 PRIORITIES FUND

Ministry	€
Church of Ireland and Methodist Chaplaincy, Queen's University, Belfast – Funding to advance the chaplaincy's strategic ministry, by securing and improving the physical spaces that house the students and to encourage financial support from other sources – (Stg£25,000)	32,196

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Diocese of Connor – Funding for the first three years of a five year project, to assist the diocese in establishing a centre of mission and grow new communities of faith – (Stg£20,000 per year for 2 years) – First year	25,757
Dioceses of Dublin and Glendalough (DIT Chaplaincy) – To assist with the development of a new Chaplaincy Centre in Dublin Insitute of Technology, for outreach and support in the new campus – (€20,000 per year for 2 years) – First year	20,000
The Church of Ireland Theological Institute – Funding to facilitate a programme for Continuing Ministerial Education and lay training – (€65,000 per year for 5 years) – Fifth year	65,000
The House of Bishops – To support continuing ministerial education in the dioceses	40,000

Sub-total	€182,953
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Retirement

C of I Clergy Pensions Fund – Additional income for most needy – (Stg£430)	554
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Sub-total	€554
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Education

Bandon Grammar School, Cork – To assist with the renovation and furnishing of a rundown and disused boardroom and convert it for use as a chapel, to meet the spiritual needs of the school	5,000
Eco Congregation Ireland – Financial assistance for environmental educational projects	3,000
P.S.A.L.M. (Protestant Schools All Learning Music) – Financial assistance to empower the musical capabilities of children in Co Monaghan parishes, leading to enhanced worship experience in churches	2,000
Solas Project, Dublin – Funding for a new transition year after-school programme, to tackle the difficult transition from primary to secondary education	5,000

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St Andrew’s Church, Ballysally (Connor) – To assist with the development of the S.A.F.E. (Schools and Families Education) Programme, to connect children, families, schools, church and parish – (Stg£10,000 – First year : Stg£5,000 – Second year : Stg£3,000 – Third year) – Second year	6,439
Summer Madness (NI) – Additional support to help establish the Catalyst Festival launched in 2014 – (Stg£3,750)	4,829
The Church of Ireland Marriage Council – Funding to facilitate the clergy training course “Contemporary Couples”, to be run in Northern Ireland in 2015 – (Stg£3,000)	3,863
Wilson’s Hospital School, Multyfarnham – Funding for the provision of access to the school Chapel, for children and adults with mobility challenges	6,000

The following applications all concern youth work and the grants allocation take into consideration recommendations made by the Executive Committee of the Church of Ireland Youth Department

Armagh Diocesan Council – Financial support for the development of a new youth ministry strategy in the diocese – (Stg£5,000 – First year : Stg£3,000 – Second year) – First year	6,439
C of I Youth Department – Financial assistance for a three year volunteer support programme – (Stg£5,000 per year for 3 years) – Third year	6,439
Clogher Diocesan Council – Funding for a three year project called ‘The Streams Project’, to integrate young people throughout the diocese into their parish church, life and witness – (Stg£7,000 – First year : Stg£5,000 – Second year) – Second year	6,439
St Paul’s Caring Group, Lisburn (Connor) – Funding to support ‘IMPACT’ Youth and Children’s Project, serving Christ through social and community outreach – (Stg£15,000 – First year : Stg£10,000 – Second year) – First year	19,317
“Transformers”, Ardstraw Parish Church (Derry) – Funding to enable the creation of a youth project, to serve and reach out to unchurched young people in the Newtownstewart area – (Stg£10,000 – First year : Stg£3,000 – Second year : Stg£2,000 – Third year) – Second year	3,863

Sub-total

€78,628

Community

Beacon Ministries Limited (NI) – Funding for the provision of an outreach programme to families in our community – (Stg£10,000 – First year : Stg£6,000 – Second year) – Second year	7,727
Dioceses of Cashel, Ferns and Ossory – To financially assist diocesan participation in the National Ploughing Championships in 2015, representing the Church of Ireland	6,000
Muckamore Parish (Connor) – Funding for the ‘Flute Band Church Project’, to engage the marching band culture with the Gospel, through the medium of band music – (Stg£5,000)	6,439
Kilbroney Centre, Rostrevor (Dromore) – Funding to assist this centre for young people in its outreach work, as it strives to achieve financial viability for its redeveloped facilities – (Stg£10,000)	12,878
Killeshin Union of Parishes (Leighlin) - Provision of funding for a community project involving local farmers	1,000

Standing Committee - 2015

St John’s Church, Clonmore (Leighlin) – To assist financially with the development of a Meditation Garden	1,000
Tralee and Dingle Unions of Parishes (Ardfert) – Funding to replace worn and damaged equipment used by “Tralee Soup Kitchen” and to purchase storage equipment to further the work of the “Saturday Food Bank”	5,000
Willowfield Parish Church (Down) – To assist financially with a project, helping people with learning disabilities and men with addictions, to be better integrated into church life – (Stg£10,000 – First year : Stg£5,000 – Second year) – Second year	6,439
Willowfield Parish Community Association (Down) - Funding for a project “Mind the Gap”, reaching out to those in real need in East Belfast, who often fall in the gap between churches and social services, due to poverty, sectarianism, unemployment, family pressures etc. – (Stg£8,000 – First year : Stg£5,000 – Second year) – First year	10,303

Sub-total	€56,786
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Areas of Need

Connor – St Aidan’s Parish, Belfast – To assist with alterations, to facilitate children’s and outreach ministry – (Stg£7,000)	9,015
Dromore – St Patrick’s Parish, Newry – Financial assistance for the continuation of mission and outreach – (Stg£3,000)	3,863
Dublin – Holy Trinity Parish, Killiney – To assist with the cost of resourcing the Carry Centre, for use by the parish and wider community	5,000
Lismore – Clonmel Union of Parishes – Funding for the restoration of the parish hall, to fulfil the mission and outreach for which it was built	3,000
Meath – Dunboyne Union – To assist with the provision of a parish centre facility, to serve the needs of the parish and the wider community	15,000

Sub-total	€35,878
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Outreach Initiatives

Grouped Parishes of Christ Church, Culmore, Muff and St Peter, Londonderry (Derry) – Financial support for a project, which will enable the church to continue to play a leading role in reconciliation – (Stg£3,000)	3,863
Holy Trinity Church, Dromore (Clogher) – Funding to establish and open a CAP (Christians Against Poverty) Centre – (Stg£9,000 – First year : Stg£7,500 – Second year : Stg£5,000 – Third year) – Third year	6,439
Icon Community (Dublin and Glendalough) – Funding to assist with the establishment of a new Anglican network church plant, called Icon Community – (€20,000 – First year : €15,000 – Second year) – First year	20,000
Knocknagoney Parish Church (Down) – Funding to support and build on projects undertaken to date and fresh projects initiated through the work of a community chaplaincy – (Stg£10,000)	12,878

Standing Committee - 2015

Moneyreagh Community Church (Down) – Seed funding for the rural mission area of Moneyreagh, to continue building a new church community among many families who have no church connection – (Stg£10,000 – First year : Stg£6,000 – Second year) – First year	12,878
Mount Merrion Parish Church (Down) – Provision of funding in support of outreach projects, to transform the local community – (Stg£10,000 – First year : Stg£5,000 – Second year) – Second year	6,439
Seagoe Parish (Dromore) – Funding for the establishment of a church plant and outreach, to transform the challenging loyalist estate of Killicomaine – (Stg£7,000 – First year : Stg£5,000 – Second year) – First year	9,015
Seapatrick Parish, Banbridge (Dromore) – Financial assistance to establish a CAP Centre in Banbridge – (Stg£7,500 – First year : Stg£5,000 – Second year) – First year	9,659
St Brigid’s the Braniel Mission Area (Down and Dromore) – Seed funding for the mission area, to build a new church congregation among the many young families who have no church connection – (Stg£15,000 – First year : Stg£6,000 – Second year) – Second year	7,727
St Catherine’s (CORE) Church (Dublin) – Financial assistance for improvements and equipment, to facilitate growth and outreach	7,360
St Mark’s Parish Church, Newtownards (Down) – Funding for the creation of an outreach to the Glen Estate, Newtownards, a community which has significant social and spiritual needs – (Stg£12,000 – First year : Stg£8,000 – Second year) – First year	15,454
St Patrick’s Church, Ballymoney (Connor) – To assist financially with the establishment of a Parish Caring Association, to deliver a range of services to the wider community – (Stg£5,000 per year for 2 years) – Second year	6,439
St Paul and St Barnabas Parish, Belfast (Connor) – Funding to reach out into the local and deprived community, by providing a range of programmes and projects – (Stg£2,000)	2,576
The Adelaide Church of Christ the Redeemer, Myshall (Leighlin) – Funding for the purpose of mission, unity and parochial development	2,904
Sub-total	€123,631

Innovative Ministry in a Rural Context

Armagh Diocesan Council – Financial assistance to sustain diocesan outreach to rural areas, known as the ‘Zacchaeus Outreach Project’ and to build upon children’s ministry within the diocese – (Stg£10,000 per year for 2 years) – First year	12,878
Bandon Union of Parishes (Cork) – Funding for the development of a community outreach centre, to enhance ministry in a rural setting	15,000
Dioceses of Down and Dromore (Church Planting Group) – Seed funding to help launch a new outreach in Killough and Ardglass, which will be innovative ministry in a rural context – (Stg£8,000 – First year : Stg£5,000 – Second year) – First year	10,303
Killeshandra Parish (Kilmore) – Financial assistance to further the vision of innovative life-giving ministry, to strengthen the church and it’s witness in this area of great need – (€20,000 – First year : €10,000 – Second year) – First year	20,000
Larah Parish – Burrowes Hall Committee (Kilmore) – Funding for the conversion of the attic over the stage in the Burrowes Hall, for use as a youth ministry room	5,000
Parishes of Errigal and Desertoghill (Derry) – Financial assistance for a cross community youth project in a divided community – (Stg£10,000)	12,878

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St Coman's Parish, Roscommon (Elphin) – Funding for the set-up costs involved in equipping the recently refurbished parish hall, renamed CORE, for the purpose of developing outreach programmes for the church and wider community	15,000
St Mary's Church, Killamey (Ardfert) – Seed funding for a project that will reach out to the tourists of Killamey	2,000
Sub-total	€93,059
Total Allocated	€571,489

Sterling grants have been converted to Euro using the 2014 end of year rate of 0.7765.

Accounts for the year ended 31 December 2014 are included as Appendix O on Page 248
Contributions to the Fund do not close until the end of February. The amount actually received by 28 February 2015 was €548,471 .

Following a recommendation from the Priorities Fund Committee, the Standing Committee in March 2015, agreed that diocesan targets for contributions to the 2016 Fund should be increased by 1%.

30. RETIREMENT AGE FOR CLERGY

In July 1975 the Church of Ireland implemented a compulsory retirement age for clergy, bishops and archbishops reaching 75 years of age. This retirement age applies to all clergy, bishops and archbishops whether or not they are members of the Church of Ireland Clergy Pensions Fund and eligible to receive pension benefits before reaching the compulsory retirement age.

In the context of Europe-wide equality legislation a review of the application of a compulsory retirement age was carried out. The RB considered the matter in September 2014 and agreed that there are sound and objective reasons for maintaining a compulsory retirement age for clergy.

The Standing Committee considered the matter at their meeting in September 2014 and endorsed the rationale behind the maintenance of a compulsory retirement age outlined in the paper.

The paper submitted to the RB and the Standing Committee on the compulsory retirement age can be read in Appendix P on page 254.

31. SELECT COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SEXUALITY IN THE CONTEXT OF CHRISTIAN BELIEF

The report of the Select Committee on Human Sexuality in the Context of Christian Belief appears elsewhere in the Book of Reports on page 375.

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In November 2014, the Honorary Secretaries reported to the Standing Committee that several vacancies had arisen on the Select Committee. The Rt Rev Trevor Williams ceased to be a member following his retirement (though he continues to assist in an advisory capacity). Mrs Thea Boyle resigned and the Rev Darren McCallig left to take up a post in Copenhagen. The Honorary Secretaries invited the members of the Standing Committee to suggest names to fill the vacancies.

In January 2015, at the invitation of the Honorary Secretaries, the Standing Committee elected the Rev Brian O'Rourke, Mrs Joan Bruton and Mr Damian Shorten to the Select Committee.

At the same meeting, the Standing Committee also decided to recommend to the General Synod that the appointment of the Select Committee on Human Sexuality in the Context of Christian Belief be extended for a further two years.

32. WORKING GROUP ON DISABILITY

The report of the Working Group on Disability can be read in Appendix Q on page 256.

33. OBITUARIES

The following members died since the last session:

Ms Annette Camier (Glendalough)

APPENDIX A

MOTIONS TO BE PROPOSED AT GENERAL SYNOD

1. Select Committee on Human Sexuality in the Context of Christian Belief

That, as provided for in the General Synod resolution of 2013 establishing the Select Committee on Human Sexuality in the Context of Christian Belief, the General Synod resolves that the appointment of the Select Committee be extended for a further two years.

2. Moravian Church of Great Britain and Ireland

That the General Synod:

- Welcomes and affirms the conclusions and proposals contained in the report concerning recent theological dialogue between the Church of Ireland and the Moravian Church of Great Britain and Ireland;
- Asks the Standing Committee to ensure that legislation providing for the interchangeability of ministry between our two churches is laid before the Synod for consideration as soon as is practicable, and following further examination of the developing relationship between the Moravian Church and the Church of England.

APPENDIX B

BILLS PROCEDURE AT GENERAL SYNOD

HONORARY SECRETARIES DISCUSSION PAPER ON AN ALTERNATIVE APPROACH

Background:

The General Synod's bills procedure is a remnant of the Church of Ireland's prior status as an established Church. Prior to its disestablishment, the Church's laws and governance were developed by the Crown and the Irish (and later UK) Parliament. Upon disestablishment, the Church adopted a similar structure for its internal governance and much of its procedure and terminology dates from that period and context.

There has been frequent comment on the Bills procedure applied at the General Synod. It seems to be a regular feature of discussion every June at Standing Committee as the Committee conducts its annual Synod post-mortem. The following are the issues that are often raised:

Complexity:

The Bills procedure needs regular explanation for Synod members (particularly for new Synod members). Even when the procedure has been explained it is clear from the proceedings at Synod that members are regularly confused about when it is appropriate to raise a given issue or when and/or how to propose a relevant amendment.

Parliamentary Jargon:

The terminology used in the Bills procedure would be recognisable to MPs, TDs and MLAs and others involved in a legislative process, but is not within the experience of most people. These include:

- Stage
- Committee Stage
- Committee of the whole house
- First reading
- Second reading
- Third reading
- Bill
- Statute

Arguably, retaining much of the parliamentary jargon doesn't facilitate most synod members' understanding of the proceedings.

Speed

The issue of parliamentary jargon adding to members' confusion may be exacerbated by the speed at which the process takes place. The first General Synod in 1871 took place over 31 days, modern Synods take place over three days and many have expressed the view that it should be reduced to two.

The result of this is that in the modern General Synod bills are dealt with in a slimmed down, streamlined and speedy version of a modern Parliamentary procedure. In the Oireachtas, the NI Assembly or UK Parliament, Bills normally take weeks or months to become law. Synod manages to pass most of its bills in three days (admittedly, they are seldom as complex as State legislation).

This is not an argument for an elongated process and certainly not for a return to a 31 day Synod! A short(ish) process is a necessity, but its very necessity means that there is an obligation to have a process that is comprehensible to the average Synod member.

Objectives Underpinning New Procedure:

To remove parliamentary jargon and replace it with more self-explanatory terms.

To simplify the procedure in the following ways:

- Removing the requirement for a proposer to seek the permission of the Synod to bring forward a Bill. (This procedure is not required for any other form of Synod business);
- A procedure for considering the Bill in detail that roughly mirrors the way reports are presented at General and Diocesan Synods, a procedure members of the Synod would be well used to.

Recommendations for an Outline New Procedure:

The Honorary Secretaries suggest that a new procedure should be a three stage process taking place over the three days of Synod. In summary:

Day 1: Intention Stage: Is the intention behind the Bill acceptable to the Synod?

Day 2: Detail Stage: Is the wording of the Bill satisfactory?

Day 3: Final Approval: Is the Synod willing to give final approval to the bill as drafted/amended?

The rationale for having a three stage process over three days is that it facilitates understanding of the procedure if members of the Synod are only doing one type of stage on each day (presently, the Synod undertakes two stages on the first day and a third on the last day).

A diagram of a suggested procedure is at the end of this paper.

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The intention stage and the final approval stage are fairly straightforward. The difficulty will be with organising the debate on the detail stage. In theory this is when members propose amendments. In practice a lot of members actually raise issues or points about the drafting without having a clear amendment in mind.

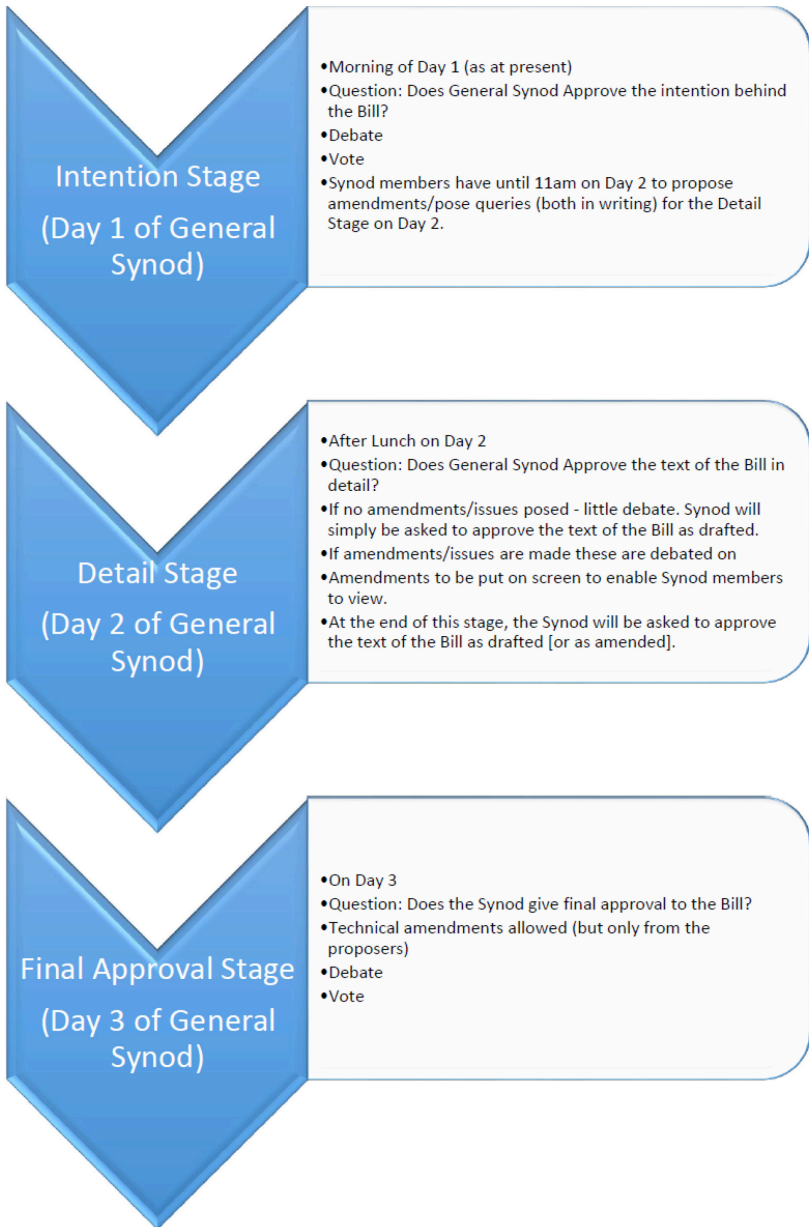
(For the avoidance of doubt, the suggested approach outlined is not intended to alter in any way the requirement for weighted majorities for Special Bills at the relevant stages).

Taking the Process Further:

If the Standing Committee is in agreement with the basic approach, the Honorary Secretaries propose to consult with Assessor and other interested parties on options to amend the process and put a more detailed proposal at a later date. If Standing Committee approves the detailed proposal, the Honorary Secretaries will seek the assistance of the Legislation Committee and the Standing Orders Committee to draft the Legislation and motions to give effect to the changes.

Any alteration would require both Constitutional change and changes to Standing Orders. Chapter I Section 26 of the Constitution outlines a special procedure for certain types of Bills and any change to the terminology in the Standing Orders would need to be reflected in the wording of Section 26 in order to prevent confusion as to the requirements.

In terms of timescale, it is not anticipated that it will be possible to prepare a Bill in time for the next General Synod. Accordingly, it will not be until the General Synod of 2016 that it will be possible to put a Bill to the Synod. Any new procedure would be put into operation for the first time at the General Synod of 2017.



APPENDIX C

WORLD DEVELOPMENT – BISHOPS’S APPEAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

REPORT 2015

MEMBERSHIP

Rt Rev Patrick Rooke (Chair)	Rev Olive Donohue
Mr William Kingston (Treasurer)	Rev Elizabeth Hanna
Ms Ruth Handy (Secretary)	Rev Canon Jonathan Pierce
Rt Rev Ferran Glenfield	Mr Albert Smallwoods
Rev Precentor Noel Regan	Mrs Iris Suitor

Diocesan Representatives:

Dublin & Glendalough: Mr Geoffrey McMaster & Rev Kenneth Rue

Meath & Kildare: Rev William Steacy

Cashel, Ferns & Ossory: Mr William Kingston & Mrs Valerie Power

Cork, Cloyne & Ross: Mr Andrew Coleman

Limerick & Killaloe : Rev Canon Robert Hanna

Tuam, Killala & Achonry: Very Rev Alistair Grimason

Kilmore, Elphin and Ardagh: Rev Canon David Catterall

Clogher: Rev Precentor Noel Regan

Derry & Raphoe: Mr Albert Smallwoods & Sue & Harry Grier

Connor: Rev John Anderson and Rev Elaine O’Brien

Armagh: Rev Elizabeth Stevenson

Down & Dromore: Rev Nigel Kirkpatrick

Staff: The committee is grateful to Ms Lydia Monds for her excellent work as Education Advisor for Bishops’ Appeal. Warm thanks are also expressed to RCB staff members Ms Doreen Smyth and Mrs Yvonne Gough who oversee financial and administrative aspects of payments.



**Bishops'
Appeal**
Church of Ireland World Aid and Development

‘At the heart of every human experience is the desire to survive and prosper: to live without fear, hunger or suffering.’ *United Nations*

‘Every second child in the world lives in extreme poverty.’
Global Issues

Bishops Appeal continues its commitment to respond to people living in dire poverty and suffering in a number of ways:

1. **Funding:**

In 2014, because of the generous support of people in Church of Ireland parishes, Bishops’ Appeal has been able to fund 24 health, agriculture and educational projects, support 5 dioceses in link projects and donate to 6 emergencies and disaster relief projects in a total of 22 countries around the world.

General Funds: We would strongly encourage dioceses and parishes not to *redirect* their giving to emergencies, as our compassion for the suffering in one part of the world then causes a crisis in another part of the world. Rather, we must be diligent in giving over and beyond our regular giving to support emergencies so that ongoing projects to alleviate grinding poverty in people’s day to day lives do not get passed over and forgotten at the time of emergencies elsewhere. Many projects were rejected in 2014 due to lack of funding despite the fact that they were excellent and if implemented could provide life changing support to people living in extreme poverty.

Examples of Projects Funded through General Funds in 2014:

1. Sexual Violence & Gender Equality Project in Bolivia
2. Water & Sanitation, Teacher Training programmes & Self Help Groups in Uganda
3. HIV health hubs and organic farming in India
4. Livelihoods training programmes & Training Centre in Kenya
5. Supporting landless farmers in Brazil
6. Anti-trafficking work in Cambodia
7. Supporting Women (livelihoods & sexual violence project) in Democratic Republic of Congo.
8. Mother Buddy Programme (reduce Parent to baby HIV transmission) Malawi

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9. Disaster prevention through drought resistant crops in Guatemala
10. Children’s Home in Democratic Republic of Congo
11. Emergency Relief for long term displaced communities in Myanmar
12. Livelihoods training and support in Honduras
13. Water & Sanitation Programme in Burkino Faso
14. Wheelchairs and supportive seating for people living with cerebral palsy in Uganda
15. Energy Efficient Stoves in Zimbabwe
16. Agriculture and Disaster Prevention in the Philippines.

Our Disaster Relief Response was essential and yet due to the overwhelming need, it was stretched thin during 2014. The committee has established that it will act as a conduit for funds for *any* emergency that arises. However, the scale of the need must be weighted alongside the Church’s own access to funds when releasing reserves to crisis situations and when calling for parishes to give to a special Appeal.

- Ongoing funds were received and released for Typhoon Haiyan victims in Philippines.
- Initial funds were released in August 2014 for protective suits for medical workers treating people with Ebola. This fund was added to by parishes when Ebola became highlighted in the media. The suits were distributed in Sierra Leone, Liberia and Guinea.
- Funds were released for food, shelter, trauma counselling, medical equipment and hygiene kits for displaced people in Syria and refugees in Lebanon, Iraq and Jordan. Parishes continue to support this Appeal as the crisis in Syria continues.
- Funds were released in support of the food relief programme and medical centre in Baghdad run by St. George’s Anglican Church and also funds for Christian Aid partners supporting people in regions where ISIS is most active. Again this Appeal is still active.
- Bishops’ Appeal acted as a conduit for funds for shelter and basic food and water supplies for those displaced due to violence in South Sudan and the Central African Republic.
- Funds were released for food, hygiene kits, medical kits and shelter for those displaced due to violence in Gaza.

For more details about these projects and further projects funded in 2015, see our Annual Leaflet and our website: www.bishopsappeal.ireland.anglican.org

2. **Partnering:**

Seed Funding: Some projects need seed funding to attract bigger donors such as Irish Aid and Bishops’ Appeal has targeted several projects which can then go on to secure ten times the donation because of our initial funds.

Diocesan Link Projects:

Some dioceses commit to giving to Bishops' Appeal for a specific project over a one to three year period. Those currently engaging in this way are:

- (i) Cork, Cloyne and Ross: Continued to fund houses for Haitians who were made homeless following the 2010 earthquake.
- (ii) Derry & Raphoe: Wrapped up a very successful NetsWork project that saw approximately 23,500 families receive a treated mosquito net and training on how to use and care for the net and education on why it is so important to use them.
- (iii) Meath & Kildare: Continued to give support to a health centre in Malawi and dairy farmer cooperatives in Haiti. In 2015, this Link will change to supportive footwear for people with Leprosy.
- (iv) Tuam, Killala and Achonry: The diocese is nearing the end of a 3 year commitment to Masai Girl's Secondary School in Kajiado, Kenya and has helped in providing the school with proper showers and toilets and a new classroom.
- (v) Dublin & Glendalough 'Prepare a Place' Advent Appeal for Gaza: The dioceses raised funds for solar panels for the Al Ahli hospital in Gaza so that it can carry out its services without having to be dependent on costly generators (which run on petrol, and this is not always accessible).

3. **Advocacy:**

There are many justice issues that receive little attention and are difficult to fundraise for. When you ask for money for a school or a water pump, people can see exactly where the funds are going. When you ask for money for tackling violence against women in communities or to fight for land rights for the poor, the results are much harder to measure and so funding is far more difficult to secure. Bishops' Appeal is committed to funding projects relating to such issues, tackling the deeper root causes of injustices and not just the resulting poverty. Examples of such projects in 2014 were for communities in Bolivia for a holistic response to gender based violence, Brazil, for support for landless farmers combined with lobbying for land rights and Philippines, again for food security and disaster prevention measures for vulnerable communities, combined with lobbying for climate justice.

A Fairtrade Church: It can be very confusing trying to shop ethically. Do I buy locally grown, organic, avoid shops with bad worker's rights reputations or support trade with developing countries? The Church of Ireland is committed to being a Fairtrade Church. Amidst the overwhelming and ironic choice of how to support, we see our buying of fairtrade tea, coffee, chocolate and bananas not as an act of charity, but as an act of justice, so that our choices in the supermarket aisles do not further impoverish the person who grew the products. It is a small step, and there are other steps we can take, but it is a start and a move in the right direction.

4. Education:

Irish Aid: In 2014, Bishops' Appeal received a grant from Irish Aid to run 'Global Poverty & Our Response' workshops targeting clergy, lay readers, committee members, youth workers and youth groups. The workshops began in September 2014 and will run until May 2015. The workshops focus on deepening understanding of what poverty is, what causes it and how our response can alleviate poverty or further exacerbate it. Our awareness of the impact that we have is a crucial part of informing our response. For example, teams bringing large quantities of clothes or books to a developing country without checking first if it is needed or if there are local businesses that will suffer because of our dumping of large amounts of free goods on their already limited market. There are ways of supporting that are helpful and ways of getting involved that can hurt a local community and further disempower them. Following this is the publication of recommendations and guidelines for parishes to consider when getting involved in missions, fundraising, supporting and partnering with communities overseas.

Schools workshops and Church talks: Over the course of the year Education Advisor Lydia Monds delivered many sermons, talks and workshops in relation to the vital work of Bishops' Appeal. Parishes who wish to book Lydia for a talk or workshop can do so by emailing bishopsappeal@ireland.anglican.org. Please note that parishes are encouraged to make Bishops' Appeal the focus of the giving the week that Lydia visits and indeed of subsequent weeks, to maximise the benefits of hearing about the work first hand.

The Bishops' Appeal Team:

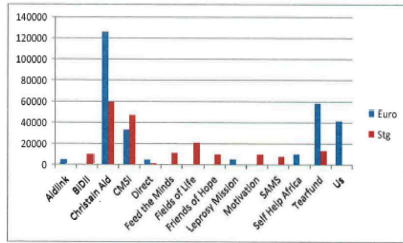
Bishops' Appeal is not an agency, it is the Church. It is you and me saying collectively that people matter, whether society says so or not, because they matter to God. People who are suffering, invisible and forgotten, are of the utmost importance to God. The Bishops' Appeal team working to keep this at the forefront of the Church's mission and purpose are the committee members, the Bishops' Appeal Diocesan Representatives, the RCB staff, the Education Advisor, and You.

Thank You:

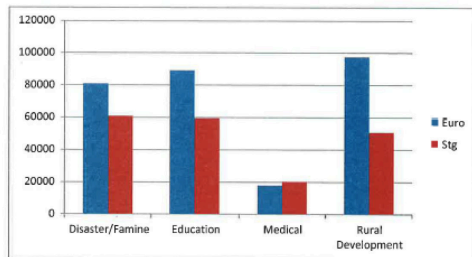
Your continued and consistent support allows the Church to be a strong partner in the transformative change taking place in communities around the globe who struggle daily to survive.

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Agency	Euro	Stg
Aidlink	5000	
BIDII		10000
Christain Aid	125911	59763
CMSI	33086	46750
Direct	4956	1261
Feed the Minds	232	11441
Fields of Life		20800
Friends of Hope		10000
Leprosy Mission	5437	
Motivation		10000
SAMS	300	7800
Self Help Africa	10420	
Tearfund	58529	13545
Us	41744	



Aid Category	Euro	Stg
Disaster/Famine	80905	60835
Education	89063	59413
Medical	17937	20400
Rural Development	97710	50711



Standing Committee – Report 2015

BISHOPS' APPEAL ACCOUNT 2014

INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT	Year ended 31 December	
	2014	2013
	€	€
INCOME		
Contributions	627,813	650,070
Irish Aid grant from Department of Foreign Affairs & Trade	5,239	-
Deposit Interest	1,163	1,435
Sterling translation gain/loss	3,313	(900)
Tax refunds	29,707	15,465
	667,235	666,070
EXPENSES		
Printing and stationery	6,054	9,819
Administration & Personnel costs	37,805	32,132
	43,859	41,951
OPERATING SURPLUS FOR YEAR	623,376	624,119
Grants Paid	606,651	616,554
Surplus for the year	16,725	7,565

Standing Committee – Report 2015

BISHOPS' APPEAL ACCOUNT 2014

BALANCE SHEET	Year ended 31 December	
	2014	2013
	€	€
CURRENT ASSETS		
Cash held by the RCB	139,006	124,145
Debtors	<u>77,370</u>	<u>63,845</u>
	<u>216,376</u>	<u>187,990</u>
CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Creditors (Amounts falling due within one year)	<u>(13,961)</u>	<u>(2,300)</u>
Total Net Assets	<u>202,415</u>	<u>185,690</u>
FUNDS EMPLOYED		
Balance at 1 January	185,690	178,125
Surplus for the year	<u>16,725</u>	<u>7,565</u>
Balance at 31 December	<u>202,415</u>	<u>185,690</u>

Standing Committee – Report 2015



INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE OF THE CHURCH OF IRELAND BISHOPS' APPEAL

We have audited the non-statutory financial statements of the Church of Ireland Bishops' Appeal for the year ended 31 December 2014 which comprise the Income and Expenditure Account, the Balance Sheet, the Accounting Policies and the related notes. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is the basis of preparation note and accounting policies on page 6 to the non-statutory financial statements.

Respective responsibilities of the Advisory Committee and auditors

As explained more fully in the Advisory Committee's Responsibilities Statement set out on page 4, the Advisory Committee is responsible for the preparation of the non-statutory financial statements in accordance with the basis of preparation and accounting policies to the non-statutory financial statements. Our responsibility is to audit and express an opinion on the non-statutory financial statements in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK and Ireland). Those standards require us to comply with the Auditing Practices Board's Ethical Standards for Auditors.

This report, including the opinion, has been prepared for and only for the Advisory Committee for governance purposes in accordance with our engagement letter dated 12 November 2014 and for no other purpose. We do not, in giving this opinion, accept or assume responsibility for any other purpose or to any other person to whom this report is shown or into whose hands it may come including without limitation under any contractual obligations of the charity, save where expressly agreed by our prior consent in writing.

Scope of the audit of the non-statutory financial statements

An audit involves obtaining evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the non-statutory financial statements sufficient to give reasonable assurance that the non-statutory financial statements are free from material misstatement, whether caused by fraud or error. This includes an assessment of: whether the accounting policies are appropriate to the charity's circumstances and have been consistently applied and adequately disclosed; the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by the Advisory Committee; and the overall presentation of the financial statements.

Opinion on non-statutory financial statements

In our opinion the non-statutory financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2014 have been properly prepared in accordance with the basis of preparation note and the accounting policies on page 6 and present the state of the Church of Ireland Bishops' Appeal's affairs as at 31 December 2014 and its surplus for the year then ended in accordance therewith.

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Emphasis of matter – Basis of preparation

In forming our opinion on the non-statutory financial statements, which is not modified, we draw attention to the fact that the accounting policies used and disclosures made are not intended to, and do not, comply with all the requirements of Generally Accepted Accounting Practice in Ireland.


PricewaterhouseCoopers
Chartered Accountants
Dublin

12 March 2015

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BISHOPS' APPEAL CONTRIBUTIONS

	2014		2013	
	Stg£	€	Stg£	€
ARMAGH	33,696	2,485	38,881	3,494
CLOGHER	34,965	4,075	16,930	4,099
CONNOR	41,107	100	48,320	-
DERRY & RAPHOE	34,138	22,043	51,954	30,412
DOWN & DROMORE	53,640	-	33,511	700
DOWN DROMORE & CONNOR	101	-	-	-
KILMORE	2,119	8,606	330	15,436
ELPHIN	-	6,297	-	9,526
CASHEL & OSSORY	-	30,668	-	46,921
FERNS	-	15,461	-	14,447
CORK	-	25,458	-	28,319
DUBLIN	-	158,945	-	181,572
LIMERICK	-	11,801	-	21,600
MEATH & KILDARE	-	31,499	-	21,731
TUAM	-	11,877	-	19,981
INDIVIDUALS (INCL. LEGACIES)	-	8,000	4,749	8,205
OTHER	<u>8,794</u>	<u>21,908</u>	<u>1,016</u>	<u>7,912</u>
TOTALS	<u>208,560</u>	<u>359,223</u>	<u>195,691</u>	<u>414,355</u>
TOTALS IN EURO		<u>627,813</u>		<u>650,070</u>

BISHOPS' APPEAL GRANTS PAID

TYPE OF DEVELOPMENT	2014	2013
	€	€
Disaster Relief	198,828	267,512
Health & Medical	68,789	90,120
Education/Communications	165,577	64,685
Rural Development	<u>173,457</u>	<u>194,237</u>
Totals	<u>606,651</u>	<u>616,554</u>
DEVELOPMENT AGENCY		
Christian Aid	222,790	270,236
CMSI	93,292	58,078
Feed the Minds	14,966	210
Tearfund	75,973	152,292
Others	<u>199,630</u>	<u>135,738</u>
Totals	<u>606,651</u>	<u>616,554</u>

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BISHOPS' APPEAL GRANTS PAID

GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATION		
<u>AFRICA - €176,865;Stg£132,157</u>		
Anglican Diocese of Kaduna	Kaduna	Direct
Borehole Programme	Uganda	Fields of Life
Building of Teacher's House	Swaziland	Us
Capacity Building Programme	Kenya	BIDII
Children's Home	Congo	CMSI
Comunita di Sant'Egidio	Malawi	Direct
Diocese of Swaziland	Swaziland	Us
Ebola Crisis	Liberia	Leprosy Mission
Emergency Relief	South Sudan	CMSI
Energy Efficient Stoves	Zimbabwe	VSO
Fruit Growing Project	Rwanda	CMSI
Fuel Efficient Stoves	Zambia	Self Help Africa
GBV Education & Support	Zambia	Us
Health Project	Malawi	Tearfund
IMPACT	Malawi	Tearfund
IMPACT	Malawi	Tearfund
Maasai Rural Training	Kenya	CMSI
Mabweni Project	Kenya	CMSI
Nets Work Project	Nigeria	Christian Aid
Relief Fund	Congo	CMSI
Renewable Energy Project	Mali	Christian Aid
School, Water/Sanitation Project	Uganda	Aidlink
Self Help Groups	Uganda	CMSI
Self Help Groups	Uganda	Tearfund
Shyogwe Diocese	Rwanda	CMSI
Teacher Training	Uganda	Fields of Life
Water & Sanitation Project	Congo	CMSI
Wheelchairs/Training	Uganda	Motivation
Women's Training Programme	Congo	CMSI
Women's Vocational Training	Ghana	Feed the Minds
<u>ASIA - €92,497;£56,647</u>		
Building Resilience	Philippines	Christian Aid
Cambodia Hope Organisation	Cambodia	Tearfund
Disaster Relief	Syria	Christian Aid

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Disaster Relief	Syria	Tearfund
Emergency Relief	Iraq	Christian Aid/ Anglican Church Baghdad
Emergency Relief	Myanmar/Thailand	Christian Aid
Gaza Crisis	Gaza	Us
Healthcare Programmes	India	Friends of Hope
Typhoon Appeal	Philippines	Christian Aid
Typhoon Appeal	Philippines	Tearfund
<u>CENTRAL AMERICA - €47,788</u>		
Agriculture/Livelihoods	Honduras	Christian Aid
Dairy Farmer's Project	Haiti	Christian Aid
Education Project	Guatemala	Christian Aid
Housing Project	Haiti	Christian Aid
<u>SOUTH AMERICA - €15,300;£24,113</u>		
Garden Project	Argentina	SAMS
Gender Equality	Bolivia	Christian Aid
Livelihoods for Landless	Brazil	Christian Aid

APPENDIX D

CENTRAL COMMUNICATIONS BOARD TO GENERAL SYNOD

MEMBERSHIP

Vacant	(House of Bishops)
Ven Richard Rountree	(Standing Committee)
Rev Gillian Wharton	(Honorary Secretary)
Rev Eileen Cremin	(Chair - Broadcasting Committee)
Dr Kenneth Milne	(Chair – Literature Committee)
Dr Raymond Refaüssé	(Hon Secretary – Literature Committee)
Mr Adrian Clements	(Church House Senior Management)
	(Internet Committee *)
	(Internet Committee *)
Vacant	(Representative Body)
Very Rev AJ Grimason	(Representative Body)
Ms Ruth Buchanan	(Co-option Broadcasting Committee)
<i>Vacant</i>	(Co-option for gender & regional balance)
Head of Synod Services & Communications	(<i>ex officio</i>)
Press Officer	(<i>in attendance</i>)

***The CCB is currently working on redesign of the Church of Ireland website with a reference group.**

Terms of Reference

- Initiate policy in relation to the communications strategy of the Church
- Co-ordinate the work of the sub-committees
- Report annually to the General Synod

OBJECTIVES 2014-15

- To review the structure and role of the Church of Ireland website and the use of wider social media channels, including the development of a policy on usage and furthering the reach and impact of the E-bulletin established in late 2013;
- Maintain supply of key materials for liturgical and parish life to parishes.

Executive summary

The Central Communications Board provided support through its staff to a diverse set of Church activities, ranging from press and media services to support for the Archbishop of Armagh's Long Term Church initiative, the Commission on Episcopal Ministry and Structures, the Select Committee on Human Sexuality in the Context of Christian Belief, the Hymnal Supplement Sub-Committee, the Charities Registration Monitoring Working Group, and also delivering media training, lectures to Ordinands at various stages of their training in CITI and supporting parishes with information on copyright, social media guidelines and supply of liturgical and parish materials. The e-bulletin continues to grow in popularity with almost 1000 subscribers.

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The Central Communications Board said farewell to Bishop Trevor Williams (Chair) following a distinguished career in Church, broadcasting and as Director of the Corrymeela Community. The CCB also said farewell to Archdeacon Robin Bantry White on his retirement and to Mrs Jane Leighton, who resigned during the year. The Board extends its thanks to all of these people for the contribution they made to its work.

The Church has undertaken a significant number of new projects in recent years and as these begin to produce outcomes, communications support is needed to ensure that feedback is provided to the Church and to the wider public.

Among these initiatives are

- The Archbishop of Armagh's Long Term Church initiative;
- Commission on Episcopal Ministry and Structures;
- Select Committee on Human Sexuality in the Context of Christian Belief;
 - Hymnal Supplement Sub-Committee;
- Charities Registration Monitoring Working Group;
- Historical Centenaries Working Group.

The importance of communications in Church life is recognised by the increasing resourcing being provided to Ordinands during training. Effective witness and effective communications go hand-in-hand. The Board is very grateful to Rev Dr Maurice Elliott for continuing to provide for communications learning within all levels of ministerial training at CITI. Communications training embraces a general review of communications as a function within parish life, and also provides guidelines to help clergy with specific skills needed to produce newsletters and to relate to local media in a positive way. Protocols for dealing with more difficult media issues are also explained. Central support for issues attracting national media interest is available when required.

Website and Social Media Protocols – photographic and film images

Following an expert-led training and discussion day for Diocesan Communications Officers and Church Youth Officers held in March 2014 work has been undertaken by the Child Protection Officers alongside the Press Office in relation to developing guidance on taking and using photographic and film images and also using social media appropriately with young people. Supplementary Safeguarding Trust guidance is to be incorporated into the manual.

Publishing

A further volume of the new academic series which publishes the best examples of dissertations by Ordinands at the Theological Institute was published – Braemor Studies: Vol 4: *Occupy Faith: the Movement of Movements and its Implications for Christian Practice* by Rob Clements. Details maybe found on the Church of Ireland Publishing website: www.cip.ireland.anglican.org

E-bulletin

The monthly E-bulletin, supported by the Allocations Committee through the Sundry Projects Fund, was further developed by the Press Office as an all-island communications

resource and information portal in addition to the news sections of the Church of Ireland website which have been actively maintained. The E-bulletin continues to increase the information flow across and beyond the Dioceses, presenting a vibrant and varied representation of Church life to both members and the wider world and now has c.1000 voluntary subscribers – a very healthy number by industry standards. Each monthly edition links to a range of stories available on Diocesan websites and the main Church of Ireland website. You can receive the e-bulletin by subscribing via the link on the front page of the Church of Ireland website: www.ireland.anglican.org

Press Office

During 2014-15 the Press Office provided a communications and information service on matters of significance relating to the Church, sought to maximise positive coverage of Church news and managed media interest and enquiries professionally and with integrity.

Over the course of 2014, 80 press releases were issued from the Press Office; a substantial number of print, broadcast and web-based interviews were arranged; an active media centre was provided at the General Synod in Dublin; media training was provided for senior clergy; and the monthly E-bulletin (as described above) was further developed as an all-island communications resource and information portal in addition to the news sections of the Church of Ireland website which have been actively maintained.

The General Synod held in Dublin in May 2014 attracted solid Church and reasonable general media interest, especially relating to Interchangeability of Ministry with the Methodist Church in Ireland and in the association of the Church with the Flesh and Blood campaign.

The Press Officer, Dr Paul Harron, continued to provide media support to the Archbishop of Armagh in connection with a wide variety of events and occasions and facilitated a number of press interviews with Archbishop Clarke, from BBC Radio Ulster's 'Sunday Sequence' to the *Irish News* to the *Irish Catholic* and an opinion piece for the *Belfast Newsletter* on assisted dying in August; it also co-facilitated the RTE joint Archbishops' Christmas Day Message which, building on the Flesh and Blood theme at General Synod, focused on blood and organ donation – life as gift from God and Christian faith as promoting a culture of life.

The Press Officer was significantly involved over the past year in supporting the communications of two working groups in particular: the Historical Centenaries Working Group and the Northern Ireland Community Relations Working Group. During the year which marked the centenary of the First World War, considerable effort was directed towards publicising and co-ordinating: a Short Story Competition for 15-21 year olds on the theme of Ireland and the Great War; the production of a short film, 'The Boys from East Belfast', by the RCB Library featuring letters from the Front associated with the Rev (later Archbishop) Arthur Barton, which was given a public screening at St Mark's Dundela, Belfast; and the running of an 'Ethics of War' symposium with distinguished speakers Professor Nigel Biggar and Professor Keith Jeffery at Christ Church Cathedral, Dublin in November, chaired by Professor David Hayton. In relation to the NI working

group, a number of communications were issued and an interview arranged for its chair, Bishop Miller, on ‘Sunday Sequence’.

The Press Officer also co-ordinated the communications aspects of the Archbishop of Canterbury’s visit to the Church of Ireland in October 2014; supported media facilitation at the First World War Centenary Service in St Anne’s Cathedral, Belfast (4th August); and handled the communications aspects of Bishop Kenneth Kearon’s consecration at Christ Church Cathedral, Dublin in January 2015. He also continued to support the communications of the Irish Church’s Peace Project. In October, the Press Officer represented the Church of Ireland at the Church of England’s ‘Contagious Communications Conference’ in Birmingham at the invitation of the Anglican Communion Office, and also in October spoke to the Cookstown Clerical Society on Church media matters.

As in previous years the Press Office highlighted the work of the Disability Working Group in connection with Disability Awareness Sunday; supported the dissemination of statements and responses to issues from the Church and Society Commission (CASC); and facilitated a number of interviews with senior clergy, particularly for Bishop Patricia Storey. The Press Officer also, as in previous years, provided a number of articles for the *Church of Ireland Gazette*, from an interview with Bishop Alan Abernethy following his attendance at the World Council of Churches Geneva meeting in July to features on the CITI-led publication *Atonement as Gift*.

On broader societal issues, the Press Office provided responses to enquiries on many matters having liaised closely with relevant committees, boards and spokespeople. Comment was provided, for example, in relation to: the Church’s census figures; racist attacks in Belfast; the death of the Rev Ian Paisley, Lord Bannside; education; abortion; equality; same-sex marriage and controversy over anti-Islamic comments.

The Press Officer and Press Office Administrator, Mrs Jenny Compston, continued to enjoy working closely with Diocesan Communications Officers, Diocesan Magazine Editors, the various central committees and organisations affiliated to the Church, and with the editor and assistant editor of the *Church of Ireland Gazette*. In addition, good working relations were maintained with journalists at the BBC, RTE, UTV, Soul Waves, local radio stations and a wide number of print publications.

The Press Office continues to be keen to support the many impressive efforts of communicators at local – diocesan and parish – level. To that end, it was pleased to once again run the annual CCB communications competition, to recognise the vital work of those producing newsletters/magazines, websites and using social media platforms – the latter being an increasingly significant part of communicating the work of the Church.

Broadcasting

The Broadcasting Committee began a consideration of its role in future as the pattern of content production and distribution is now significantly different to that which prevailed even a decade ago. The pace of change in this industry is very rapid and there is an

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equally rapidly emerging niche format for electronic content that can be used on a community basis or made available to the whole world.

Within this context, the Committee is looking carefully at the next review of public service broadcasting in the UK, since much religious programming still falls into this category of content, which is experiencing a significant challenge to its future as the commercial model changes.

Proliferation in digital media and transformation of the market for broadcast content have tended to result in greater commercial pressure on programme makers and to an increase in pay-for-access content. This has led the Committee to restate the principles of accessibility and affordability as necessary in a fair society and these principles underpin the committee's response to policy issues including, during the course of the year, the issue of how religious services should be distributed between Long Wave and digital services in future.

Copyright

A further copyright seminar will be hosted in the spring of 2015.

BROADCASTING COMMITTEE

Members

Ms Ruth Buchanan
Mr Roger Childs
Rev Eileen Cremin (Chair)
Very Rev Tom Gordon
Mr Paul Loughlin
Rev Dr Bert Tosh

In attendance

Mrs Janet Maxwell: Head of Synod Services and Communications
Dr Paul Harron: Press Officer

Executive Summary

The Rev Dr Bert Tosh led the Committee in a debate on its future role, which must adapt to meet the changing nature of the broadcasting industry. The Committee responded to RTE's plans to close its Long Wave Service and move religious services (radio) to a digital platform. The Committee is monitoring the next UK review of public service broadcasting as this has direct implications for levels of religious programming. The Committee decided to withdraw from membership of the Church & Media Network following its restructuring and redirection of its activities to support religious programmers working in the industry in Great Britain. The Committee felt that the CMN programme no longer offered the best fit with the work of the Committee. The Committee will still be able to participate in the CMN Annual Conference. Soul Waves, which produces religious programming content for use on local radio stations, and of which the Church of Ireland is a participant member, continues to operate following restructuring.

Report

The Rev Dr Bert Tosh led the committee in consideration of its future role. While both the UK and Republic of Ireland view religious programming as a component of public service broadcasting (primarily the broadcast of religious services), it is necessary to keep promoting the value of this to policymakers in both countries. At the same time, the proliferation of digital content and digital platforms must be monitored. This simultaneously offers the opportunity of creating more content, but perversely, can make it more difficult to reach the audience and, equally challenging, without the public service criteria, content has to be privately funded or sponsored. However, religion and the various issues swirling around it continue to be highly interesting to audiences. Consequently, there is ongoing interest from programme makers within the broadcasting companies as well as independent producers in topics associated with religion and this is an opportunity.

Following the restructuring of the Church & Media Network, the previous support for broadcast media training will no longer be available. However, it is hoped to fill this gap

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with a combination of training by professional providers and additional input from the Press Office.

The Committee also reported last year on restructuring at Soul Waves, which produces religious broadcasting items targeted at local broadcasting outlets in the Republic of Ireland. Soul Waves has been operating for almost a year under its new structure and Church of Ireland content is very welcome. Mr Paul Loughlin continues to maintain the Church's relationship with Soul Waves and the Committee extends its thanks to him for this work. Mr Loughlin would welcome hearing from anyone who is interested in becoming an interviewer for Soul Waves. Examples of material produced for Soul Waves can be found on its website at: <http://www.soulwavesradio.ie/>

RTE

In 2014, RTÉ Religious Programmes continued to try to build on the quality, volume and scope of religious output and the following section is reported by Mr Roger Childs, Head of Religious Programmes at RTÉ, and a final paragraph from the Very Rev Tom Gordon, the Church of Ireland Broadcasting Coordinator.

Christian worship remains a central part of output on both RTÉ radio and television and Mr Roger Childs expresses his gratitude to the many clergy and parishioners and to the Very Rev Tom Gordon, the Church of Ireland Broadcasting Coordinator, for their generous assistance in ensuring that broadcast worship reflects the variety and quality of Anglican liturgy across the whole island of Ireland. RTÉ and listeners continue to benefit, also, from a much appreciated sharing arrangement with BBC Radio Ulster's religious output, facilitated by Blackthorn Productions.

Reporting on worship highlights in 2014, Mr Childs noted the first simulcast of the Service of Remembrance from St Patrick's Cathedral, Dublin, on Armistice Sunday, in a year which marked the centenary of the outbreak of World War One. This was followed, on Christmas Eve, by the traditional Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols, which, once more, gave a magnificent kick start to Christmas on RTÉ.

Autumn 2014 saw the announcement of the closure of RTÉ's Longwave platform, which is one of the traditional platforms for religious output. It had been hoped that, with content now available in better digital quality on a number of different platforms – on DAB, TV, online, and via mobile phones apps – listeners could be encouraged to make the switch. Church leaders, including the Church of Ireland's Communications Officers, very kindly offered to help distribute information at parish level, to help prepare people for the change, especially the housebound or those with least confidence in dealing with new technology. In the event, the Board of RTÉ was persuaded by a concerted lobby – particularly in the UK – that listeners were not ready to abandon Longwave and the switch-off was postponed until 2017, although the programmes will all be available on the new digital platforms for those who wish to access services in this way.

In the meantime, religious content on RTÉ Radio 1 Extra / LW 252 was enhanced by the creation, in November, of a new strand, *Sunday Spirit*, a broad mix of conversation, music, archive and acquired religious content, presented by Michael Comyn, from 10-1 every Sunday. Early feedback has been very positive. Elsewhere on radio, the retirement

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of Mr Gerry McArdle brought to an end *The God Slot* – a series he created and produced for three years. RTÉ is actively engaged, at present, in commissioning a replacement series for RTÉ Radio 1 on all platforms and wavelengths.

On Television, RTÉ saw the return of Joe Duffy's *Spirit Level* after a 3-year recession-imposed hiatus. Joe's easy manner and interest in religious affairs once again attracted significant audiences to his Sunday teatime slot and the aim is to bring the series back in 2015.

The flagship religious documentary series *Would You Believe?* delivered a number of impactful hour-long 'Specials' on subjects including The Legionaries of Christ, the reconstruction of St Mel's Cathedral, Longford, the aftershocks of the murder of Swiss teenager Manuela Riedo, a Passion Play in Nicker, Co. Limerick and the enclosed life of the Cistercian Sisters of Glencairn Abbey.

RTÉ also commissioned a series of high quality documentaries on the theme *Once In a Lifetime: The Irish Way of Death*. These films, which aired in November, were co-funded by the BAI and included Galway Film Fleadh's Best Documentary and Irish Times Readers' Best Film of 2014, *One Million Dubliners*, about Glasnevin Cemetery; *A Parting Gift*, which observed a year in the body donors programme at Trinity College Dublin; and *Guess Who's Dead*, Ardal O'Hanlon's wry look at Ireland's attachment to Death Notices.

Another previously commissioned programme, *Lifers*, about Irish missionaries in three of the most dangerous and challenging environments in the world, was runner-up in the European Festival of Religious Programmes' 4-yearly Awards, in Hilversum, in June, and won a Radharc Award in October.

Bláthnaid ní Chofaigh returned to RTÉ One with a third series of interviews about life-changing religious and ethical choices: *The Moment of Truth*, which, once again, found a number of people willing to tell strong personal stories with challenging ethical and emotional issues at their core.

Mr Gay Byrne returned for his ninth series of *The Meaning of Life*, which, this time, included a rare personal interview with *an Taoiseach*, Enda Kenny. Following the success of a book of transcripts and reflections from the previous episodes, Gay also published a second anthology, with charitable proceeds to go this time to the Peter McVerry Trust and Christina Noble's Children's Foundation. The first book raised about €8000 for Crumlin Children's Hospital. Gay, who turned 80 in August 2014, returns in early 2015 with his tenth series, which includes an interview with the former Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr Rowan Williams.

Finally, in 2014, *The Archbishops' Christmas Message* offered an opportunity to cement the partnership of the two Archbishops of Armagh, The Most Rev Dr Richard Clarke and The Most Rev Dr Eamon Martin, as they explored the theme of the gift of life during a visit to a blood donors' centre and talking with donors and recipients.

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RTE radio and television continues to provide the Church of Ireland with a forum for broadcast worship on Sundays and on other special festivals throughout the year. This is in spite of severe budgetary challenges and the vastly changed broadcasting environment of recent years. Some flexibility in live and pre-recorded televised worship and for on-site radio broadcasts, facilitates greater scope for the participation of parishes throughout the island. The Co-ordinator of religious programmes involving the Protestant Churches, the Very Rev Tom Gordon, is always open to approaches from parishes with appropriate liturgical resources who are interested in undertaking a broadcast for either radio or television. Equally welcome are notifications of special events in dioceses and parishes which might be appropriate for broadcasting. These can be explored further with the proviso that considerable forward notification and planning is required in scheduling.

BBC

On BBC Radio Ulster, *Sunday Sequence* presenter, Dr William Crawley stepped down as presenter to move to a new role within the broadcaster presenting the daily *Talkback* programme. The Committee wishes Dr Crawley well in his future career and thanks him for the contribution he made to religious programming in Northern Ireland in recent years. The Committee also welcomes new presenters to *Sunday Sequence*, Ms Roisin McCauley and Ms Audrey Carville and appreciates the insights that now bring to the programme.

The Committee also encourages members in Northern Ireland to tune into *Morning Service* on Sundays and *Thought for the Day* on weekday mornings. Canon Noel Battye's *Sounds Sacred* offers a range of sacred music on Sunday afternoons and is a much loved feature of Sunday listening for many, now joined by the occasional run of *Praise Revival* presented by Mr Robin Mark which attracts a further audience. The BBC Northern Ireland three-part television programme on Christian hymn singing *Then Sings My Soul* presented by Ms Marie-Louise Muir in February 2015 was also a welcome and interesting addition to the schedules.

Thanks and encouragement

The Committee encourages members of the Church both lay and clerical to continue their interest in media. Local radio stations continue to attract substantial audiences at the community level and are a wonderful opportunity to share information and stories that offer our Christian witness in a practical and imaginative way. The Committee again thanks Dr Paul Harron and Mrs Jenny Compston in the Press Office for the help and advice they give to parishes and church representatives who need to engage with broadcast media.

LITERATURE COMMITTEE

MEMBERSHIP

Dr Kenneth Milne (Chairman)
Canon Peter McDowell
Ven Richard Rountree
Rev Kenneth Rue
Richard Ryan
Rev Bernard Treacy OP
Dr Raymond Refaussé (Honorary Secretary)
Mrs Janet Maxwell (*ex officio*)
In attendance: Dr Susan Hood, Publications Officer
Dr Paul Harron, Press Officer.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In 2015 the Committee will set out to

- Promote church-related publication within and beyond the Church of Ireland;
- Manage Church of Ireland Publishing;
- Evaluate applications for support from the General Synod Royalties Fund.

MAJOR OUTCOMES FOR 2014

- Arising out of the Action Plan for 2014:-
- A third booklet in the series, Braemor Studies, which seeks to publish the best of the final year dissertation in CITI, was designed and published;
- Arising from the Committee's initiative to produce a 2014 Lent Book, *Lent with Saint John*, by the Very Rev John Mann, was published by Columba Press.

CHURCH OF IRELAND PUBLISHING

The Literature Committee has continued to further the work of Church of Ireland Publishing (CIP), the publishing imprint for the Church of Ireland.

The following titles were published in 2014:-

Rev Rob Clements, *Occupy faith: the movement of movements and its implications for Christian practice*.

Rev Ken Rue (ed.) *Sunday and weekday readings 2015*.

Dr Kenneth Milne (ed.) *Journal of the General Synod 2013*.

PUBLICATIONS OFFICER

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The Publications Officer worked with the authors and editors of the titles listed above and continued to provide advice for aspiring authors and editors.

GENERAL SYNOD ROYALTIES FUND

The Committee recommended the following grants:-

€61,200 to enable the production of items to support the publication of the Supplement to the Church Hymnal.

€1,000 to Four Courts Press to subvent the publication of a study of ‘First Fruits Churches in the Diocese of Meath, 1798-1823’ by Caroline Gallagher.

€1000 to the Rev Canon David Crooks for his *Clerical Succession List of the Diocese of Limerick* to be published by the Ulster Historical Foundation;

€1000 to St Patrick’s Cathedral for ‘*Decani: the Deans of St Patrick’s Cathedral, Dublin*’ by Albert Fenton, which will consist of illustrated biographies of the deans

€1800 to the Select Committee on Human Sexuality in the Context of Christian Belief for editing and design of a ‘Guide’ which is being produced as an educational resource for the use of the Church of Ireland;

£3500 to the Bishop of Down for a liturgy book, and related leaders’ book, for Palm Sunday through to Easter Day, on the understanding that of the print run of 10,000 and 1000, 3000 and 300 copies will be available for the wider church.

ACTION PLAN 2015

- Develop structures for promotion and marketing, sales and distribution.
- Promote the use of electronic publishing as well as traditionally printed material to maximise the use of resources.
- Publish two recommended CITI final year student dissertations.
- Work towards the publication of a Church of Ireland parish handbook.
- Work with the Liturgical Advisory Committee on the publication of a marriage service booklet.
- Seek to promote the digitization of the *Journal of the General Synod*.

APPENDIX E

CHARITIES REGISTRATION MONITORING GROUP

REPORT 2015

Membership:

Most Rev Richard Clarke (Chairman)

Mrs June Butler

Ven Andrew Forster

Mr Sydney Gamble

Mrs Ethne Harkness

Mr Lyndon MacCann SC

Ven Leslie Stevenson

Mrs Sylvia Heggie or Mrs Jennifer Byrne (alternate)

The Joint Working Group set up by the RCB and the Standing Committee is monitoring the process of registration with the new charity regulatory authorities in Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland, assisting with answers to questions that arise in respect of registration of Church bodies and producing materials to assist registration.

Both the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland and the Charities Regulatory Authority in the Republic of Ireland have worked very closely with the Church throughout this process.

Northern Ireland

Pilot Scheme: Mrs June Butler, Diocesan Secretary for the Dioceses of Connor and Down & Dromore, has led the pilot registration of these two dioceses, which will be completed shortly. The Representative Body engaged Mrs Nichola Brown to assist in the pilot registration process. Mrs Brown will also assist the remaining dioceses in NI as they proceed to register.

Republic of Ireland

The new Charities Regulatory Authority (CRA) was set up and began to register charities during the last year. A parallel process to that adopted in Northern Ireland for registration of church bodies was agreed with the CRA. An initial letter seeking information was sent to parishes before the end of 2014. Parish registration began in early 2015. The first dioceses to register were Dublin & Glendalough. The Representative Body engaged Mrs Suzanne Hendy to assist in the pilot registration process.

Two jurisdictions

Working with new legislation in two jurisdictions is challenging. The legislation is very similar, but not identical. Consequently, as the models for registration are agreed in Northern Ireland, where the process began earlier, the documentation is ‘proofed’ against the emerging process in the Republic of Ireland. As a result of differences in the forms for registration in the two jurisdictions, the actual statement of charitable purposes and

objects is recorded in a different mode. To accommodate this, a draft bill has been prepared to provide clear statements in respect of charitable purpose and objects to assist the registration of Church of Ireland bodies.

As registration of church bodies began, some minor revision of centrally agreed documents proved to be necessary. These changes were developed between the Working Group and the regulatory authorities and the final documents are presented by the Working Group to the General Synod for approval:

- Statement of Charitable Purpose (for use by charitable bodies operating under the structures and Constitution of the Church of Ireland)
- Statement of Public Benefit (for use by charitable bodies operating under the structures and Constitution of the Church of Ireland).

The first phase of registration will primarily engage parishes and cathedrals. Some charitable companies will also be registered, including Bishops Appeal (NI) Ltd.

Gratitude to members of the joint Charity Registration Monitoring Group & to staff of the regulatory authorities

This work is time-consuming and detailed and the Working Group thanks those who have assisted the Church as it begins the task of registration. We are very grateful to the staff of CCNI and to the Charities Regulatory Authority for the close working relationship that they have formed with the Church and for their helpful attitude and assistance. The Working Group also thanks diocesan secretaries and their staff, members of Select Vestries and Cathedral Boards and all those who have contributed to this work.

Diocesan Registration

One point where it has been decided to take a slower approach on the advice of the regulatory authorities in both jurisdictions is in the registration of Dioceses. The initial proposal by CCNI in respect of the registration of Diocesan Trustees (i.e. registration of diocesan synods) seemed unwieldy. Similar concerns were being raised by our Covenant partner, the Methodist Church, in respect of registration of Methodist Church trustees.

Covenant Churches

A similar problem has arisen in respect of registration of churches relating to both the Church of Ireland and the Methodist Church in Ireland under Covenant arrangements. This matter is under discussion with the Methodist Church currently.

Cross border issues

A special category of charity is the cross-border charity. Arrangements are being developed to minimise the need for dual reporting. Any bodies confronting this particular situation will be guided with the assistance of the regulatory authorities in the two jurisdictions.

APPENDIX F

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY NETWORK REPORT

Rt Rev Alan Abernethy (Chair)	Ven David Huss (Derry & Raphoe)
Dr Ken Fennelly (Board of Education RI)	Vacant (Clogher)
Rev Ian Ellis (Board of Education NI)	Vacant (Tuam, Killlala & Achonry)
Mrs Lynn Storey (Sunday School Society)	Mrs Joanne Quill (Kilmore, Elphin & Ardagh)
Ms Lydia Monds (Sunday School Society)	Rev Jane Galbraith (Limerick & Killaloe)
Mrs Tammi Peek (Programme & Training Consultant)	Rev Elaine Murray (Cork, Cloyne & Ross) Diocesan Network Chair
Ms Amy McCrea (RI Officer)	Rev James Mulhall (Cashel, Ferns & Ossory)
Ms Julie Currie (Down & Dromore)	Rev Baden Stanley (Dublin & Glendalough)
Mrs Jill Hamilton (Connor)	Rev Janice Aiton (Meath & Kildare)
Rev Barry Paine (Armagh)	

1. Redefining our vision & mission statements

The Children's Ministry Network (CMN) has sharpened its purpose and remit through identifying its primary focus as: building up confident, capable Children's Ministry leaders in the overall goal of seeing children welcomed and participating in the full life of the Church and coming to faith in Christ. Our Mission and Goals for 2015 and beyond are outlined below.

Church of Ireland Children's Ministry Vision Statement:
{Serving churches in their ministry with children.}

Mission Statement:

The Children's Ministry Network exists to be a voice for children's ministry through supporting training and resourcing.

- (i) **A Voice for Children's Ministry:** We are passionate about strengthening Children's Ministry and committed to its integration into all aspects of Church life. We aim to keep it as an active priority of the Church.
- (ii) **Support:** Through the Network there is a relational approach to supporting leaders who are engaged in Children's Ministry at parish and diocesan level. The Network highlights the important role of clergy in promoting and supporting Children's Ministry within their parishes and advocates that each diocese should have a well-resourced Children's Ministry Representative.
- (iii) **Training:** The Network provides parish and diocesan based training designed and delivered to meet local needs. The Network continues to implement training events by extending and sharing these programmes.
- (iv) **Resources:** The Network aims to provide up-to-date information on resources for use in Children's Ministry. Further resources and contacts are available on our website www.cm.ireland.anglican.org and Facebook page www.facebook.com/churchofirelandchildrensministry

2. The Network's focus for 2015

- (a) **Guidelines & Training:** The Network is producing a pamphlet in time for General Synod that will provide more information about Children's Ministry, the work of the Network and will offer a 'Menu' of training opportunities available to dioceses. Training will be limited but can be tailored to specific needs such as running programmes in small spaces, ideas for working with boys, working with children with special needs, working with a wide age range etc. There will also be a focus on aspects of programmes ranging from craft to story-telling to creative prayer.
- (b) **Awareness raising & Advocacy:** The pamphlets will be available at General Synod and sent to all parishes. The Network intends to consult with the House of Bishops regarding the training and support needs in every diocese and to ask the Bishops to prioritise Children's Ministry.
- (c) **Cross Diocesan Training/targeted dioceses for training:** The Network will avail of the immense resources within the group and Representatives will provide cross diocesan training to benefit as many dioceses as possible.

3. Train the Trainer ideas & resources

The Network continues to meet twice a year to share together, encourage one another and take back resources to their respective dioceses for dissemination. It is also our desire that more Network reps feel equipped to provide diocesan training.

Practical ideas are shared, websites, Facebook pages, locally developed resources are swapped and resources for upcoming times in the year are handed out. Key elements of an excellent training are explored in order to continually upskill the training facilitators.

4. Our Prayer for Children's Ministry

In 2 Kings 4:1-7, a destitute woman cries out for help after being widowed and her children threatened with slavery to pay creditors. One of the first questions the prophet asks is 'what do you have in your house?' We believe that God is calling us not to respond to what we lack in Children's Ministry, but to identify what resources we have (people – trainers, children's ministry leaders, children, clergy, programme resources, enthused people who want to see this integrated into all parishes in Ireland) and work on responding faithfully to God to see the expansion of what we have to cover all our Children's Ministry needs.

APPENDIX G

**THE CHURCH AND SOCIETY COMMISSION OF THE CHURCH OF
IRELAND**

REPORT 2015

Members

Most Rev Dr Richard Clarke
Most Rev Dr Michael Jackson
Mr Andrew Brannigan
Rev Dr Rory Corbett
Rev Adrian Dorrian (Chair)
Mr George Glenn (*ex officio*)
Mr Ken Gibson
Very Rev Kenneth Hall
Mr Samuel Harper
Mrs Hilary McCLay
The Rev Martin O'Connor

Executive Summary

The Church and Society Commission (CASC) exists to provide oversight and direction of the Church's work in relation to social theology in action. The Commission's work is divided into two main areas:

1. Proactive work such as the preparation of reports, briefing documents and other resource material;
2. Reactive work such as responding to reports and public consultations, in addition to responding to events in society;

The work of the Commission over the past year has included:

1. Response to legislation including proposed laws on Abortion and Human Trafficking;
2. Resourcing the Church on issues of social theology;
3. Responses to press inquiries;
4. Representation to government on matters of social theology.

Report

The energies of the Commission have been focussed in the following areas.

Good Practice Resource

Commission Member Mr Andrew Brannigan produced a document entitled *Inside Out: Outside In* listing simple and effective resources for Churches seeking to deepen their community engagement. Part funded by CASC, this resource is available as a PDF Download from <http://www.downanddromore.org/mission2015/index.php>

Other Resources

Standing Committee – Report 2015

CASC has gathered together resources on Suicide Prevention in both jurisdictions and is working towards an ‘at-a-glance’ resource signposting these resources. The Commission has also supported the *Flesh and Blood Campaign* (blood and organ donation) and an emergency ISPC Childline Appeal. Official launches for *Flesh and Blood* will take place in 2015. A proposed Environmental Charter will be presented to the General Synod in 2015 and we are grateful to the Ven Andrew Orr, who met with the Commission and provided much useful information as we seek to produce this document.

Responses to Press Inquiries

The Commission responded to a number of press enquiries and issued a well-received pre-Christmas statement which gained some media coverage. We have responded to other press enquiries as they have arisen. The Commission is indebted to Mr Paul Harron and Mrs Jenny Compston in the Church of Ireland Press Office for their assistance and advice in relation to press matters, as well as Mrs Janet Maxwell, Mr Garrett Casey and Mr Eoin Fitzpatrick in the Synod Office.

Representation to and engagement with Government

The Commission responded to Assembly Consultations on Human Trafficking Legislation and Abortion Legislation, which included meetings with the Justice Minister. We are grateful to those members of an *ad hoc* reference group who met to feed into the response to the Justice Department’s Abortion Legislation, a copy of which is appended.

Revised Terms of Reference

The amended Terms of Reference for the Commission have allowed for increased representation on the Commission from members based in the Republic of Ireland, although this continues to be an ongoing situation. We were pleased to welcome the Rev Martin O’Connor as a member but would welcome further expressions of interest for membership from others in the Republic of Ireland, especially outside of the Greater Dublin Area.

The following projects will be completed in 2015:

- Launch of *Flesh and Blood*;
- Presentation of an Environmental Charter to the General Synod.

The following projects are ongoing:

- Response to press enquiries;
- Engagement with government where appropriate.

**APPENDIX 1 TO CHURCH AND SOCIETY COMMISSION REPORT
CHURCH IN SOCIETY COMMISSION SUBMISSION TO DEPARTMENT OF
JUSTICE NI CONSULTATION ON ABORTION**

Preamble

The Church of Ireland affirms the fundamental biblical principle of the value of all life and recognises that every human being is made in the image and likeness of God. In ethical terms the Church of Ireland affirms the right to life as a fundamental ethical value from which all other values derive. The Church places value on the right to life of an unborn baby and the life of his/her mother. However, the Church also recognises that in circumstances of strict and undeniable medical necessity the care that medical professionals need to give may result in the termination of her pregnancy. The Church affirms the importance of compassionate, professional and ongoing supportive care for parents and families in these very difficult circumstances. The Church of Ireland's position on abortion as articulated in previous consultations is outlined in Addendum A.

Lethal foetal abnormality is a devastating reality for parents and their unborn baby. The Church affirms that the life of this baby is as important as any other baby and that he/she should receive the highest standards of care. The experience and wishes of parents in partnership with the expertise of clinicians are central to the care that is provided. Some parents use the limited time of their baby's life to find meaning in their loss and they should be supported in this choice. Other parents find that to continue their pregnancy is something that they cannot do, as to do so might place unnecessary suffering and anguish in a situation where their baby will never survive. In both situations the value of life is the core ethical principle. In both situations parents want what is best for their baby, and whatever decision is made they should receive the highest level of supportive and compassionate care.

The Church of Ireland recognizes that sexual crime is a gross violation of the integrity of a human being and that every sensitivity and care must be provided in these very tragic and devastating situations. We believe that early access to emergency support, counselling and care - which may include emergency contraception - is the most preferable pathway of care that will also facilitate healing and recovery. Consonant with our position on the value of life we believe that the circumstances of the conception do not alter the value of that baby's life. Alongside this, it is self-evident that ongoing support for those who are the victims of sexual crime must be readily available and of the highest standards.

Lethal foetal abnormality

1. Several options have been put forward in chapter 4 to create an exemption in the criminal law on abortion, to provide for termination of pregnancy in cases of lethal foetal abnormality. The Department has set out its preferred option for defining what is meant by 'lethal' and ensuring that the law will apply only to such cases. The paper seeks views from respondents. This paper outlines the response prepared by the Church and Society Commission of the Church of Ireland.

2. Should the law allow for abortion in cases of lethal foetal abnormality?

Yes. However we would like further clarity about how and when this might be considered. We believe that expediting birth and providing perinatal palliative care and support is consonant with our understanding of the value of the life of a baby with a lethal abnormality. We have objections to feticide (the direct and intentional killing of human life) as a form of termination

in cases like this. We support the de-criminalisation of intervention only in these exceptional cases.

3. If so, how is this best achieved?

Option 4 as proposed, based on clinical judgement, we believe is the best way to provide for termination of pregnancy in situations of lethal foetal abnormality. Please also refer to 2 above.

4. How would you define 'lethal'?

We would define lethal as a diagnosis that a baby has a condition that is incompatible with life outside the womb or in the immediate period of time following birth.

5. Do you agree that the best way is to allow clinical judgement to decide when a foetus is not compatible with life?

Yes. We believe that this is the most prudent way as it allows for clinical judgement to be exercised within a clear statutory framework, especially in situations where there is a gradient of severity.

Sexual Crime

6. Should the law also provide for abortion to be a choice in the event of rape?

We do not advocate a change in the law with regard to abortion and sexual crime. Rape is a profound violation and all victims deserve the utmost compassion and professional support. The Church of Ireland remains utterly committed to the pastoral support of those who find themselves in such a situation, and will remain committed to providing pastoral care to victims. We affirm the value of life of both a mother and her unborn baby. Consonant with this position many people in the Church feel that to intentionally terminate the life of a baby conceived in these circumstances cannot be sanctioned as to do so would inflict a violation on the right to life of a baby. This is the most straightforward outworking of our longstanding position of termination being appropriate only when there is 'strict and undeniable medical necessity'. In such instances, there is no way forward that will bypass trauma, and it is imperative that pastoral, clinical and where appropriate judicial support is made available in a simple, accessible manner regardless of circumstance.

7. Should the law allow abortion only for women who have been the victim of rape?

We refer to our answer in Q6.

8. Should the law allow for abortion for victims of other sexual crime, such as sexual activity with a person under the age of 16, abuse of a position of trust, unlawful sexual activity with a vulnerable adult?

We refer to our answer in Q6.

9. Should the law provide for abortion in cases of familial sexual activity with a person under 18, and sex between adult relatives?

We refer to our answer in Q6.

10. Should it be necessary to have made a complaint to the police before accessing a termination?

We refer to our answer in Q6. All victims of sexual crime should be supported to report this crime and to receive all the support required. To this end, adequate resources must be allocated to make the reporting of such a traumatic experience as straightforward, unthreatening and

accessible as possible. The Consultation paper does not explore this fully and we have not done so but we would welcome further comparative research and analysis on this issue.

11. Does this need to be time limited?

We refer to our answer in Q. 10.

12. Should a police report be required and what would this say?

We believe that medical care and police reports should not be co-dependent. No patient should require a police report to access a lawful medical procedure.

13. How would all this be achieved to allow for an early termination and is this an issue?

We refer to our answer in Q. 12.

14. Or should the exemption apply with no requirements, other than a declaration to her medical practitioner by the woman, that the pregnancy is the result of a sexual crime committed against her?

We refer to our answer in Q. 12.

15. In the case of incest, who is going to determine when an incestuous relationship has occurred and how is this proved?

We refer to our answer in Q. 12.

16. In other words, how could we ensure that the law would work as intended, has no unintended consequences and that there would be legal certainty in these cases?

We refer to our answer in Q. 12.

Conscientious objection

17. Should there be a right to conscientious objection for those who participate in treatment for abortion in respect of (i) lethal foetal abnormality and (ii) sexual crime?

Yes. We believe in the right of conscientious objection where there are ethical concerns on the part of a member of staff except in situations of life saving procedures. However we also believe that healthcare facilities must make provision for adequate staff to care for patients who wish to access services that are lawful.

18. Should that right be confined to involvement in the actual procedure which results in termination (e.g. giving the abortion medication, carrying out or assisting in the surgical procedure?)

We believe that conscientious objection should only apply to those involved in the direct provision of care as outlined in the question.

19. Should the right cover participation in all treatment related to abortion, including both pre and post procedure nursing care?

Please refer to answer to 18.

20. Should it also cover all associated, but not direct duties, such as supervising and supporting other staff, and delegating tasks to staff involved in the provision of care to patients undergoing medical termination at any stage of the process?

Please refer to answer to 18.

ADDENDUM A

This consultation document is in the name of the Church and Society Commission of the Church of Ireland. The Commission exists as an advisory group, serving the Standing Committee of the

General Synod and engaging with government on particular issues, including issues of legislation such as this consultation. An informal reference group provided an initial draft which was commented on by the Standing Committee before a final draft was produced by the Church and Society Commission.

The Commission does not in and of itself determine the opinion of the Church of Ireland, and is empowered only to reflect the theological standpoint of the Church as expressed through the General Synod. Any changes to such an ethical or theological stance can only be made by the General Synod of the Church of Ireland. This is the first time a body within the Church has addressed the matter of termination of pregnancy resulting from sexual crimes. This document is very much a reflection of the existing ethical stance the Church has taken on termination of pregnancy over the years, as outlined below:

Church of Ireland’s Position on Abortion

In 1958, the Lambeth Conference (a decennial conference of Anglican Bishops Worldwide) adopted a resolution stating:

‘In the strongest terms, Christians reject the practice of induced abortion or infanticide, which involves the killing of a life already conceived (as well as a violation of the personality of the mother) save at the dictate of strict and undeniable medical necessity’.

While Lambeth Conference resolutions are only binding on individual Churches when formally incorporated into the internal legal systems of those Churches, the Church of Ireland has generally used this resolution as its starting point in previous submissions to Oireachtas Committees on the issue of abortion beginning in 1982. The phrase ‘strict and undeniable medical necessity’ clearly carries with it the implication that there are circumstances where abortion is a medical necessity.

In 1982, the Standing Committee of the General Synod made an official comment on behalf of the Church of Ireland to the government which said that ‘we cannot emphasise too strongly the right to life and this includes the right of the yet unborn.’ After quoting the Lambeth Council resolution referred to above and highlighting the words ‘strict and undeniable medical necessity’ the statement went on to add, ‘we greatly doubt the wisdom of using constitutional prohibitions as a means of dealing with complex moral and social problems.’

In 1998, the Church’s Role of the Church Committee made a submission to the Interdepartmental working group on abortion which said *inter alia*:

‘The deliberate termination of an intra Uterine life cannot be right but many in our Church believe that exceptional cases may arise which mean that abortion ought to be an option and may even be a necessity in a few very rare cases. No abortion is ever desirable – at most it can only be described as the lesser of two evils, and always undertaken with a profound sense of sadness and regret. The legal framework should allow for such exceptional cases so that the tragedy is not compounded by public debate.’

It is fair to say that there are different opinions amongst Church of Ireland members at all levels, as to what constitute ‘exceptional cases.’

The Church of Ireland’s position can be summed up as recognising that there are (regrettably) exceptional circumstances of strict and undeniable medical necessity where an abortion should be an option (or more rarely a necessity) whilst also a concern to avoid a situation whereby legislating for such exceptions provides a ‘back door’ to widespread abortion, to which the Church is strongly opposed.

APPENDIX 2 TO THE CHURCH AND SOCIETY COMMISSION REPORT

THE CHURCH OF IRELAND BOARD FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY NI

Membership of the Board

Rev Dr Jonathan Barry
Mr Arthur D Canning
Mr Glen Glenn

Mr Robert Stinson
Ms Patricia Leinster

Staff

Mr Ian Slaine	Chief Executive
Mrs Patricia Gilbert	Senior Social Work Practitioner
Mrs Gerry McCluskey	Senior Social Work Practitioner
Mrs Lynda Graham	Senior Social Work Practitioner (resigned August 2014)
Mrs Marie Walker	Administrator
Mrs Seline Turkington	Sessional Counsellor
Ms Adele Lappin	Sessional Counsellor
Mrs Christine Wilford	Sessional Counsellor
Mrs Judith Williamson	Sessional Counsellor (commenced December 2014)
Mrs Karen Simpson	Sessional Counsellor (commenced December 2014)

INTRODUCTION

The Report on the Church of Ireland Board for Social Responsibility (NI), hereafter the Board, provides an overview on the 2014 Calendar Year.

The focus on the Report is on:

- Our relationship with the Church;
- Finance;
- Service Delivery.

RELATIONSHIP WITH THE CHURCH

In 2014 members of the Board were still engaged in on-going meetings with representatives of the Standing Committee of the Church of Ireland regarding the relationship between the Board and the Church of Ireland.

Both parties recognise there remains a need for on-going and active consideration of the relationship and the way forward.

FUNDING

The Board is dependent upon funding from a range of sources. Each funder brings expectations with regard to service delivery and audit control. The Board aims to meet all such expectations. Information is provided on our key funders and the associated expectations.

Standing Committee – Report 2015

Core Grant – received from the Department of Health, Social Services & Public Safety – towards the provision of our adoption service, in particular post adoption support and in provision of the Fertility Counselling Service.

Service Level Agreements – for specific services. These include Service Level Agreements with:

- Belfast Health & Social Care Trust in respect of provision of Fertility Counselling to the Regional Fertility Centre;
- GCRM Belfast to provide Fertility Counselling to patients of this private Fertility Clinic;
- The Health & Social Care Board – in respect of Independent Counselling and Support to persons affected by Adoption – the Next Step Service;
- Voluntary Trust Funds – examples include the Dean of Belfast/Black Santa Appeal, the Enkalon Foundation. All such funds are restricted to a specific purpose as agreed with the funder;
- Donations to the Conference “Becoming a Family with the Help of a Donor” received from a range of sources e.g. Origin Fertility Care, McLernon & Moynagh Solicitors, GCRM Belfast, Medical Surgical. All monies received were used to meet overheads associated with running the Conference;
- Church donations – The Board receives donations from the Church of Ireland at a range of levels, Central, Diocesan and Parish. Funding is used to maintain service-delivery;

The current economic climate is one in which funding availability is ‘tight’. The Board, as with other Voluntary Agencies, is finding this to be the case.

The Board welcomes the support provided by Robert Moore Associates and our Auditor, ASM, Newry.

STAFFING

In August 2014 Mrs Lynda Graham, Senior Social Work Practitioner/Counsellor resigned from the Board. Lynda was the lead staff member involved in developing our Next Step Service – independent counselling and support in adoption. Lynda’s leaving was a major loss to the Board in terms of expertise built up over time in developing Next Step.

SERVICES

i. Adoption Routes

Adoption is the original core service of the Board. Among the earlier names of Adoption Routes included the Church of Ireland Rescue League. A name reflects social attitudes in so many ways.

In 2014 Adoption Routes re-commenced active participation in the recruitment and assessment of prospective adopters. This was carried out through developing a working relationship with a sister agency in England – Adoption Matters, Chester. Our aim is to develop a link with this agency which has a strong and long-established reputation in adoption in Britain.

In 2014 Adoption Routes processed four adoption enquiries from prospective adopters. One couple had an adoption assessment almost complete by the end of 2014. For two

couples, training is planned. With a fourth couple it was decided not to proceed to assessment.

Our primary aim in assessing prospective adopters is to meet the needs of local children for adoption. All local Health & Social Care Trusts will be provided with details on approved adopters in order to meet the needs of children in their care who are available for adoption.

In addition to the assessment of adopters Adoption Routes continues to provide support to adoption placements, and provide post adoption counselling and access to birth records.

In the year concerned Adoption Routes provided:

- Adoption Support to existing placements – age range of children 12 to 15 years – 8 cases;
- Access to Birth Records – 37 referrals.

Adoption Routes remains an active participant in:

- The Belfast Health & Social Care Trust Adoption Panel;
- The Northern Ireland Social Work Advisory Group of BAAF in Northern Ireland;
- The Northern Ireland Post Adoption Social Workers' Group;
- The Review Panel of Adoption Policy & Procedures in Northern Ireland.

ii. Next Step

Next Step is the independent support and counselling service in adoption for birth families of children placed for adoption.

Next Step operates as an independent service for birth parents and other family members. In Northern Ireland most children are placed for adoption following statutory intervention by Social Services Trusts. Next Step is there to provide support to the birth family but not to assist with returning the child to the birth family.

Next Step is provided by the Board in association with the Family Care Adoption Service. In 2014 a total of 122 referrals were received by the Next Step Service – this compares with 83 in the previous year.

The loss of our key worker – as stated above – had an impact on the service provided. As an interim measure in late 2014 a number of Sessional Social Workers and Counsellors were recruited to meet the needs of service users.

A significant change in a small voluntary agency such as ours – with the loss of a key staff member gives us the opportunity to review our practice and overall service delivery. Our aim is to commence this process in early 2015.

Next Step has a Project Team made up of key stakeholders to provide an overview, advice and support for the service. The work of the Project Team is much appreciated.

The on-going financial support and interest of the Health & Social Care Board in the provision of Next Step is also welcomed by the Board.

iii. Fertility Counselling Service NI

The Board, through the Fertility Counselling Service NI continues to be the lead provider of this specialist counselling service in Northern Ireland. In addition Fertility Counselling Service personnel are also active members of the British Infertility Counselling Association through membership of both the National Executive Committee and the Accreditation Board, they are also members of the Irish Fertility Counsellors' Association.

In 2014 the Fertility Counselling Service NI maintained a contractual relationship with the Regional Fertility Centre, Belfast, the only local National Health Service provider of infertility treatments e.g. In Vitro Fertilization, Donor Insemination etc.

In addition in the year concerned the Fertility Counselling Service NI entered into a contractual relationship to provide a dedicated Fertility Counselling Service to a new private clinic – GCRM Belfast. This contract was signed in February 2014.

In 2014 the number of new referrals received were:

- 252 (in 2013 we received 280 new referrals) for the Regional Fertility Centre;
- 40 for GCRM Belfast (the period February to December 2014).

In 2014 the Fertility Counselling Service NI ran a Conference entitled “Becoming a Family with the Help of a Donor”. The Conference was supported financially by attendees, plus, a range of clinics and drugs companies as stated above. The financial support was much appreciated – the Conference was attended by 75 users and 20 professionals.

The 2014 Conference was a follow-on to our successful 2013 event focusing on the same issue for parents of donor conceived children. Our aim is to continue running the Conference on an annual basis based on user feedback.

In addition in 2014 Fertility Counselling Service NI Personnel provided training to a range of organisations and professionals including:

- Adoption Social Workers in 3 voluntary adoption agencies in the Bristol area;
- On behalf of the Irish Hospice Association, Dublin;
- To Fertility Nurse Specialists from across Ireland in Dublin.

iv. The Church of Ireland Disability Committee

The Church of Ireland Disability Committee is a Committee of the Church of Ireland General Synod. The Board is an active member of this Committee through its Chief Executive, Mr Ian Slaine. The Board provides secretarial support to the Disability Committee.

v. The Commission on Social Action

The Board is an ex-officio member of the Commission on Social Action. Our acting Chairperson, Mr George Glenn, attends meetings of the Commission.

vi. Social Outreach

Our ability to provide social outreach – an original expectation when the Board was set up in 1988 is limited due to our resources, and as a result of our emphasis on providing specialist counselling and social work services.

The Board continues to receive toys each Christmas from Parishes across Northern Ireland. These Parishes include:

- St Thomas', Belfast;
- Saint Macartin's Cathedral, Enniskillen;
- St Nicholas', Carrickfergus;
- St John's, Rathfriland;
- St Matthew's, Richhill.

The toys are re-distributed through a range of organisations, including:

- Willowfield Parish Community Association;
- St Michael's Parish, Shankill, Belfast;
- Social Services, Child Care and Children's Disability Teams;
- Fibromyalgia Trust.

vii. New Tenant

Adopt NI is a local charity providing support to adult adoptees, adopters and birth parents.

It was Adopt NI who approached the Board to rent accommodation. Following some internal reorganisation and structural changes this was achieved.

The major practical impact was on our Administrator, Mrs Marie Walker. Marie has coped in an admirable fashion with the changes.

The arrival of Adopt NI appears beneficial to both organisations. Both organisations have recognised opportunities to develop further areas of work and in co-operation. In addition it has provided the Board with a new source of income.

viii. Charity Commission

The Board was called forward to register by the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland in 2014.

Our application to retain our charitable status with this new organisation was completed in late December 2014.

CONCLUSION

The Board continues to operate as a provider of a range of specialist social work and counselling services in Northern Ireland.

2014 was a challenging year in many ways for the Board. Out of the challenges came opportunities for growth.

The Board recognises a need to clarify our relationship with the Church of Ireland, at all levels, as a key objective in 2015. The support of the Board's parent body, the Church, is a key to giving the Board a strong base from which to extend its service provision.

APPENDIX H

COMPLAINTS COMMITTEE INCOME AND EXPENDITURE REPORT

GS Complaints procedure

	2014 Total €	2013 Total €	2012 Total €	2011 Total €	2010 Total €
Income					
Deposits	(723)	(735)	(1,470)	0	(2,091)
Less - deposit refund	723	735	0	0	697
Support from General Purpose Fund	0	(991)			
Net deposits	<u>0</u>	<u>(991)</u>	<u>(1,470)</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>(1,394)</u>
Costs					
Legal - External	0	24,537	0	41,512	50,604
Legal - In-House Legal	0	24,120	7,220	8,082	18,239
Technical	0	0	0	5,000	1,220
Expert witness costs	0	0	0	0	2,195
Administrative and secretarial	0	0	0	2,394	10,993
Travel & subsistence	0	3,845	0	792	1,208
Sundry	0	1,838	0	0	369
	<u>0</u>	<u>54,341</u>	<u>7,220</u>	<u>57,881</u>	<u>94,728</u>
	<u>0</u>	<u>53,349</u>	<u>5,750</u>	<u>57,881</u>	<u>93,334</u>

Costs will be charged to the income and expenditure account in the year the complaint hearing takes place.

APPENDIX I

HISTORICAL CENTENARIES WORKING GROUP

Membership:

The Bishop of Clogher, The Rt Rev John McDowell (Convenor)

Dr Kenneth Milne (Church of Ireland Historiographer)

Ven Ricky Rountree (representing the Liturgical Advisory Committee)

Ven Robin Bantry White

Professor David Hayton (co-opted)

Mr George Woodman (co-opted)

The Rev Earl Storey (in advisory role)

Dr Paul Harron (in advisory role)

The Historical Centenaries Working Group met regularly during 2014 and early 2015, almost always by teleconference, and through its work organised or supported a varied number of projects during 2014. It is also planning further events in 2015 and for 2016.

The outbreak of World War One was the most significant event for the Decade of Centenaries in 2014. There were numerous events and projects organised throughout Ireland in connection with this anniversary and the challenge for the Working Group was to organise something distinctive to the Christian tradition.

A symposium entitled ‘The Ethics of War’ was held in the Music Room of Christ Church Cathedral, Dublin in November, close to Remembrance Sunday. The principal speaker was the Rev Professor Nigel Biggar, Regius Professor of Moral and Pastoral Theology in the University of Oxford. Professor Biggar had published a reconsideration of the Just War Theory in his book *In Defence of War* earlier in 2014.

Professor Biggar’s presentation was responded to by Professor Keith Jeffery of Queen’s University, Belfast (QUB) who has written many books and articles relating to Ireland and the First World War including *Ireland and the Great War*. The lively debate following the presentation and response was chaired by Professor David Hayton, also of QUB. The symposium was attended by c.100 participants and the Church of Ireland Press Officer provided a full report for the *Church of Ireland Gazette* which is also available on the Church of Ireland website.

The Working Group, through the Church of Ireland Press Office, also organised an innovative Short Story Competition for 15-21 year-olds with an attractive €1000 first prize whose theme was broadly ‘Ireland and The First World War’. The judging panel was chaired by the renowned Irish novelist Mr Glenn Patterson and considered thirty-five high quality entries, awarding the first prize to Ms Carys Aldous-Hughes from Wales for her story ‘An Inhumane Humanity’; the runner-up prize was awarded to Ms Alice O’Donnell from Co Cork for her story ‘One Woman’s War’; and a Highly Commended prize was awarded to Ms Kathryn-Anne Frazer from Co Antrim for her story ‘Recall’. These, along with four other selected stories, were published on the Church of Ireland website in early 2015.

The Working Group also provided some financial, organisational and PR support for two other projects during the year. The first of these was the making of a poignant short film about the discovery of letters from the Western Front to the Rev Arthur Barton, then rector of St Mark's, Dundela and subsequently Bishop of Kilmore and Archbishop of Dublin. The film project was managed by Dr Susan Hood of the RCB Library with assistance from the Church of Ireland Press Officer, Dr Paul Harron. Entitled *The Boys from East Belfast*, it was given a public screening at St Mark's, Dundela on 10 November and subsequently uploaded to the Church of Ireland website – it is available to view at <http://ireland.anglican.org/news/5414>

The second project involved the provision of a small grant to Cumann Gaelach na hEaglaise to mount a travelling exhibition of its history since its founding in 1914. The exhibition opened in Christ Church Cathedral, Dublin and has toured to Galway, Kerry, St George's, Belfast, Kilkenny and to the Linen Hall Library, Belfast in March 2015.

The Working Group continues to liaise with the Liturgical Advisory Committee (LAC) and during October 2014 material which the LAC produced in order to commemorate the War during Remembrance-tide was produced and publicised.

The Working Group is, following an independently organised conference commemorating the centenary of the Gallipoli landings in April held at Kells Church of Ireland (Meath), planning to mark Gallipoli in Autumn 2015. It is also planning to organise a pre-2016 special event in early October 2015 in Belfast outlining 1916/2016 'then and now' every-day and historical viewpoints of 'ordinary' Protestant people from the (now) Republic of Ireland to a Northern Irish audience.

Plans are also underway to organise a keynote Church of Ireland event with leading speakers on the theme of 1916 and the Irish people in February 2016, once again using the auspicious surroundings of the Music Room at Christ Church Cathedral, Dublin.

APPENDIX J

HISTORIOGRAPHER'S REPORT

Historians have long pondered how librarians and researchers could best cope with an information explosion that shows no sign of abating. However, a major role in addressing the challenge has been played by digitisation, and the Library of the Representative Church Body has not been slow to take advantage of the new technology. Several articles in the new 2014 issue of *Irish Archives*, which is devoted to the records of the Church of Ireland and was launched by the Minister for Education and Skills, Ms Jan O'Sullivan, TD at St Patrick's Deanery on 3 November, demonstrate how extensively the library has taken advantage of the possibilities presented by digitisation at a time of increasing publishing costs. Not only does digitisation make possible the worldwide accessibility of 'Archive of the Month', but the publication of parish registers (baptisms, marriages and burials) for instance those of Derryloran and St Peter's Drogheda (Armagh) and Taughboyne (Raphoe), can now be accessed on-line, while hardcopy print-outs are also available in the library.

Under the imprint of Church of Ireland Publishing 'The Braemor Studies Series' has appeared, comprising of dissertations submitted by students of the Church of Ireland Theological Institute in fulfilment of the requirements of the degree of M.Th. The general editor of the series is Dr Susan Hood and three titles are now available: *The New Masculinity movement: a viable model for engaging men with God and the Church*, by Alistair James Morrison; *New Monasticism: a catalyst for the Church of Ireland to connect with society*, by Jonathan Campbell and *The place of lament and the 'catharsis of the complaint' in response to the problem of evil* by John M. Godfrey. A fourth title, *Occupy Faith: the movement of movements and its implication for Christian practice* by Rob Clements is due to be launched imminently. This series, promoting as it does the publication of the fruits of academic research and food for study through these changing times, should be an encouragement to both laity and clergy to put their ideas into print, a service also provided by the journal *Search* which was re-launched in a fresh format during the year. *Search* and the *Church of Ireland Gazette*, in their distinctive ways, provide an invaluable stimulus and publishing opportunity for Church of Ireland authors and reviewers. The unbroken files of the *Gazette* and its forerunner, the *Irish Ecclesiastical Gazette*, in the RCB Library are a rich resource for journalists and historians, not least in the present 'decade of centenaries'. *Gazettes* for 1913 and 1914 are available online in a fully-searchable format via the 'Archive of the Month'.

Late 2013 saw the publication of the lavishly-produced *The Church of Ireland: an illustrated history* (ed. Claude Costecalde and Brian Walker (Booklink, Dublin). Canon David Crooks' *Clergy of Ossory biographical succession lists* (Ulster Historical Foundation and the Diocesan Council of Cashel, Ferns and Ossory) appeared in 2013 and 2014 should see the publication of his editions of Canon Leslie's (unpublished) 'Clergy of Limerick' and Leslie's published *Clergy of Ardferit and Aghadoe*. Canon Crooks has also written a history of the parish of

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Killea (Raphoe,) while Tarbert Historical and Heritage Society has produced a *History of St Brendan's, Tarbert* (Kilnaughtin) in the diocese of Ardferd. Church of Ireland readers should also be interested to read Paul MacCotter, *A history of the medieval diocese of Cloyne* (Columba Press, 2013), a study of that diocese in the undivided Irish Church. Darragh Curran, *The Protestant community in Ulster, 1825-45* (Four Courts Press, 2014) takes as its subject 'all strands of Protestantism'. Two recent parish histories include Kill O' the Grange *Church of Ireland: One Generation Shall Praise Your Works to Another* (ed. Mary Williams) and Hazel Philson's *The Little Church on the Walls*, published in 2013, records 1500 years of history in the parish of St Augustine, Derry.

A notable addition to the list of episcopal biographies was the publication of Aonghus Dwane's *Donald Caird: Church of Ireland Bishop, Gaelic Churchman* (Columba Press, 2014), which throws considerable light on the experience of a Church of Ireland bishop whose episcopate included service in Limerick, Meath and Dublin in momentous times and who was noted for his deep commitment to the Irish language.

Church of Ireland scholars, clerical and lay, have over the centuries contributed enormously to the writing of Irish history. Their motives and their methods varied greatly, and they have undoubtedly played a significant role in the formation of public opinion in the Church (and probably beyond). They have certainly made a mark on the *mentalité* of the Church as a body, and on its members, not least on how it perceives itself. It is therefore fitting that the Church of Ireland Historical Society is planning the publication of a study of Church of Ireland historians and historiography, more particulars of which will emerge in due course.

This report began with reference to new forms of publication and the unprecedented technological services that are now available to historians and the general public. I have only touched on a limited selection of writings of specific interest to those concerned with the Church's history, so it may be worth reminding readers that they can keep abreast of new publications by consulting the Royal Irish Academy's database irishhistoryonline.ie. This resource is constantly updated and its 'search' pathway will guide researchers to a vast range of material pertaining to the Church of Ireland.

Kenneth Milne

APPENDIX K

IRISH CHURCHES PEACE PROJECT

The Irish Churches Peace Project (ICPP), a partnership of the Church of Ireland, Methodist, Presbyterian and Roman Catholic Church and the Irish Council of Churches, has reached the end of its second year of operation and it has been extremely encouraging to reflect on the progress that has been made across its wide range of programmes.

The project has continued to work with groups across its six main areas: Greater Belfast, Newry & Mourne, Craigavon, Mid Ulster, Enniskillen & the Border Region and Strabane & the Northwest.

In 2014 the project saw many of the inter-church networks develop to include many lay representatives and the conversations became increasingly focused on what people could do together to address some of the issues of concern in their communities. This has seen the formation of many new friendships and tribute should be paid to the considerable number of people who have taken fresh steps to becoming involved in the work of the project. Initiatives have ranged from a short series of inter-church events to large-scale community events.

The key message coming out of this project is that churches working together is positive, uplifting and beneficial to everyone. Furthermore all of this can happen without the necessity for groups to compromise on their theological beliefs. Society is also changing and in times of austerity increasing numbers of churches want to engage in the bigger picture and this is most effective when churches do this together.

Amongst some groups there have been deeper conversations looking at issues such as racism, victims, trauma and forgiveness. ICPP has focused on creating the safe spaces necessary to help small groups engage in such discussions, supporting the steps required to promote mutual understanding and addressing the legacy of the past.

One of the great successes of the project has been the production of a programme looking at forgiveness entitled “A Step Too Far”. This resource was developed in-house by ICPP staff and looked at bringing different sections of a local community together to examine the theme of forgiveness, specifically the need to nurture a culture of forgiveness and how to deal with memories and past events. After being piloted with a group in Castlewellan in Easter 2014 the series has now been delivered to participants in Portadown, Enniskillen, Londonderry and North Belfast. The underlying theme of forgiveness is at the core of the work of ICPP and its vision for *a peaceful and stable society, with a shared and better future for all.*

The project has also looked at the area of cultural diversity in towns such as Newry, Lurgan and Strabane. These are areas which already have a wide range of rich cultures even before the consideration of the impact of migrant communities. ICPP recognised that many people struggle with the issues linked to multiculturalism in their local

community and has sought to tackle this by running events designed at celebrating differences and using them as opportunities to learn from each other. Series were tailored to each group of participants so that there was an appropriate balance between creating an open, honest and relaxed environment whilst addressing the need for some to engage in deeper, more challenging discussions.

ICPP is not just about the establishment of new programmes and groups. It has also strived to support ongoing initiatives within communities. In 2014 the project undertook work to provide assistance in a number of wide-reaching and exciting programmes. In the Northwest ICPP supported the inaugural “Tour de Foyle” charity event which brought together a wide range of cyclists in what will hopefully become an annual event. In Portadown ICPP worked with a local families group and the borough council to deliver an “All Things Family” fun day. This provided a platform for local agencies to engage with the wider community. In Coagh and Portadown ICPP supported a number of Christmas-themed events demonstrating practical support for local schools, community groups and performers.

Building a peaceful and stable society and a shared future requires that people at every level of society be involved. It is also a process that must continue well into the future. ICPP has therefore sought to engage not just with clergy and lay people currently in churches, but also with future leaders. The most effective approach for the delivery of this is in the seminaries and theological colleges where these future leaders are trained. ICPP has sought to stimulate the contacts between the colleges and to ensure that reconciliation issues are part of their curricula. Whilst there are still challenges to overcome in the co-ordination of course delivery, significant steps have been taken in the past year which will lead to colleges working more closely and more effectively with each other.

As ICPP, in its current form, ends in June 2015 it is the desire of ICPP staff to leave a significant legacy. The hope is that that existing groups and networks will continue to work together, will continue to grow and will continue to inspire others to be the difference in their communities.

APPENDIX L

REPORT TO THE ANGLICAN AFFAIRS WORKING GROUP AND TO THE CCUD ON RECENT THEOLOGICAL CONVERSATIONS WITH THE MORAVIAN CHURCH

Ever since the Fetter Lane Agreement (1996), the Church of Ireland has gladly acknowledged the Moravian Church to be one of its most special ecumenical friends. The Church is very small in numbers in Ireland, with its congregations concentrated in south Belfast and in the architecturally delightful and historic settlement at Gracehill in Co Antrim. There has indeed long been a close working relationship between the Moravians at Gracehill and the local Church of Ireland parishes in the diocese of Connor. There is no longer a Moravian Church in Dublin, although a small community there does assemble from time to time.

The development of relationships with the Moravian Church is of course textured by the fact that Moravians in Britain and Ireland form a single province. It is difficult, therefore, for the Church of Ireland to engage in one to one conversations with the Moravians without the presence and insights of those who have been involved in analogous ecumenical conversations in the Church of England. It should be noted also that in the past the Church of Ireland has very often simply aligned itself with what the Church of England has done to find common ground with the Moravian Church. The spadework for the Fetter Lane agreement, which did so much to explore common history, theology and possibilities of shared mission was very much an English document that the Church of Ireland ‘bought into’. More recently, the Church of Ireland has been taking an initiative of its own in building on and indeed working out the consequences of Fetter Lane, but there has been an active and highly encouraging process of observation (in the best sense of the term) from England.

Motivated largely by the fruitful recent discussions with the Methodist Church, the Church of Ireland felt it would be timely to explore again matters of common understanding regarding faith and order with the Moravian Church. The essential common theological ground is already regarded as extensive, and each Church discerns the living apostolic faith in the life, gospel proclamation and sacraments of the other. Moravian liturgy in these islands borrows extensively from Anglican sources, and shares a sense of the essential relationship between *lex orandi* and *lex credendi*. Moravians are committed not only to the threefold ministry but also to the principle of personal episcopate, exercised by bishops who are ordained by a plurality of other bishops and who remain in that office for life, exercising oversight alongside the Provincial Board. Rather refreshingly, Moravian bishops are not diocesan bishops as we know them, and a number of them work within the life of their province. They have a duty to teach and guard the faith, to signify and uphold the Church’s unity and in particular to provide pastoral oversight and care for the presbyters whom they ordain. In short, there is little about a Moravian bishop that would have been unfamiliar in the Irish Church in the first seven pre-diocesan centuries of its existence, even if some of the actual tasks of bishops in modern Anglicanism seem rather different Residual Anglican scruples about apostolic

continuity in the case of Moravian bishops have actually largely been addressed in the analogous context of Porvoo – that when the literal episcopal succession may have been broken not through defective intention but through inevitable circumstance it is the people of God themselves who ensure the continuity of the apostolic tradition; the historic episcopate being a sign rather than a guarantee of that continuity. Whatever interruptions the Moravian succession may have experienced in the past prior to times of renewal and revival (notably when the Church was renewed with strong awareness of its fifteenth century Hussite roots in the early 1700s at Herrnhut in Saxony, famously associated with Count von Ziedendorff), there is little or no reason to have scruples now about how the succession is cherished, maintained and in several places (such as the US) now very much integrated into the wider ecumenical catholicity of the Church. The really important point is that for Moravians episcopal ministry, personally exercised and from which other ordained ministry derives, is absolutely essential to the good order of the Church.

Thus many of the issues central to recent discussions about interchangeability of ministry with Methodism simply do not arise in the case of the Moravians, and it would be true to say that the progress made with the Methodist Church gives us good reason to consider that failing to make similar progress with the Moravian Church would be inconsistent indeed. Moreover, we have watched with interest how in the United States of America TEC and the Moravian Church have entered of late into a relationship of full communion, based on the document *Finding our delight in the Lord* which we have considered carefully. Indeed it was the appearance of that document, along with the stimulus offered by the Irish Methodist talks, which led the Standing Committee to instruct the Anglican Affairs working group of the Commission on Christian Unity and Dialogue (CCUD) to consider whether the American document could offer a template and a precedent for similar developments in Ireland. The Group was charged with reporting in due course to the Standing Committee, having first presented its conclusions to the CCUD.

Apart from a number of initial and more informal contacts, the Working Group has met a similar group from the Moravian Province of Britain and Ireland residentially on two occasions, in 2013 in Kilkenny and in early 2014 in Gracehill. We have to say that the conversations have been extremely warm, thorough and hopeful with a clear desire for progress on both sides – as one of the observers afterwards wrote – ‘This was never about the acceptability of the other side, but a discussion among friends’. Mutual participation in each others Eucharistic worship was an integral part of the encounters on both occasions. We have been fortunate that we have been able to include in our discussions both Moravian and Anglican observers from the US who were themselves involved in the drafting of *Finding our Delight*. We also had at the 2014 meeting an observer, Dr Callan Slipper, from the Church of England Council for Christian Unity so there was no danger of us discussing matters that might by implication involve Anglican/Moravian relationships in England without the C of E having a presence, and in effect a voice, at the table. Progress in this matter has hitherto been slightly slower in England, perhaps because of the delays over the issue of women in the episcopate, perhaps because so much effort had been put into the Fetter Lane part of the process that there was a temptation to sit back rather than to move on. However, it must be said that all involved considered the Irish conversations to be of importance and potential that went far beyond

the mere local context. This was indicated by, to be blunt, the amount that was invested by the other people involved in order to advance the cause. Two people were flown across the Atlantic (one twice), the Church of England gladly paid the expenses of its own observer, the tiny Moravian community in Ireland not just offered generous hospitality but arranged for some of its delegation, including a bishop, to travel from Britain. By contrast the Church of Ireland group had no budget to do its work, and we either paid for ourselves or were glad to receive kind support from the Dioceses of Cashel Ferns and Ossory and of Clogher, available because of the personal involvement of the bishops of those places. It does raise a serious question, even in these lean times, about how we do our ecumenical business.

But to return to the main issues. Naturally the *Finding our Delight* document deserves careful reading and we found we could readily say AMEN to much of what it had achieved. However the following are some of the issues where we felt we might need to emphasise our own concerns, or even proceed differently.

- In the US there was a ceremony to inaugurate the new relationship where Anglican bishops and Moravian bishops laid hands on one another as a gesture of mutual recognition and welcome. We felt, however, that such a rite could be open to misinterpretation and even be a cause of confusion – with, for example, an impression possibly being given that bishops were being supplied perhaps with something previously lacking. As with our Methodist scheme, we feel the way to go in Ireland would be to declare formally our recognition particularly of the authenticity of the personal episcopate as exercised in both our Churches and to commit ourselves thereafter to mutual participation in episcopal ordinations in one another's churches. Thus a mutual interchangeability of ministry would ensue, in a manner even simpler and probably involving fewer anomalies than is the case with the Methodists not least as there is already utterly common vocabulary in relation to the place of the bishop.
- We note that in the Moravian Church the minimum number of bishops required to consecrate another bishop is two, rather than three in accordance with ancient Catholic tradition – although we acknowledge that in our own lineage via early Christian Ireland consecration by three was not always practiced. While changing Moravian rules worldwide to increase the minimum number to three would involve global consideration by what they term 'the Unitas Fratrum', nevertheless it was accepted that in Britain and Ireland it would be possible to insist on a minimum of three and in fact this is almost invariably the practice already. The proposed participation of an Anglican bishop in future consecrations would at any rate guarantee it
- As in TEC, we are concerned that in the Moravian Church a deacon may preside at the Eucharist. For them, being a deacon is rather like being a curate for us . . . it is an apprenticeship in ministry under supervision but it does involve a ministry of both word and sacrament. People tend to be ordained as presbyters when the time has come for them to lead the congregation in their own right. We would therefore have to take the view that any agreement involving the interchangeability of ministry would necessarily be constrained by a need to make clear that a person ordained deacon in the Moravian Church could not subsequently exercise a ministry in the Church of

Ireland beyond that set out in our formularies regarding the office of a deacon. Furthermore we would seek to be assured that any Anglican priest seeking to serve a Moravian congregation in the long term would be received as a presbyter – even if they were entering a curate like pastoral apprenticeship which in the Moravian situation would normally be discharged by a deacon

- We are keenly aware that, while the Church of Ireland is entirely free to deal with the Moravian Church as it likes, the fact that the latter is a single province here and in Britain does present challenges. Were we to enter a relationship that committed us in principle to mutual participation in episcopal ordinations, Church of Ireland bishops would not consider it meet or right to take part on such events were they to be held in England, unless the local Church of England bishop was expressly content. Furthermore, the prospect of Moravian consecrations taking place in Ireland is relatively remote. There only seems to be one example in living memory. However, the impression we gained from the C of E observer was that we should proceed with faith and confidence and that the Church of England might well be encouraged to share the journey with us
- As we continue to journey together, we feel there is some detailed work to be done to build understanding in terms of how we worship and indeed think sacramentally. For example, Anglicans ask questions of Moravians about what they regard as the essential structure and ingredients of the prayer of thanksgiving at the Eucharist and how consecrated bread and wine are treated at the end of the service. These may seem like smaller details, but they are important to any process of empathy and convergence, and indeed very similar ground was travelled during the Porvoo process. (Moravian hearts, let it be said, have been much warmed by the method and insights of Porvoo)
- We felt that all agreements and discussions of this sort must have a definite missional objective, that while the seeking unity is of course good in itself it should also be pursued with a definite goal of building the Kingdom. Hence the importance of local study and consideration, especially in those parts of Ireland where Moravian congregations exist, concerning how an interchangeable ministry might enrich the vision and mission of the local church so that the whole would indeed be greater than the sum of the parts
- Our conversations have at all times recognised the principle of transitivity, ie that when we talk to one ecumenical partner we must be aware of and speak consistently with our conversations with other Churches. That said, experiences such as Porvoo and the Methodist process have constantly inspired and informed, rather than complicated, the Moravian process. So many of them have shared the vital insight that while the historic episcopate is vital to us, the parameters and understanding of that term must be viewed through the lens of how they have legitimately been ‘locally adapted’.
- On a practical level, we expressed the hope that Moravian ordinands might as our Churches draw closer together avail more of the hospitality likely to be afforded to them in Anglican Theological colleges and places of training – this being something that might well be achieved in the Irish setting

The Anglican Affairs Working Group wishes to commend to CCUD and thereafter to the Standing Committee the view that, particularly given the evolving process of theological underpinning that has in recent years been provided on both sides of the Atlantic, there is no substantial reason for the Church of Ireland not to take steps with a view to entering a relationship with the Moravian Province that would involve the interchangeability of ministry. We would suggest that a motion, accompanied by suitable background material, is presented to the General Synod of 2015 which affirms this principle and requests that legislation to give effect to it be prepared and laid before the General Synod for its proper consideration as soon as is reasonably possible. Meanwhile the Moravian working group would need to seek a similar formal ‘steer’ from within its own Church context, although we gather that, following the example of what was achieved between Anglicans and Episcopalians in North America, the process for them need not involve the whole *Unitas Fratrum* directly.

The advantages of seeking a synodical steer of this kind before considering the preparation of any legislation are obvious, not least in so far as it will lead to more extensive and informed discussion within our own church in advance of any decision. Moreover, as there will be an inevitable time gap between the passing of a request for legislation and consideration of the legislation itself, the Church of England will be made very much aware of what the Church of Ireland appears minded to do. It may well be that this will become the catalyst that will cause it to become a third partner in the journey, and indeed the whole matter would be handled much more satisfactorily if both Anglican provinces involved could work in tandem. (By the way, it does not appear that there are active Moravian congregations in Wales or Scotland). We are cautiously hopeful that the Church of England may feel positive about aligning itself with the journey, and may even feel relieved and grateful that the Church of Ireland has been in the position to do much of the spadework.

For the moment the work of the working group is done; we have studied, reflected and deliberated as was required of us and we are making a clear recommendation in principle. We have also identified certain areas in which the two Churches need to work in close harmony in order to gain a greater appreciation of one another’s traditions and views. We shall continue to maintain informal contacts with our Moravian friends, and we put ourselves at the Church’s disposal in the advancing of this process. Giving our attention to this matter has been an utterly positive experience for which we are grateful, and we believe that both our working group and the corresponding Moravian group have returned to those that sent them with real hopes of moving this matter towards a joyful outcome.

APPENDIX M

NORTHERN IRELAND COMMUNITY RELATIONS WORKING GROUP

REPORT TO THE GENERAL SYNOD 2015

Members:

Rev Adrian Dorrian
Rev Barry Forde
Rt Rev John McDowell
Rt Rev Harold Miller
Mr Peter Munce
Ms Kate Turner

In Attendance:

Dr Paul Harron
Mrs Janet Maxwell

The Northern Ireland Community Relations Working Group met four times since General Synod 2014 in June, September, December and March. The Working Group met in person and by teleconference and also used e-mail to exchange and develop material.

The Working Group's methodology was to spend time reflecting on new proposals and developments in Northern Ireland (NI) with a view to supporting active engagement by the Church in any processes that promote debate of issues relevant to community relations or that will further understanding and reconciliation between communities in NI.

The Working Group has representation on and has worked with an informal group involving the four Churches and the Irish Council of Churches (ICC). The Working Group also invited special speakers and groups to present to them. Embrace Ireland, Rev Earl Storey, Trevor Douglas, representatives of the Orange Order and Mr Adrian McNamee of the Commission for Victims and Survivors have all presented to the group.

The Presbyterian Church in Ireland (PCI) is hosting a series of *Church in the Public Square* meetings. The objective of this series is to discuss issues that have public currency. Members of the Committee have attended these meetings and they have been discussed by the group.

Going forward the Working Group plan community conversations bringing people together to find out more at first-hand why people – including the Protestant Unionist Loyalists (PUL) Community – felt disengaged with the Church historically and to find out what they would like to see going forward; the overall purpose would be to enable the development of meaningful conversations.

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Membership:

Ven George Davison has stepped down from the working group and two new members have been added, Mr Peter Munce and Ms Kate Turner.

APPENDIX N

PARISH DEVELOPMENT WORKING GROUP

REPORT 2015

COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

Most Rev Patricia Storey
Rt Rev Kenneth Clarke
Mrs Tessa Marsden (Administrator)
Rev Paul Hoey (Chair)
Rev Ruth Jackson Noble
Rev Peter Jones
Mr David Brown
Dr John Tyrell

The scene in terms of parish development within the life of the Church of Ireland has changed considerably since the Working Group was first set up twelve years ago. A number of dioceses now have their own Parish Development Officers and several have programmes in place that encourage their parishes on a path of development that is broadly in line with that adopted by the Working Group.

The Report of the Church of Ireland Council for Mission “A Wider Us” which was presented to and endorsed by the General Synod in 2014 speaks of a growing culture of openness towards new ways of doing church. “The breadth and range of approaches” it notes, “illustrates how we have moved from tolerance to a willingness to give permission and towards signs of active encouragement, the next stages would be to plan and resource such development.” The Working Group very much sees its role as facilitating parishes in that planning and resourcing process.

The same Report noted a real sense from every stream and tradition within the life of the Church of Ireland that our engagement in mission be together. One of the strengths of the Church21 programmes of past years was the sense of journeying together; parishes spoke of the value of meeting together from all parts of the island, facing common challenges and learning from each other. For that reason we are convinced of the need to provide regular opportunities for parishes to meet to learn and share together.

The Report spoke of the importance of planning but not prescribing and of having an approach that offers a clear direction of travel and sense of vision combined with the freedom to move and respond opportunistically within that framework. Some dioceses seem to be making progress in developing the kind of mission plans envisaged in the report that are not overly ambitious or too prescriptive and the group is committed to furthering this kind of planning.

However, the aspect of *The Wider Us Report* that seems most relevant to parish development is under the heading of “management of change.” It notes that a deeper engagement with mission will involve change and that an important task is to work out

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ways to help those most afraid of engagement. We see much of what we offer in terms of helping parishes to make the right changes for the right reasons and in the right way.

So how will we facilitate churches seeking to engage in a process of parish development?

In the autumn of 2015 we have planned two day conferences for different parts of the island to which all parishes will be invited. The Rev Ian Coffey who has been so helpful in the past will again help us by teasing out what a developing church looks like. We will help parishes assess where they might be on the cycle of development and work out their next most helpful step. And we will share some stories that we hope will encourage parishes to go another bit on the journey.

Our hope is that out of these conferences there will develop a network of churches and groups committed to supporting each other and sharing resources. We are open to having regular opportunities for parishes to meet and to assess their progress should that be helpful.

In order to assist with this process we are currently working at setting up a new website which we hope will become a tool for the sharing of stories and resources.

Committee Membership

Mrs Brigid Barrett stepped down from membership. The group is enormously grateful to Brigid for her dedicated service and for her commitment to the work of parish development in the life of the Church of Ireland. We are delighted that Mrs Tessa Marsden has agreed to take up the post.

We are also pleased that the addition of the Most Rev Pat Storey, Rev Peter Jones and Mr David Brown to the list of members will enrich the work of the group.

APPENDIX O
STANDING COMMITTEE
PRIORITIES FUND

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT		Year ended 31 December	
		2014	2013
		€	€
INCOME			
Contributions	1	613,604	459,421
Deposit interest		1,224	1,113
Investment income		29,989	29,951
		<u>644,817</u>	<u>490,485</u>
EXPENDITURE			
Administration Expenses	2	(38,687)	(34,044)
Operating Surplus for the Year		<u>606,130</u>	<u>456,441</u>
ALLOCATIONS & GRANTS			
Allocations & Grants Distributed	3	(500,448)	(454,612)
Surplus after Allocations & Grants		<u>105,682</u>	<u>1,829</u>
Valuation Movement		115,597	43,453
Currency translation adjustment		7,058	3,397
Net Surplus for the year		<u><u>228,337</u></u>	<u><u>48,679</u></u>

STANDING COMMITTEE

PRIORITIES FUND

BALANCE SHEET

Year ended 31 December

		2014 €	2013 €
INVESTMENTS			
Investments held by the RCB	4	963,102	847,505
		<hr/>	<hr/>
CURRENT ASSETS			
Cash held on deposit by RCB	5	444,846	332,094
Cash at bank		249	261
		<hr/>	<hr/>
		445,095	332,355
		<hr/>	<hr/>
CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Loans		(48,760)	(48,760)
PAYE/PRSI		(4,806)	(4,806)
		<hr/>	<hr/>
		(53,566)	(53,566)
		<hr/>	<hr/>
Net Assets		<u>1,354,631</u>	<u>1,126,294</u>
FUNDS EMPLOYED			
Balance at 1 January		1,126,294	1,077,615
Surplus for the year		228,337	48,679
		<hr/>	<hr/>
Balance as at 31 December		<u>1,354,631</u>	<u>1,126,294</u>
		<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

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Notes to the Financial Statements

	2014	2013
1. Contributions	€	€
Contributions from the dioceses	613,604	459,421
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
2. Administration Expenses	2014	2013
	€	€
Salaries & PRSI	23,025	22,760
Organiser's & Committee expenses	3,339	4,997
Printing & Stationary	7,123	2,732
Postage & Photocopying	1,182	1,506
Miscellaneous & Transfers	4,018	2,049
	<u>38,687</u>	<u>34,044</u>
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
3. Grants & Loans	2014	2013
	€	€
Ministry	134,645	120,193
Retirement Benefits	1,448	1,355
Education	62,735	36,811
Community	79,240	89,079
Areas of Need	65,908	43,748
Outreach Initiatives	142,457	107,108
Innovative Ministry	14,015	56,318
	<u>500,448</u>	<u>454,612</u>
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

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4. Invested assets are shown at market value in 2014 and 2013.

	2014	2013
5. Cash on deposit held by the RCB	€	€
Cash on deposit held by the RCB	444,846	332,094
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

This represents cash held on behalf of The Priorities Fund by the RCB in pooled bank accounts.

6. Foreign Currency transactions have been translated to Euro at the rate of exchange ruling at 31 December 2014, €1 = £0.7765 (2013: €1 = £0.8302).

7. The Priorities Fund is not the beneficial owner of any tangible fixed assets, and thus no depreciation charge arises in the period.



INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE COMMITTEE OF THE CHURCH OF IRELAND PRIORITIES FUND

We have audited the non-statutory financial statements of the Church of Ireland Priorities Fund for the year ended 31 December 2014 which comprise the Income and Expenditure Account, the Balance Sheet, the Accounting Policies and the related notes. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is the basis of preparation note and accounting policies on page 5 to the non-statutory financial statements.

Respective responsibilities of the Board and auditors

As explained more fully in the Priorities Fund Committee's Responsibilities Statement set out on page 4, the Committee is responsible for the preparation of the non-statutory financial statements in accordance with the basis of preparation and accounting policies to the non-statutory financial statements. Our responsibility is to audit and express an opinion on the non-statutory financial statements in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK and Ireland). Those standards require us to comply with the Auditing Practices Board's Ethical Standards for Auditors.

This report, including the opinion, has been prepared for and only for the Committee for governance purposes in accordance with our engagement letter dated 12 November 2014 and for no other purpose. We do not, in giving this opinion, accept or assume responsibility for any other purpose or to any other person to whom this report is shown or into whose hands it may come including without limitation under any contractual obligations of the Fund, save where expressly agreed by our prior consent in writing.

Scope of the audit of the non-statutory financial statements

An audit involves obtaining evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the non-statutory financial statements sufficient to give reasonable assurance that the non-statutory financial statements are free from material misstatement, whether caused by fraud or error. This includes an assessment of: whether the accounting policies are appropriate to the Fund's circumstances and have been consistently applied and adequately disclosed; the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by the Committee; and the overall presentation of the financial statements.

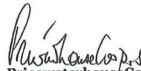
Opinion on non-statutory financial statements

In our opinion the non-statutory financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2014 have been properly prepared in accordance with the basis of preparation note and the accounting policies on page 5 and present the state of the Church of Ireland Priorities Fund's affairs as at 31 December 2014 and its surplus for the year then ended in accordance therewith.



Emphasis of matter – Basis of preparation

In forming our opinion on the non-statutory financial statements, which is not modified, we draw attention to the fact that the accounting policies used and disclosures made are not intended to, and do not, comply with all the requirements of Generally Accepted Accounting Practice in Ireland.


PricewaterhouseCoopers
Chartered Accountants
Dublin

12 March 2015

APPENDIX P

RETIREMENT AGE OF CLERGY

**PAPER FOR CONSIDERATION OF THE REPRESENTATIVE CHURCH BODY
AND STANDING COMMITTEE
SEPTEMBER 2014**

The compulsory retirement age for clergy, bishops and archbishops in the Church of Ireland is 75 years of age. This compulsory retirement age applies to all clergy, bishops and archbishops whether or not they are members of the Church of Ireland Clergy Pensions Fund and eligible to receive pension benefits before reaching the compulsory retirement age.

A compulsory retirement age was adopted by the General Synod in 1969 in response to a general review of the administration of the Church of Ireland which was carried out in 1967. The compulsory retirement age was introduced on a phased basis commencing in 1969 with a compulsory retirement age of 78 and reducing to the age of 75 by 1975. Having recently undertaken a review of the compulsory retirement age, it is considered that the compulsory retirement age of 75 continues to serve the needs of the Church and its lay and ordained members for the following reasons:

- It promotes a balanced age structure within the clergy;
- It encourages a mix of generations so as to promote the interchange between the experience of long serving members of the clergy and the recently acquired knowledge of new ordinands;
- It ensures quality of ministry provision and addresses the issue of age balance within the ordained ministry;
- It ensures motivation and dynamism through the prospect of ministry opportunities due to senior members of the clergy/bishops/archbishops retiring;
- It provides for equality in relation to retirement and thereby avoids having to engage in a process of health assessments that might otherwise arise;
- It ensures the Church is in a position to implement a coherent and orderly planning strategy in providing for the retirement of members of the clergy/members of the House of Bishops and is in a position to forecast, and make provision for, future numbers of students at the Theological Institute;
- It provides certainty for parishes by enabling them to plan effectively;
- It provides certainty for individual members of the clergy/bishops/archbishops by enabling them to plan effectively for their own retirement;
- It contributes to the safeguarding of the health and safety of individual members of the clergy/ bishops/archbishops, their colleagues and the general public and it

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prevents possible disputes on the fitness of individuals to carry out all of the functions of their respective offices beyond a certain age;

- It ensures cohesion amongst members of the clergy/bishops/archbishops through a consistent approach to a compulsory retirement age;
- It recognises the Church's pastoral duty to individual members of the clergy and their families, ensuring that a vocation to the ordained ministry is balanced with the need of all persons, whether ordained or not, to benefit from a period of retirement following their stipendiary ministry or working career. This is particularly important in the vocational sector where individuals may feel unable to express their need and desire to retire.

3 September 2014

APPENDIX Q

DISABILITY WORKING GROUP

Membership

Rev Jennifer McWhirter (Chairperson)
Mr James Clarke
Rev Malcolm Ferry
Mrs Carol Ferry
Dr Timothy Jackson
Mr Ian Slaine
Mrs Audrey Tormey
Rt Rev Trevor Williams (Resigned in May 2014)

Terms of Reference

In March 2005, the Standing Committee established the Working Group on Disability to address issues concerning disability that affect the Church of Ireland and to consider the implications of legislation in both jurisdictions. The Church of Ireland is periodically invited to comment on consultation documents, white papers and draft legislation. It was envisaged that a working group with expertise in this area would be in a position to prepare considered responses on behalf of the Church.

Personalia

The Rt Rev Trevor Williams resigned from the Working Group during the course of the year. His input and commitment to the work of the Committee was much appreciated.

A number of Working Group Members had periods of lengthy illness including hospitalisations during the year. All are thankfully well on the road to recovery.

Some members of the Working Group had significant and close bereavements during the course of the year; our thoughts are with them.

On a happy note our Chairperson gave birth to Kizzy. Congratulations to Jennifer and her husband Stephen.

Disability Awareness Sunday

A Resource Pack was produced and delivered to all Parishes in Ireland. In addition the Resource Pack was placed on the Church of Ireland website.

The Working Group is encouraged on the feedback received on the materials produced and the use of the same.

Accessibility to Church Venues

The Working Group is delighted that its lobbying over many years for fully inclusive venues for all Church meetings, including General Synod is now well established and supported.

We hope that all Dioceses and Parishes consider disability issues in planning events, in order to ensure inclusion.

Use of Technology

The Working Group has benefited much from the use of modern technology – e.g. skype and conferencing facilities as a way of ensuring participation of members from the length and breadth of our Church. This is an encouragement to those who could contribute to our work but could not physically travel to meetings.

Work Plan

The Working Group has certain priorities in its planning for the future:

- a. To make people think beyond disability and towards access for all;
- b. To make people aware of the legislation in the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland and outline the implications of the same;
- c. To make people aware of key issues involved in making sure properties are accessible

Conclusion

The Working Group continues to seek consultation with and support from Church Members with either a professional or personal knowledge in the area of disability.

APPENDIX R

STANDING COMMITTEE INCOME AND EXPENDITURE AND GENERAL PURPOSES FUND ACCOUNTS

**STANDING COMMITTEE
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT**

	Notes	2014 €	2013 €
INCOME			
Representative Church Body	1	615,972	568,658
Deposit Interest	2	2,524	4,266
Royalties Fund Income		35,481	20,099
Grants/Contributions		22,566	36,707
		<hr/>	<hr/>
		676,543	629,730
		<hr/>	<hr/>
EXPENSES			
Services provided by RCB	3	270,046	265,891
General Synod Expenses	4	43,029	32,645
Miscellaneous Expenses	5	43,534	29,508
		<hr/>	<hr/>
		356,609	328,044
		<hr/>	<hr/>
OPERATING SURPLUS FOR THE YEAR		<u>319,934</u>	<u>301,686</u>
ALLOCATIONS AND GRANTS			
Allocations to Ecumenical and Anglican Organisations	6	121,061	118,703
Allocations to Church related Organisations	7	165,409	190,966
		<hr/>	<hr/>
		286,470	309,669
		<hr/>	<hr/>
Surplus/(Deficit) for year		<u>33,464</u>	<u>(7,983)</u>
		<hr/>	<hr/>

STANDING COMMITTEE

FUND ACCOUNT		Year ended 31 December	
		2014	2013
		€	€
CURRENT ASSETS			
Cash on deposit held by RCB	8	416,408	375,885
Net Assets		<u>416,408</u>	<u>375,885</u>
FUNDS EMPLOYED			
Balance at 1 January		375,885	385,329
Surplus/(Deficit) for the year		33,464	(7,983)
Currency translation adjustment		7,059	(1,461)
Balance as at 31 December		<u>416,408</u>	<u>375,885</u>

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Notes to the Accounts

1. Income from Representative Church Body

	2014 €	2013 €
Representative Church Body allocation	621,225	596,365
Refund unexpended allocation	(5,253)	(27,707)
Total income from RCB	<u>615,972</u>	<u>568,658</u>

2. Deposit Interest

	2014 €	2013 €
-Royalties Fund	2,524	4,266
	<u>2,524</u>	<u>4,266</u>

3. Services provided by the RCB

Services provided by the RCB relates to time apportionment of RCB staff to Standing Committee support.

4. General Synod Expenses

	2014 €	2013 €
-Venue and Facilities	43,029	32,645
	<u>43,029</u>	<u>32,645</u>

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	2014	2013
	€	€
5. Miscellaneous Expenses		
- Inter Church Addiction	3,863	3,614
- Parish Development Working Group	50	1,053
- Publications & Printing	5,881	3,286
- Honorary Secretaries' expenses	9,287	9,337
- Porvoo Communion	1,671	1,655
- Historiographer's Expenses	2,000	2,350
- Church & Society Commission	5,815	5,525
- Council for Mission	5,976	860
- Commemorations Working Group	4,730	-
- Commission on Ministry	1,128	1,828
- Commission on Human Sexuality	175	-
- Covenant Council	1,274	-
- Children's Ministry	1,684	-
	43,534	29,508
6. Ecumenical and Anglican Organisations		
	2014	2013
	€	€
- Anglican Consultative Council	50,547	45,905
- Churches Together in Britain and Ireland	12,878	12,045
- Irish Council of Churches	25,954	23,800
- Irish School of Ecumenics	2,000	-
- Irish Inter-Church Meeting	14,393	13,197
- World Council of Churches	4,507	8,755
- Conference of European Churches	3,000	5,000
- Delegates' expenses (travel/conferences)	7,782	10,001
	121,061	118,703

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7. Allocations to Church related Organisations	2014	2013
	€	€
- Central Communications Board	123,967	140,088
- Miscellaneous	500	-
- Royalties Fund	-	12,223
- Church of Ireland Marriage Council	16,007	13,131
- Royalties Fund Expenditure	17,389	21,277
- Safeguarding Trust	7,546	4,247
	<u>165,409</u>	<u>190,966</u>
	<u><u>165,409</u></u>	<u><u>190,966</u></u>

8. Cash on Short Term Deposit	2014	2013
	€	€
- Royalties Fund	327,247	302,393
- Hymnal Revision	1,659	1,551
- Other Account Balances	87,502	71,941
	<u>416,408</u>	<u>375,885</u>
	<u><u>416,408</u></u>	<u><u>375,885</u></u>

This represents cash held on behalf of Standing Committee by the RCB in pooled bank accounts.

9. Foreign currency transactions have been translated to Euro at the rate of exchange ruling on 31 December 2014, €1 = £0.7765 (2013: €1 = £0.8302).

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CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS' REPORT ON THE UNAUDITED FINANCIAL INFORMATION OF THE CHURCH OF IRELAND STANDING COMMITTEE

In accordance with our engagement letter dated 12 November 2014 we have compiled the entity's financial information, which comprises the Income and Expenditure Account, Fund Account, Accounting Policies and the related notes, from the accounting records and information and explanations you have given us.

The financial information has been compiled on the basis set out in the accounting policies on page 1 to the financial statements.

This report is made to you in accordance with the terms of our engagement. Our work has been undertaken so that we might compile the financial information that we have been engaged to compile to meet your governance requirements. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than you for our work or for this report.

We have carried out this engagement in accordance with technical guidance in M48 'Chartered Accountants' Reports on the Compilation of Historical Financial Information of Unincorporated Entities' issued by the Institute of Chartered Accountants in Ireland (ICAI) and have complied with the ethical guidance laid down by the ICAI relating to members undertaking the compilation of historical financial information.

You have approved the financial information for the year ended 31 December 2014 and have acknowledged your responsibility for it, including the creation and maintenance of all accounting and other records supporting it and the appropriateness of the accounting basis on which it has been compiled, and for providing us with all information and explanations necessary for its compilation.

We have not been instructed to carry out an audit of the financial information. For this reason, we have not verified the accuracy or completeness of the accounting records or information and explanations given to us by you and we do not, therefore, express any opinion on the financial information.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. J. O'Connell', is written over a faint, illegible printed name.

**PricewaterhouseCoopers
Chartered Accountants
Dublin**

12 March 2015

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Chartered Accountants

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GENERAL PURPOSES FUND				
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT				
			2014	2013
			€	€
INCOME				
Interest and dividends			1,034	1,034
Venerable E Colvin Bequest			23	23
			<u>1,057</u>	<u>1,057</u>
EXPENSES				
Registrar's fees			63	63
Legal and other costs			992	992
			<u>1,055</u>	<u>1,055</u>
OPERATING SURPLUS FOR YEAR				
			2	2
Balance 1 January 2013			29,269	27,764
Currency translation adjustment			4	- 1
Gains unrealised on revaluation			<u>3,990</u>	<u>1,504</u>
Balance 31 December 2013			<u>33,265</u>	<u>29,269</u>
FUNDS EMPLOYED				
Investments			33,244	29,250
Cash held by RCB			<u>21</u>	<u>19</u>
			<u>33,265</u>	<u>29,269</u>
Sterling balances and transactions have been translated to Euro at the rate of exchange ruling at 31 December 2014, €1 =£0.7765 (2013: €1 =£0.8302).				



CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS' REPORT ON THE UNAUDITED FINANCIAL INFORMATION OF THE CHURCH OF IRELAND GENERAL PURPOSES FUND

In accordance with our engagement letter dated 12 November 2014 we have compiled the entity's financial information, which comprises the Income and Expenditure Account and Fund Account from the accounting records and information and explanations you have given us.

This report is made to you in accordance with the terms of our engagement. Our work has been undertaken so that we might compile the financial information that we have been engaged to compile to meet your governance requirements. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than you for our work or for this report.

We have carried out this engagement in accordance with technical guidance in M48 'Chartered Accountants' Reports on the Compilation of Historical Financial Information of Unincorporated Entities' issued by the Institute of Chartered Accountants in Ireland (ICAI) and have complied with the ethical guidance laid down by the ICAI relating to members undertaking the compilation of historical financial information.

You have approved the financial information for the year ended 31 December 2014 and have acknowledged your responsibility for it, including the creation and maintenance of all accounting and other records supporting it and the appropriateness of the accounting basis on which it has been compiled, and for providing us with all information and explanations necessary for its compilation.

We have not been instructed to carry out an audit of the financial information. For this reason, we have not verified the accuracy or completeness of the accounting records or information and explanations given to us by you and we do not, therefore, express any opinion on the financial information.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'PricewaterhouseCoopers', is written over a light blue circular stamp.

**PricewaterhouseCoopers
Chartered Accountants
Dublin**

12 March 2015

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