

**SPECIAL MEETING OF
THE GENERAL SYNOD
OF THE
CHURCH OF IRELAND**

2011

BILL

AND

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

INTRODUCTION

This pamphlet contains the Bill for consideration at the special meeting of the General Synod summoned by the Archbishop of Armagh following a request from more than one third of the order of bishops.

A Bill is a proposal for legislation which, if passed, will become a Statute, binding on all members of the Church of Ireland. The procedure is designed to ensure that the proposed legislation is considered carefully, both in principle and in detail.

The Bills will be taken into consideration in the order in which they appear in this pamphlet, unless the Synod directs otherwise. On the first stage, the proposer moves “That leave be given to introduce Bill no. ___” unless leave has been given in the previous session. This is a formal motion which is normally put to the Synod without debate, but in certain circumstances one speech in support of the motion, and one in opposition to it, may be permitted.

If that motion is passed, the Synod proceeds to the Second Reading, when the principles of the Bill are open to debate. At the conclusion of the debate on this stage, the motion “That the Bill be approved in principle and given a second reading” is put to the Synod. If this motion is passed, indicating that the Synod approved the Bill in principle, the Committee stage follows.

On the Committee stage, the Bill is considered in detail, the clauses being put to the Synod one by one for debate and decision. The clauses are taken first in their order; then, the schedules (if any); and, finally, the Preamble (the introductory matter). Amendments, notice of which was given to the honorary secretaries not later than the Friday before the session, will appear on the agenda paper for the first day; no other amendment may be moved on Committee stage except with the leave of the Synod. An amendment is taken on the clause to which it relates, and is disposed of before the clause itself is put to the Synod.

When the Committee stage has been concluded, the Bill is reported to the Synod, and a day is fixed for the remaining stages.

During a special meeting of the General Synod pursuant to Standing Order 29 (d) the Synod may direct that the Report stage and the third reading be taken on the first day. After any amendments have been disposed of – or immediately if there are not any amendments – the Synod proceeds to the Third Reading. At this stage, debate is confined to the provisions of the Bill, and at its conclusion the motion “That the Bill be now read a third time and passed” is put to the Synod.

A simple majority of the House of Representatives is required to pass any and every motion during the passage of a Bill through the Synod, except when

- (a) a vote by orders has been requisitioned by ten members of either order (which may be done on any motion), in which case a simple majority of each order, voting separately, is required.
- (b) a two-thirds majority of each order, voting separately, is required to pass the Second Reading and the Third Reading of a Bill which proposes a modification or alteration in the articles, doctrines, rites, rubrics or formularies of the Church.

For fuller information on Bill procedure reference should be made to Part II of Chapter I of the Constitution and to the Standing Orders. A leaflet on Bill procedure is available on application to the Honorary Secretaries.

BILL NO 1**Explanatory Memorandum**

A vacancy having arisen in the see of Tuam, the archbishops and bishops of the Church of Ireland wish consideration to be given to the requirements for episcopal ministry in the united dioceses of Tuam, Killala and Achonry. It is therefore desirable not to hold an Episcopal Electoral College for the time being with provision being made for the episcopal care of the united dioceses during the vacancy.

Clause 1 provides that an Episcopal Electoral College shall not be held for the time being to enable due consideration to be given to the requirements for episcopal ministry in the united dioceses.

Clause 2 provides a mechanism for the appointment of a Working Group by the Standing Committee to give consideration to the requirements for episcopal ministry in the united dioceses and to report back to the Standing Committee. It further provides that the Standing Committee shall bring the recommendations which emerge from this report to the ordinary session of the General Synod of 2012.

THE BISHOP OF MEATH AND KILDARE
THE BISHOP OF DERRY AND RAPHOE

Bill**To defer the operation of Section 8 of Chapter VI of the Constitution in regard to the See of Tuam**

WHEREAS the see of Tuam fell vacant on the 31st day of January 2011;

AND WHEREAS the archbishops and bishops of the Church of Ireland consider it expedient to give opportunity for consideration of the requirements for episcopal ministry in the united dioceses of Tuam, Killala and Achonry before an Episcopal Electoral College be convened for the election of a bishop to the see of Tuam;

AND WHEREAS it is desirable that the General Synod should have opportunity to consider the requirements for episcopal ministry in the united dioceses of Tuam, Killala and Achonry at the General Synod in 2012;

AND WHEREAS provision has been made for the guardianship of the spiritualities of the see of Tuam during the vacancy:

Be it enacted by the archbishops and bishops and the clergy and laity of the Church of Ireland, in General Synod assembled in Special Session in Dublin in the year 2011 and by the authority of the same, as follows:-

1. The operation of section 8 of Chapter VI of the Constitution is hereby deferred with regard to the current vacancy in the see of Tuam until a date not earlier than the third day of the Ordinary Meeting of the General Synod in 2012.
2. The Standing Committee shall appoint a Working Group to assess the requirements for episcopal ministry in the united dioceses of Tuam, Killala and Achonry and shall, in relation thereto, bring forward recommendations to the General Synod in 2012.