

Church of Ireland

The House of Bishops

PROTOCOL FOR TRANSFER OF CLERGY SERVING IN THE NON-STIPENDIARY MINISTRY TO THE STIPENDIARY MINISTRY

This protocol was revised by the House of Bishops in April 2002 and in April 2013. It sets out the process for transfer from non-stipendiary ministry to stipendiary ministry within the Church of Ireland.

The following is the protocol for transfer to the stipendiary ministry:

1. Other than in exceptional circumstances (as determined by the House of Bishops) no transfer will be permitted before completion of five full years of service within the non-stipendiary ministry.
2. A diocesan bishop ('the sponsoring bishop') who has received enquiry locally about such a transfer will see that the name is included on an advance notice of meeting for the House of Bishops and bring the name to the attention of the House of Bishops.
3. The House of Bishops will appoint two of their number to interview the enquirer.
4. The non-stipendiary minister in question will provide to the two interviewing bishops a C.V. and two statements, one outlining their experience in ministry to date; and another setting out reasons for desire to transfer to stipendiary ministry.
5. The two bishops will meet the enquirer in person at a mutually agreed time and venue.
6. The recommendation from the two bishops will be communicated to the House of Bishops.
7. The House of Bishops will make its determination.
8. A non-stipendiary minister approved for transfer to the stipendiary ministry will be required to undertake at least two terms further training in the CITI or equivalent.
9. A consultation between the diocesan bishop, the transferring minister and the Director of the CITI will take place to see which areas, in particular, are to be covered in the further training.
10. The transferring priest will, at the appropriate stages, be required to undergo the Garda vetting or AccessNI vetting process (as appropriate), and to undertake the Safeguarding Trust training programme.
11. Upon completion of training, the transferring priest may, in the first instance, be offered an appropriate curacy by the sponsoring bishop.
12. Where no such curacy is available, or when, following consideration of the sponsoring bishop's offer and by mutual agreement, the transferring priest turns down the offer of the curacy initially offered, he or she is free either (i) to seek a position in another diocese in Ireland; or (ii) to opt to be included on the subsequent curacy allocation list.
13. The sponsoring bishop has no obligation to provide a curacy.
14. A non-stipendiary minister who has transferred to stipendiary ministry is not permitted to become an incumbent or vicar within two years of his or her first appointment, but may, if so permitted, become a bishop's curate after the completion of one year.