

Standing Committee – 2020

STANDING COMMITTEE

REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS LAID BEFORE

THE GENERAL SYNOD AT ITS

ONE HUNDRED AND FIFTIETH ORDINARY SESSION 2020

Standing Committee – 2020

**THE GENERAL SYNOD
OF THE
CHURCH OF IRELAND**

HONORARY SECRETARIES OF THE GENERAL SYNOD



Ven George Davison, 12 Harwood Gardens, Carrickfergus, Co. Antrim, BT38 7US

Rev Canon Gillian Wharton, The Rectory, Cross Avenue, Booterstown, Blackrock, Co.
Dublin

Mr Ken Gibson, 11 Magheralave Court, Lisburn, Co. Antrim, BT28 3BY

Ms Hazel Corrigan, Liscolman House, Tullow, Co Carlow

ASSISTANT SECRETARY - Mrs Janet Maxwell

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1. SUMMARY

Some significant matters dealt with during the year were:

- Engagement with the Working Group on Synodical Representation and its proposed legislation;
- The endorsement of a strategic plan for a whole Church of Ireland approach to Children’s and Family Ministry;
- Approval of proposed revisions to the Bills process, to be brought to the General Synod;
- Approval and release of a statement on peace, stability, and economic security and one on the restoration of the Northern Ireland Executive;
- Addition of two new roles to the membership of the Advisory Council to the Church of Ireland Centre for Education at DCU;
- Approval of charities legislation for General Synod 2020 and appointment of new members to the Charities Registration Monitoring Working Group to assist parishes and dioceses with charities matters.

2. NAMES AND ATTENDANCE OF MEMBERS (FROM JUNE 2019)

During the period June 2019 – March 2020, 5 meetings were held. The number of meetings attended by each member is placed before his/her name.

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS

THE ARCHBISHOPS AND BISHOPS

THE HONORARY SECRETARIES OF THE GENERAL SYNOD

5/5 Ms Hazel Corrigan
5/5 Ven George Davison
5/5 Rev Gillian Wharton
5/5 Mr Kenneth Gibson

ELECTED MEMBERS

| | | |
|---------|-----|-----------------------|
| Armagh | 2/3 | Ven Andrew Forster* |
| | 1/1 | Rev Matthew Hagan* |
| | 5/5 | Rev Malcolm Kingston |
| | 3/5 | Mr Paul Bruce |
| | 5/5 | Mr Matthew Topley |
| Clogher | 5/5 | Rev Canon Ian Berry |
| | 0/5 | Rev Chris MacBruithin |
| | 5/5 | Mr Walter Pringle |
| | 3/5 | Mr Glenn Moore |

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| | | |
|--------------------------------|-----|--------------------------|
| Derry & Raphoe | 5/5 | Ven Robert Miller |
| | 4/5 | Rev Ian Linton |
| | 5/5 | Mrs Brigid Barrett |
| | 3/5 | Mr Robert Ellis |
| Down & Dromore | 4/5 | Ven Roderic West |
| | 4/5 | Rev James Cheshire |
| | 3/3 | Mrs Hilary McClay~ |
| | 1/1 | Ms Jan Peach ~ |
| | 5/5 | Ms Anna Williams |
| Connor | 4/5 | Rev Trevor Johnston |
| | 4/5 | Rev Barry Forde |
| | 4/5 | Mr Roy Totten |
| | 4/5 | Mrs Judith Cairns |
| Kilmore, Elphin & Ardagh | 5/5 | Rev Canon Hazel Hicks |
| | 5/5 | Rev Ruth West |
| | 4/5 | Ms Laura Dunlop |
| | 1/5 | Ms Sarah Taylor |
| Tuam, Killala & Achonry | 3/5 | Rev Canon Andrea Wills |
| | 4/5 | Ven Stephen McWhirter |
| | 0/1 | Ms Meabh O'Herlihy^ |
| | 3/4 | Ms Ann Walton^ |
| | 2/5 | Ms Caroline Morrow |
| Dublin & Glendalough | 4/5 | Very Rev William Morton |
| | 1/5 | Rev Stephen Farrell |
| | 4/5 | Mr Lyndon MacCann SC |
| | 5/5 | Mr David Webb |
| Meath & Kildare | 3/5 | Rev Canon Isaac Delamere |
| | 1/5 | Rev Damien Ó Cathain |
| | 3/5 | Mrs Joan Bruton |
| | 0/5 | Mr Ronan McKenna |
| Cashel, Ferns & Ossory | 4/5 | Ven Ruth Elmes |
| | 3/5 | Rev Máirt Hanley |
| | 5/5 | Mr Richard Codd |
| | 0/5 | Ms Emma Purser |
| Cork, Cloyne | 3/5 | Ven Adrian Wilkinson |

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| | | |
|------------------------|-----|--------------------|
| & Ross | 2/5 | Rev Sarah Marry |
| | 5/5 | Mr Wilfred Baker |
| | 3/5 | Ms Hilda Connolly |
| Limerick & Killaloe | 1/5 | Ven Simon J. Lumby |
| | 4/5 | Rev John Godfrey |
| | 4/5 | Mr Adrian Hilliard |
| | 3/5 | Mr Edward Hardy |

Co-opted Members

| | | | |
|---------------------------------|-----|--------------------|-----|
| Mr Andrew Brannigan | 5/5 | Rev Gary McMurray | 2/5 |
| Rev Canon Alison Calvin | 5/5 | Mr Alan Williamson | 4/5 |
| Very Rev Nigel Dunne | 4/5 | Mrs Kaye Nesbitt | 3/5 |
| Rev Canon Dr Maurice Elliott | 5/5 | | |

The Secretary General, and the Assistant Secretary of the General Synod, are entitled to attend and speak at meetings of the Standing Committee.

^Ms Meabh O’Herlihy resigned in June 2019. Mrs Ann Walton was elected to the vacant position in September.

~Mrs Hilary McClay resigned in December 2019. Ms Jan Peach was elected to the vacant position in March 2020.

*Following the consecration of Ven Andrew Forster as Bishop of Derry and Raphoe, Rev Matthew Hagan was elected to the vacant place, in March 2020.

COMMITTEES OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE

FINANCE AND ARRANGEMENTS SUB-COMMITTEE

Mr Wilfred Baker
Ven Robert Miller
The Honorary Secretaries

LEGAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

| | |
|--|---|
| His Honour Judge Tom Burgess | Mr Oswyn Paulin |
| His Honour Judge Alistair Devlin | Mr William Prentice |
| Mr Lyndon MacCann SC | His Honour Judge Derek Rodgers |
| The Hon Mrs Justice Catherine McGuinness | The Right Honourable Lord Justice Stephens |
| The Honorary Secretaries | |

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PRIORITIES FUND COMMITTEE

| | |
|---------------------------------------|----------------------|
| Mrs Brigid Barrett | Mr Glenn Moore |
| Mrs Joan Bruton | Mr Roy Totten |
| Ms Hazel Corrigan | Ven Adrian Wilkinson |
| Ven George Davison | |
| Ven Andrew Forster (to December 2019) | |

BUDGET SUB-COMMITTEE

| | |
|--------------------|------------------------|
| Mr Wilfred Baker | Rev Canon Andrea Wills |
| Ms Hazel Corrigan | |
| Ven George Davison | |

WORLD DEVELOPMENT – BISHOPS’ APPEAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

| | |
|----------------------------|------------------------------|
| Rev John Ardis | Rev Canon Jonathan Pierce |
| Rt Rev Dr Ferran Glenfield | Ms Gillian Purser |
| Ms Ruth Handy | Rt Rev Patrick Rooke (Chair) |
| Ms Claire Henderson | Very Rev Niall Sloane |
| Mrs Claire Holmes | |

LAY JUDGES OF THE COURT OF THE GENERAL SYNOD

| | |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| His Honour Judge Tom Burgess | Mr Lyndon MacCann SC |
| His Honour Judge Alistair Devlin | The Hon Mrs Justice Catherine Mc Guinness |
| Mr Charles Galloway | Mr Ronald Robins |
| The Rt Hon Lord Justice Paul Girvan | The Right Honourable Lord Justice Stephens |
| Mr Patrick Good QC | |

3. APPOINTMENTS

During the period covered by this report, the Standing Committee made the following appointments.

| | |
|---|---|
| Annual General Meeting of Churches Together in Britain and Ireland (May 2020) | Rev Canon Dr Ian M. Ellis |
| A voluntary Director of Christian Aid (CoI representative) | Ms Rita Day |
| Irish Inter-Church Meeting (Dromantine, 2st-22 nd November 2019) | Dr Edwin Aiken Mr Peter Cheney Most Rev Dr Richard Clarke Rev Rob Clements Ms Gina Coptly Rev Canon Dr Ian Ellis |

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|---|---|
| | Mr Ken Gibson Rt Rev John McDowell Rev Katharine Poulton |
| AGM of the Irish Council of Churches (2 nd April 2020, Lisburn) | Ms Gina Copty Ms Sarah Crawford Rev Gary Dowd Rev Canon Dr Ian M. Ellis Rt Rev Andrew Forster Mr Ken Gibson Rev Cathy Hallisey Most Rev Dr Michael Jackson Ms Maxine Judge Rev Canon Horace McKinley Mr Philip McKinley Rev Katharine Poulton Rev Ken Rue Very Rev Niall Sloane Dr Catherine Smith Dr Michael Webb Rev David White Rev Canon Gillian Wharton |
| Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends (16th April - 19th April 2020 at Stranmillis University College, Belfast.) | Very Rev John Bond Ms Gina Copty |
| Board of the Association of Church of Ireland Press Limited | Very Rev Dr William Morton |
| Provincial Synod of the Moravian Church in Great Britain and Ireland (9th-13th July in Swanwick, Derbyshire) | Rev Dr William Olhausen (Additionally, Rt Rev Michael Burrows to attend part of the Provincial Synod) |
| General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland (1st-5th June in Belfast) | Rev Alison Calvin Ms Rhonda Willoughby |
| Conference of the Methodist Church in Ireland (10th-14th June, in Lisburn) | Mr Ken Gibson Rev Katharine Poulton |
| Executive of the Irish Council of Churches | Ms Gina Copty Rev Canon Dr Daniel Nuzum Rt Rev Patrick Rooke |

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Nomination to ICC as their Vice-President

Rt Rev Andrew Forster

Church of Ireland representatives on
Anglican Networks

Safe Church Network – Mr Robert Dunne (RoI
Safeguarding Officer)
Environmental Network – Rev Andrew Orr
Peace & Justice Network – Dr David Hutchinson-
Edgar
Anglican Family Network – Ms June Butler
Women’s Network – Ms Jacqueline Armstrong

4. ANGLICAN CONSULTATIVE COUNCIL (ACC-17)

ACC-17 was convened in St John’s Cathedral in Hong Kong, from 28th April-5th May 2019. The Church of Ireland was represented by the Rt Rev Dr Richard Clarke, an elected member of the ACC Standing Committee, and Rev Katharine Poulton, the Church’s lay representative to the ACC, whose report appears as Appendix B on page 184.

5. ADVISORY COUNCIL TO THE CHURCH OF IRELAND CENTRE FOR EDUCATION AT DUBLIN CITY UNIVERSITY

The report of the Advisory Council was received by the Standing Committee in March 2020, and appears as Appendix B on page 189. A report from the Church of Ireland Centre DCU is contained on p. 307 of the Board of Education Report.

6. AUDIT OF ACCOUNTS

In June 2019, the Standing Committee appointed PricewaterhouseCoopers as Auditors of the accounts of the Representative Church Body.

7. BILLS PROCESS – REVISION

In March 2020, the Standing Committee approved proposed revisions to the Bills process for presentation at the General Synod. These are presented as a series of motions to alter the Standing Orders, and a bill to amend part of Chapter One of the Constitution of the Church of Ireland. A summary of the proposed changes is included as Appendix C on page 191.

8. BISHOPS’ APPEAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

In November 2019, the Standing Committee approved the appointment of Mrs Gillian Purser as a member of the Bishops’ Appeal Advisory Committee. The report of the Bishops’ Appeal Advisory Committee appears as Appendix D on page 195.

9. CENTRAL COMMUNICATIONS BOARD

A report from the Central Communications Board incorporating the reports of the Broadcasting Committee and the Literature Committee can be found in Appendix E on page 206.

10. CHARITIES LEGISLATION

In November 2019, the Standing Committee approved the appointment of Ms Hazel Corrigan (alternate), Mr Roy Lawther, Ms Ashley Brown, and Mr Billy Skuse as members of the Charities Registration Monitoring Working Group, and, in January 2020, approved the appointment of Sir Paul Girvan as a member. The Report of the Charities Registration Monitoring Working Group appears as Appendix F on page 214.

11. CHILDREN'S MINISTRY NETWORK

In September 2019, the Standing Committee endorsed a strategic plan for a whole Church of Ireland approach to Children's and Family Ministry. The report of the Children's Ministry Network appears as Appendix G on page 218.

12. CHURCH AND SOCIETY COMMISSION

The Church and Society Commission's report can be found in Appendix H on page 221.

13. CLERGY PENSIONS LEVY

In September 2019, the Standing Committee adopted a resolution on the recommendation of the Representative Church Body that, in accordance with Section 36 of Chapter XIV of the Constitution of the Church of Ireland, and on the recommendation of the Representative Body and the Trustee, the rate of levy to be paid by each diocese towards the cost of securing the solvency of the Clergy Pensions Fund from 1 January 2020 be set at the unchanged percentage level of 13% of the Minimum Approved Stipend in force at 1 January 2020.

14. COMPLAINTS AND DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURE

In January 2020, the Standing Committee considered the 2019 Income and Expenditure report for the Complaints Committee as required under Chapter VIII 23 (e). This report is appended as Appendix I on page 241. Ms Bridget Rippey's appointment as Complaint Administrator for the purposes of the relevant part of Chapter VIII was approved for a further year.

15. CONSULTATIVE GROUP ON DISABILITY

In November 2019, the Standing Committee appointed Rev Aaron McAlister to the membership of the Group, following the resignation of Dr Tim Jackson. The report of the Group is contained as Appendix J on page 242.

16. FACILITATION COMMITTEE

The membership of the Facilitation Committee was ratified at the 2017 General Synod. Its report, which marks the end of its term of appointment, is appended as Appendix K on page 245.

17. GENERAL SYNOD 2021

The General Synod of 2021 will be held from 13th-15th May in the Armagh City Hotel, Armagh.

18. GENERAL SYNOD/STANDING COMMITTEE FINANCES

In September 2019, the Budget Sub-Committee presented its report to the Standing Committee. The report was accepted by the Standing Committee.

19. GENERAL SYNOD REPRESENTATION WORKING GROUP

The General Synod Representation Working Group was set up, as requested by the General Synod of 2018, by the Standing Committee, in June. It is composed of one member of the Standing Committee from each diocese and two Honorary Secretaries, and its brief is to consider the contents of the withdrawn Bill to Amend Chapter I of the Constitution and the proposed amendments to that Bill with a focus to developing a report and legislative proposals for presentation at the General Synod of 2019. The report of the Working Group is contained as Appendix L on page 252 and its legislation is presented to Synod.

20. GENERAL SYNOD ROYALTIES FUND

The value of the Fund at 31st December 2019 was €212,983.23 and -£ 21.90 (debit). During the year the following allocations were made from the Pension Fund:

- That a contribution of €1,000 be made from the GS Royalties Fund towards the publication by Four Courts Press with Church of Ireland Publishing of *A Churchwarden's Account of the Parish of St Bride, 1663-1792*, ed. Ronnie Wallace.
- That a grant of €2,000 be made from the GS Royalties Fund to the Rev Canon Dr Maurice Elliott and the Rev Dr Paddy McGlinchey to subvent the publication by Wipf and Stock Publishers of *Perspectives on Spirituality and Prayer* on the condition that the publication includes an

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acknowledgement to the General Synod Royalties Fund and carries the Church of Ireland logo and that a copy of the published work is presented to the RCB Library.

- That a grant of £4,000 be made from the GS Royalties Fund to the Liturgical Advisory Committee to print and distribute to parishes *A Treasure in Clay Jars: Thoughts and Reflections on the Canticles*.
- That a contribution of £1,776 be made from the GS Royalties Fund towards the further development of the Worship app (in particular, the formatting of the Psalms to be consonant with the formularies in the Book of Common Prayer).
- That a subvention of €12,000 be provided to support the publication by Church of Ireland Publishing of a book entitled *A Visual Window to an Ecclesiastical World: the Architectural Drawings Collection of the Church of Ireland*.
- That a grant of €4,500 be provided from the GS Royalties Fund to subvent the publication of SEARCH: a Church of Ireland Journal.

21. HISTORICAL CENTENARIES WORKING GROUP

The report of the Working Group may be found as Appendix M on page 253.

22. HISTORIOGRAPHER'S REPORT

A report from the Church of Ireland Historiographer, Dr Kenneth Milne, is included as Appendix N on page 256.

23. MINIMUM APPROVED STIPENDS

Under Section 51(1) of Chapter IV of the Constitution of the Church of Ireland as revised by Chapter IV of 2011, the Standing Committee is required to consider recommendations from the Representative Church Body as to the rates of Minimum Approved Stipends to take effect from 1 January 2020.

At its meeting of 17th September 2019, the Standing Committee heard a submission by Mr Henry Saville, Chairman of the Executive of the Representative Church Body, which detailed the background to the RCB's recommendations.

The Standing Committee approved the recommendations of the Representative Church Body with the adoption of the following resolution:

That, in accordance with Section 51 (1) of Chapter IV of the Constitution of the Church of Ireland, and as recommended by the Stipends Committee and the Representative Body for onward recommendation to the Standing Committee, Minimum Approved Stipends shall be as follows with effect from 1 January 2020, being increased by 2.0% in Northern Ireland and by 1.0% in the Republic of Ireland:

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- a) no stipend shall be less than £30,195 per annum in Northern Ireland or €38,234 per annum in the Republic of Ireland in the case of an Incumbent or a member of the clergy appointed as Bishop's Curate under the provisions of Section 42 of Chapter IV or of a Diocesan Curate over the age of 30 years appointed under the provisions of Section 43 of Chapter IV.
- b) the stipend for a Curate-Assistant shall be in accordance with the following scale:

| | | |
|----------------------------|-------|----------------------------------|
| First Year | 75.0% | of minimum stipend for incumbent |
| Second Year | 77.5% | " |
| Third Year | 80.0% | " |
| Fourth Year | 82.5% | " |
| Fifth and succeeding Years | 85.0% | " |

24. PENSIONABLE STIPENDS

Under Section 2 of Chapter XIV of the Constitution of the Church of Ireland as revised by Chapter V of 2011, the Standing Committee is required to consider a recommendation from the Representative Church Body and the Church of Ireland Clergy Pensions Trustee Limited as to the rates of Pensionable Stipend to take effect from 1 January 2020.

At its meeting of 17th September 2019, the Standing Committee heard a presentation by Mr Henry Saville, Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Representative Church Body, which detailed the financial background to the recommendations of the RCB and the Church of Ireland Clergy Pensions Trustee Limited.

The Standing Committee approved the recommendations of the Representative Church Body by adopting the following resolution:

That, as recommended by the Executive Committee and the Trustee, in accordance with Section 1 of Chapter XIV of the Constitution of the Church of Ireland, Pensionable Stipend shall be as follows with effect from 1 January 2020, remaining unchanged from 2019:

(a) Pensionable Stipend shall be £25,498 per annum in Northern Ireland and €36,219 per annum in the Republic of Ireland in the case of an Incumbent or a member of the clergy appointed as Bishop's Curate under the provisions of Section 42 of Chapter IV or of a Diocesan Curate over the age of 30 years appointed under the provisions of Section 43 of Chapter IV.

(b) Pensionable Stipend for a Curate-Assistant shall be in accordance with the following scale:

| | | |
|-------------|-------|--------------------------------------|
| First Year | 75.0% | of Pensionable Stipend for incumbent |
| Second Year | 77.5% | " |

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| | | |
|----------------------------|-------|---|
| Third Year | 80.0% | " |
| Fourth Year | 82.5% | " |
| Fifth and succeeding Years | 85.0% | " |

25. PRIORITIES FUND

The accounts of the Priorities Fund and the grants, approved by Standing Committee in March 2020, are contained as Appendix O on page 259.

26. CHURCH OF IRELAND SAFE GUARDING BOARD

The report of the Safeguarding Trust Board appears as Appendix P on page 269.

27. SECONDARY EDUCATION COMMITTEE

In March 2020, the Standing Committee re-nominated Mr Wilfred Baker, Ms Hazel Corrigan, Mr Roy Crowe, Ms Elizabeth Hassell, Rev Robert Jones, Rev Katharine Poulton, Ms Kara Turner, and Ms Joyce Ryder, to the AGM of the SEC, until March 2021.

28. STANDING COMMITTEE INCOME AND EXPENDITURE AND GENERAL PURPOSES FUND ACCOUNTS 2019

The accounts are contained as Appendix Q on page 275.

29. WORKING GROUPS FOR REFUGEES

The report of the Refugee Working Groups, established by the House of Bishops in response to the refugee and migration crisis, may be found as Appendix R on page 284. These Groups will no longer meet, but their work will be carried on by the European Affairs Working Group.