

Bill No. 4**Explanatory Memorandum**

In 1930, the General Synod passed a statute (Chapter I of 1930) which established the Church Fabric Fund. The terms of the Fund are set out in Part IV of Chapter X of the Constitution. The Representative Body is trustee of the Fund. The capital of the Fund comprises (i) monies received from the sale or compulsory alienation of certain pre-1869 church property theretofore vested in the Representative Body, (ii) statutory or other insurance compensation monies relating to churches or chapels and (iii) donations, subscriptions and bequests to the Fund. Since its formation, the Fund has been held for the repair of certain church buildings on terms specified in Part IV of Chapter X.

The proposed Bill seeks to rename the fund as the *Church Fabric and Development Fund* and to widen the terms on which the capital and income under the provisions of Part IV of Chapter X of the Constitution may be applied.

MR ROBERT NEILL
THE BISHOP OF CONNOR

(At the Request of the Representative Church Body)

BILL

To Amend Chapter X of the Constitution

WHEREAS in 1930 the General Synod established the Church Fabric Fund, whose terms are contained in Part IV of Chapter X of the Constitution of the Church of Ireland;

AND WHEREAS it is desirable to widen the terms of the Fund to enable the Fund's assets to be applied for purposes in addition to those heretofore permitted by Part IV of Chapter X;

AND WHEREAS it is desirable to rename the Fund to encourage and develop the use of the Fund;

AND WHEREAS for such purposes it is necessary to amend Chapter X of the Constitution;

BE IT ENACTED by the Archbishops and Bishops and the clergy and laity of the Church of Ireland, in General Synod assembled in Dún Laoghaire in the year 2016, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1. The Church Fabric Fund established by the Statute, Chapter I of 1930 is hereby renamed "The Church Fabric and Development Fund".
2. In Chapter X of the Constitution of the Church of Ireland, for section 20 there shall be substituted:

"20. The Church Fabric and Development Fund ('the Fund'), established by the Statute, Chapter I of 1930, shall be held in trust for (i) the restoration or repair of the fabric of any church or chapel, whether cathedral, collegiate or parochial, used for public worship and vested in the Representative Body and (ii) for the development of initiatives supporting the long term mission of the Church."

3. In Chapter X, for section 24 there shall be substituted:

"24. Subject to the provisions of sections 25, 26 and 27, the income of the Fund may be applied at the discretion of the Representative Body for the following purposes:

- (a) The income of the Fund which has accrued up to 30th June 2016 may be applied for the restoration or repair of the fabric of any church or chapel, whether cathedral, collegiate or parochial, used for public worship and vested in the Representative Body;
- (b) The income of the Fund accruing from 1st July 2016 may be applied for (i) the restoration or repair of the fabric of any church or chapel, whether cathedral, collegiate or parochial, used for public worship and vested in the Representative Body and/or (ii) the development of initiatives supporting the long term mission of the Church.

The Representative Body shall formulate rules and regulations for the administration and application of the Fund and shall present all rules and regulations to the Standing Committee of the General Synod for approval."

4. In Chapter X, for section 27 there shall be substituted:

"27. In any case where sections 25 or 26 do not apply, not more than 80% of the sale proceeds or compensation shall be held in trust by the Representative Body as an endowment for the Parish

and (i) the income applied for such purposes in connection with the Parish as the select vestry with responsibility for the Parish, with the consent of the Diocesan Council and the Representative Body, shall decide and/or (ii) the capital made available for the development of such initiatives supporting the long term mission of the Church as the select vestry with responsibility for the Parish, with the consent of the Diocesan Council and the Representative Body, may propose. The Representative Body shall formulate rules and regulations for the administration and application of the capital of all endowments held under this section and shall present all rules and regulations to the Standing Committee of the General Synod for approval.’