

BILL NO 7

Explanatory Memorandum

In his contribution to *Irish Anglicanism 1869–1969* published in 1970, Michael Hurley S.J. wrote “I look forward to the day (and it can be delayed only at our common peril).....when St Patrick’s Cathedral, Dublin will become a fully inter-denominational, ecumenical cathedral.” The present proposal is a small first-step in that direction. The proposed new prebendaries will be known as the prebendaries of Clondalkin and Finglas, two of the original prebends of the 1191 foundation which were subsequently subsumed in the deanery and the chancellorship respectively.

REV CANON TR WILLIAMS
VERY REV LDA FORREST

BILL

To amend Chapter VII of the Constitution to make provision for the appointment of Ecumenical Canons of the National Cathedral of St Patrick, Dublin.

WHEREAS it is desirable for the promotion of relations with other churches that provision should be made for the appointment of ecumenical canons to the Collegiate and Cathedral Church of St. Patrick;

AND WHEREAS for such purposes it is expedient to amend Part II of Chapter VII accordingly;

Be it enacted by the Archbishops and Bishops and the Clergy and Laity of the Church of Ireland in General Synod assembled in Kilkenny in the year 2007, and by the authority of the same as follows:-

1. Section 21 shall be substituted by the following:
 21. The Chapter shall consist of the Dean, Precentor, Chancellor, Treasurer, the Prebendary of Cualaun (who, as in times past, shall be the Archbishop of Dublin for the time being), twenty-one other prebendaries or canons, whose stalls shall have the titles of the ancient prebends connected therewith respectively and two ecumenical canons appointed under the provisions of Section 24A of this Chapter.
2. The following section shall be inserted after Section 24:

Ecumenical Canons

24A(1) In this Chapter “ecumenical canon” shall mean a minister or accredited preacher of one or other of such Christian denominations not in full communion with the Church as may from time to time be specified by the House of Bishops appointed a member of the Chapter under the provisions of this section.

- (2) It shall be in the power of the Chapter to appoint ecumenical canons, not exceeding two in number without salaries. Such ecumenical canons may be removed by the Dean and Chapter with the approval of the Archbishop of

Dublin and for cause shown. Each ecumenical canon, if not so removed, shall hold office for a term of five years from the date of appointment or until such ecumenical canon shall resign from office, and shall be eligible for reappointment.

(3) The appointment of an ecumenical canon shall not be effective unless and until that person shall make and subscribe before the Dean and Chapter the declaration contained in the Second Schedule hereunto annexed.

(4) An ecumenical canon may be invited by the Dean to perform all or any of the following duties -

- (a) To say or sing Morning or Evening Prayer or the Litany;
- (b) To read the Holy Scriptures at any service;
- (c) To deliver an address at any service;
- (d) To assist at a Baptismal, Marriage or Funeral Service or at the Celebration of the Holy Communion;

if the ecumenical canon is authorised to perform a similar duty in his or her own Church.

(5) The Court of the General Synod shall have authority to determine all questions and disputes that may arise respecting the appointment or removal of an ecumenical canon.

3. Sections 25 and 26 shall be substituted by the following:

Election of Dean

25. The Dean shall be elected by the members of the Chapter out of the members of the Chapter (other than the ecumenical canons): Provided that if no such election take place within three months after the occurrence of a vacancy the Archbishop of Dublin shall appoint a Dean from among the members of the Chapter (other than the ecumenical canons). During a vacancy in the office of Dean all the powers of that office other than those conferred by Section 26 of this Chapter, shall devolve on and be exercisable by the Precentor or in the Precentor's absence the member of the Chapter (other than an ecumenical canon) next in order of precedence.

Appointment of Dignitaries

26. The Precentor, the Chancellor and Treasurer shall be appointed by the Dean. Ecumenical canons shall not be eligible for appointment to any of these offices.

4. Section 29 shall be substituted by the following:-

Clergy members of Diocesan Synod of Dublin

29. The Dean and such members of the Chapter (other than ecumenical canons) as are habitually resident within the diocese of Dublin, and also the clerical vicars and other clergy habitually residing within the diocese of Dublin and

serving in the said cathedral church, shall be members of the diocesan synod of Dublin.

5. Section 34 shall be substituted by the following:

34. The Dean shall be the immediate ordinary of the said Cathedral, for the purpose of directing the clergy and officials (including ecumenical canons) and ordering the services. All other matters relating to the cathedral and not herein otherwise provided for shall be determined in Chapter. And at all meetings of the Chapter, the Dean or in the Dean's absence the member of the chapter (other than an ecumenical canon) present next in order of precedence, shall have both an ordinary and a casting vote.

6. The words "FIRST SCHEDULE" shall be substituted for the existing title of the Schedule to Chapter VII and immediately after that Schedule there shall be inserted the following:-

SECOND SCHEDULE

DECLARATION FOR SUBSCRIPTION

I, A.B., do hereby solemnly declare that:-

- (1) I am a validly ordained member of Church.
- (2) I agree to be bound by the provisions of Part II of Chapter VII of the Constitution of the Church of Ireland and, to that extent only, I submit myself to the authority of the Church of Ireland, and to the laws and tribunals thereof.
- (3) I A.B. do declare that I will perform Canonical obedience to the Dean of this Cathedral and Collegiate Church of Saint Patrick, Dublin, and his successors canonically entering. The statutes and ancient customs of this Cathedral and Collegiate Church, so far as they are not repugnant to the laws of the Church of Ireland, I will observe, and my endeavours for their defence against all persons whatsoever will diligently use, and also the secrets of this Chapter, so long as they shall continue to be secrets, will keep private and undisclosed.

I subscribe the

above declaration to

be appointed to the

office of Ecumenical Canon

of the Collegiate and Cathedral

Church of St. Patrick

This day of 200