

GENERAL SYNOD 2016

Bill No. 7

Proposer: The Ven Richard Rountree

**Embargoed Against Delivery
Check Against Delivery**

Archbishop

This Bill seeks to deal with an anomaly in the governance statute of the General Synod regarding Christ Church, Cathedral, Dublin.

The wording of the 1902 Statute would seem to suggest that the governing body of the Cathedral is the Dean and Chapter – while the day-to-day running of the Cathedral by the Board is a delegated task from the Chapter. This has not caused any great difficulty up until now and the relationship between the Dean and Chapter and the Board of the Cathedral has not caused any practical difficulties. However, in the light of the new charity legislation of 2009 there is a need for clarity in the legal definition regarding these two bodies and their role in the governance of the Cathedral.

This Bill, by removing part of section 4 of Chapter 1 of 1902, and by adding a new section 4a and extending the definitions of the role of the Board in section 19, with other minor changes, clarifies the roles of both the Dean and Chapter and the functions of the Board. It brings Christ Church into line with other cathedrals in the Church of Ireland.

The members of the Board can now become the trustees of the cathedral in the same way as the members of a Select Vestry of a parish are the trustees of that parish. This allows the cathedral to have an appropriate registration with the Charities Regulatory Authority.

The Bill also clearly defines the role of the Dean and Chapter as the guardians of the spirituality of the cathedral with a particular role in the governance and conduct of divine worship in the cathedral. The Dean and Chapter could be compared to the Rector and Churchwardens of a parish. There is, of course, a close relationship between the two bodies as members of the Chapter make up half of the membership of the Board.