

GENERAL SYNOD
OF THE
CHURCH OF IRELAND

2021

BILLS

AND

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDA

INTRODUCTION

This pamphlet contains those Bills which were lodged with the Honorary Secretaries of the General Synod at least six weeks before the day appointed for the opening of the session of the Synod.

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, and that there is a day's interval for reflection before final approval is given.

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.

In the case of Special Bills leave to introduce such a Bill may be given only at an ordinary session of the Synod; leave having been given, the Bill shall be deemed to have been read a first time, but it shall not be processed further until the next ordinary session when it will come before the Synod for second reading.

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.

In the case of Special Bills, an amendment can be moved on Committee stage only if notice has been given in the previous session, except for any dealing with omissions or grammatical errors.

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

On the third day the Report stage is taken. Any amendments which have been lodged with the Honorary Secretaries before the close of business on the second day will appear on the supplemental agenda paper for the third day. After these 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.

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BILL NO. 1

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

When the General Synod was established by the General Convention of 1870, diocesan representation in the House of Representatives was based on one clerical member for every 10 priests at that time and two lay members for each clerical member. The total number of representatives produced on this basis, 624, has remained largely unchanged since.

The last change to the diocesan allocation of seats took place in 1969 when 14 dioceses were re-allocated 648 House of Representative seats among them. With the exception of the merging of 14 dioceses into 12, this diocesan representation has remained since 1969. It is therefore 50 years since this last modification to the House of Representatives. Since then the change in totality and spread of the Church of Ireland population has created an imbalance in representation.

This Bill seeks to amend Chapter I of the Constitution to achieve the following five aims:

1. To preserve the role of General Synod as a unifying, legislative and representative body for the whole of the Church of Ireland by establishing a proportional and representative formula to allocate seats.
2. To increase the flexibility and functionality of General Synod as a debating forum and administrative body by reducing synod membership, recognising the changed size of the Church of Ireland, thereby allowing for more choice of venue, reduction in costs and giving higher value to General Synod membership. The proposal is to introduce the changes on a phased basis over two triennia as shown in the table in the attached Bill.
3. To make provision for regular review of the number of members of the General Synod and the distribution of members. It is proposed that a review would be scheduled every three triennia - nine years - with the review instigated by the Honorary Secretaries of the General Synod at least two years prior to the due date. Any such review should take account of the life and ministry of the church at that time, new emerging ministries and consider appropriate provincial and diocesan balances.
4. To introduce a process to amend representation on the occasion of the amalgamation of two or more dioceses – allowing that no change shall be applied to membership during the balance of any three-triennial period before the next scheduled review date.
5. The legislation aims to achieve a more proportional and equitable spread of membership across the House of Representatives, whilst ensuring that the voices of the smaller dioceses are not lost. To achieve this, the following formula is proposed:
 - (a) Allocate a number of representatives equal to the number of cures in each diocese or united diocese as is already agreed between the Representative Body and Diocesan Council[s] for the purposes of section 39 of Part V of Chapter VI of the Constitution;
 - (b) Additional places are allocated on a sliding scale - one additional place for the diocese with the largest number of cures, two to the next largest and so on;
 - (c) To maintain the original constitutional requirement of two lay representatives to each clerical representative, this Bill, after the application of the model outlined above, rounds up as required, to achieve the two lay to every one clerical place.

Number of Representatives based on a House of Representatives at General Synod equal to the number of cures plus the 1 to 12 sliding scale of additional places

	Current allocation of General Synod places		Transitional period 2024-2026 (inclusive)		Three-triennial period 2027-2032 (inclusive)	
	Clerical	Lay	Clerical	Lay	Clerical	Lay
Armagh	18	36	17	34	16	32
Clogher	14	28	14	28	13	26
Derry & Raphoe	20	40	19	38	18	36
Down & Dromore	30	60	28	56	26	52
Connor	32	64	29	58	26	52
Kilmore, Elphin & Ardagh	13	26	12	24	11	22
Tuam, Killala & Achonry	7	14	7	14	7	14
Dublin & Glendalough	22	44	21	42	19	38
Meath & Kildare	11	22	10	20	9	18
Cashel Ferns & Ossory	21	42	17	34	13	26
Cork Cloyne & Ross	14	28	13	26	11	22
Limerick & Killaloe	14	28	12	24	9	18
TOTAL REPRESENTATION	648		597		534	

Mr Ken Gibson
Ven Ruth Elmes

BILL

To amend Chapter I of the Constitution

WHEREAS it is desirable that the principles upon which the clerical and lay representatives to the General Synod to represent the several dioceses and united dioceses of the Church of Ireland be set out in the Constitution of the Church of Ireland;

AND WHEREAS it is expedient to establish a regular review of the size and distribution of the membership of the House of Representatives;

AND WHEREAS it is desirable that the Table contained in Section 4(2) of Part 1 of Chapter I of the said Constitution be replaced;

AND WHEREAS for such purposes it is necessary to amend Chapter I of the Constitution;

BE IT ENACTED by the Archbishops and Bishops, and the clergy and laity of the Church of Ireland in General Synod assembled by means of electronic communications technology pursuant to section 30 of the Civil Law and Criminal Law (Miscellaneous Provisions Act) 2020 in the year 2021, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1. In this Statute “Chapter I” means Chapter I of the Constitution of the Church of Ireland, “Chapter VI” means Chapter VI of the Constitution of the Church of Ireland and the term “cure” shall have the same meaning as contained in section 39 of Part V of Chapter VI of the Constitution.

2. For section 4(1) of Part 1 of Chapter I there shall be substituted the following:

‘4(1) (a) The House of Representatives shall consist of representatives of the clergy and representatives of the laity in the proportion of two lay members for each clerical member, to be elected as hereinafter provided.

(b) Subject to section 4(2), the number of representatives to be returned to the General Synod by each diocese or united diocese shall be in the proportion of one representative to every cure within that diocese or united diocese as the case may be.

(c) In addition, to ensure that the voices of the smaller dioceses can be heard, further places will be awarded, one to the diocese with the largest number of cures, two to the next largest and so on. Where two or more dioceses have the same number of cures, they shall all receive the same number of additional places, which shall be calculated as one less than the additional places awarded to the next smallest diocese; provided that the total number of representative positions for each diocese or united diocese[s] is divisible by three or, where this is not the case, shall be rounded up to the next number divisible by three.

(d) Subject to section 4(2), on the occasion of the amalgamation of any two or more dioceses, representation at the time of amalgamation shall be fixed until the review as therein prescribed.

3. For section 4(2) of Part 1 of Chapter I there shall be substituted the following:

‘4(2) (a) The number of representatives, clerical and lay, specified for the triennia from 2024 to 2032, to be returned to represent General Synod and the several dioceses and united dioceses shall be as set out in the following Table, providing for a phased introduction in the triennial periods commencing in 2024 and 2027 respectively.

Number of Representatives based on a House of Representatives at General Synod equal to the number of cures plus the 1 to 12 sliding scale of additional places

	2024-2026		2027-2032	
	Clerical	Lay	Clerical	Lay
Armagh	17	34	16	32
Clogher	14	28	13	26
Derry & Raphoe	19	38	18	36
Down & Dromore	28	56	26	52
Connor	29	58	26	52
Kilmore, Elphin & Ardagh	12	24	11	22
Tuam, Killala & Achonry	7	14	7	14
Dublin & Glendalough	21	42	19	38
Meath & Kildare	10	20	9	18
Cashel Ferns & Ossory	17	34	13	26
Cork Cloyne & Ross	13	26	11	22
Limerick & Killaloe	12	24	9	18
TOTAL REPRESENTATION	597		534	

(b) A review of General Synod representation shall commence in the first year of the triennium beginning in 2030, with any consequent changes agreed by General Synod to take effect in 2033, and a review shall take place every third triennium thereafter.

(c) Any such review shall take the following into consideration:

- the life and ministry of the Church of Ireland at that time;
- the establishment of new forms of ministry other than cures;
- provincial boundaries and balance so that neither province thereafter has two-thirds or more, of the overall representation;
- diocesan balance, so that no diocese thereafter has less than half or more than twice the average number of representatives.

4. For section 4(3) of Part 1 of Chapter I there shall be substituted the following:

‘4(3) The diocesan synod[s] of the several dioceses composing each united diocese[s] may from time to time make such mutual arrangements as to them shall seem fit for apportioning among such dioceses respectively the number of representatives allotted to the several united dioceses in accordance with section 4. In default of agreement being reached the apportionment shall be made by the bishop, whose decision shall be final.’

BILL NO. 2

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

This Bill has a very simple purpose, namely to ensure that those who act as parochial nominators at a time of vacancy have within their ranks a measure of gender balance. At present, all of the parochial nominators could be male or all female. Given that the parochial nominators typically undertake many of the duties and obligations of a Board of Nomination in meeting clergy to discern whether they might be nominated to a vacant cure, this Bill seeks to ensure that priests should not be faced with parochial nominators, all of whom are men, or all of whom are women. Ensuring a measure of gender balance amongst parochial nominators will also assist in representing the demographic of the parish or group of parishes. This adjustment to the method of selecting nominators should not cause inconvenience even in extensive parochial groups, where for the specific purpose of appointing nominators, a group of parishes functions as a single unit and is deemed to be akin to a union in accordance with Chapter III section 29 of the Constitution.

MRS HAZEL CORRIGAN
MR WILFRED BAKER

BILL

To amend Chapter IV of the Constitution of the Church of Ireland

WHEREAS it is desirable that the parochial nominators for each cure should include at least one woman and at least one man;

AND WHEREAS for this purpose it is necessary to amend Chapter IV of the Constitution of the Church of Ireland;

BE IT ENACTED by the Archbishops and Bishops and by the clergy and laity of the Church of Ireland in General Synod assembled by means of electronic communications technology pursuant to section 30 of the Civil Law and Criminal Law (Miscellaneous Provisions Act) 2020 in the year 2021 and by the authority of the same, as follows: -

1. In this Statute, 'Chapter IV' means Chapter IV of the Constitution of the Church of Ireland.
2. In Chapter IV, section 5 (1) shall be amended by substitution of the following:

5 (1) At the Easter vestry in the year 2023 and in every third year thereafter, the registered vestry members of each parish, parochial district or union or group of parishes under one incumbent, and, in the case of chapels without districts, the registered vestry members of such chapels

- (a) shall elect the requisite number of qualified persons to be parochial nominators for the said parish, of whom at least one shall be a woman and at least one shall be a man, and
- (b) shall then elect by ballot an equal number of persons to be supplemental nominators, of whom at least one shall be a woman and at least one shall be a man. The names of the supplemental nominators so elected shall be placed in order on a list in accordance with the number of votes received; in any case of equality of votes the order upon the list shall be determined by lot. Any vacancy in the number of parochial nominators shall be filled by the person whose name stands highest on the list of supplemental parochial nominators unless such action would result in the parochial nominators all being men or would result in the parochial nominators all being women, in which case the supplemental parochial nominator who shall fill the vacancy shall be the person whose name stands nearest to the top of the list and whose gender is such as will not result in the parochial nominators all being men or all being women, as the case may be.

3. In Chapter IV, section 6 (1) shall be amended shall be amended by substitution of the following:

- (a) Upon the occurrence of a vacancy, by death or otherwise, in the number of the parochial nominators during their period of office which cannot be filled by a supplemental nominator, the registered vestry members shall, at a special general vestry duly convened in accordance with the provisions of Chapter III, elect a qualified person to fill such vacancy and shall also fill any vacancies in the list of supplemental nominators provided only that the parochial nominators must at all times include at least one man and at least one woman, as must the list of supplemental nominators.

4. In Chapter IV, section 7, shall be amended shall be amended by substitution of the following:

7. In the event of a general vestry failing to elect nominators, or to supply a vacancy in their number within two months after its occurrence, it shall be competent for the diocesan council to appoint nominators, or to supply such vacancy; provided that the person or persons so appointed shall hold office only until the next Easter vestry, when the registered vestry members shall be at liberty to fill the vacancy, and provided also that at all times at least one of the nominators shall be a man and at least one shall be a woman.

5. In Chapter IV, section 8 (3) shall be amended shall be amended by substitution of the following:

(3) If a nominator or supplemental nominator fails to comply with the provisions of subsection (2) of this section, the bishop shall order a new election for a nominator or supplemental nominator as the case may be; provided that the bishop shall have power to extend the time for such compliance if it be certified to the bishop that the failure to comply has been caused by absence or other unavoidable circumstances. Any election which has been so ordered by the bishop shall be required to ensure that, as a result, at least one of the nominators or supplemental nominators, as the case may be, shall be a man and at least one shall be a woman.

6. In Chapter IV, section 9 shall be amended shall be amended by substitution of the following:

9. Whenever a vacancy in a cure of souls shall occur, if the bishop, after communicating or endeavouring to communicate with the parochial nominators, has reason to believe that any one or more of them is unable, by reason of illness, absence or other reasonable cause, to take part in the proceedings for filling the said vacancy, the bishop shall direct that a supplemental nominator shall be summoned and shall act in the place of each absent parochial nominator in such proceedings, until the said vacancy has been filled. The supplemental nominators shall be summoned in their order as returned by the vestry, unless the effect of such action would result in all those acting as parochial nominators being men or all being women, in which case the bishop shall summon the supplemental parochial nominator the person whose name stands nearest to the top of the list and whose gender is such as will not result in the parochial nominators all being men or all being women, as the case may be.

7. Nothing in this statute shall affect the parochial nominators and supplemental nominators elected at the Easter Vestry of 2020 who shall remain in office until the Easter Vestry of 2023. Any vacancies that occur in the parochial nominators and supplemental nominators elected at the Easter Vestry of 2020 shall be filled in the manner provided for had this statute not been enacted.

BILL NO. 3

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

The aim of this Bill is to ensure that there is no conflict of interest or loyalty for diocesan lay nominators.

Ms Hazel Corrigan
Mr Wilfred Baker

BILL

To amend Chapter IV of the Constitution

WHEREAS it is desirable that there should be no conflict of interest or loyalty for diocesan lay nominators;

AND WHEREAS for this purpose it is necessary to amend Chapter IV of the Constitution of the Church of Ireland;

BE IT ENACTED by the Archbishops and Bishops and by the clergy and laity of the Church of Ireland in General Synod assembled by means of electronic communications technology pursuant to section 30 of the Civil Law and Criminal Law (Miscellaneous Provisions Act) 2020 in the year 2021 and by the authority of the same as follows:

1. In this Statute, 'Chapter IV' means Chapter IV of the Constitution of the Church of Ireland.
2. In Chapter IV, section 12 shall be amended by substitution of the following:

(1) No person shall act, or be capable of acting, as a diocesan nominator with respect to any parish of which such person shall be at the time a registered vestry member, and the bishop shall summon in that person's place to act as diocesan nominator on the Board of Nomination the person whose name stands highest on the lay supplemental list of the Committee of Patronage.

Bill No. 4

Explanatory Memorandum

The aim of this Bill is to recognise the developments in communication, and what happens in practice, in most, if not all, dioceses. It is to ensure that clergy who are nominated to a parish (or parishes) are informed promptly, and to allow an element of flexibility for the bishop giving that person time to reach a decision, whilst at the same time ensuring that the Board of Nomination acts in an efficient and a timely fashion.

With the advent of social media, it is important that those who are not nominated, but who may have been considered, or who may have expressed an interest in the cure, are informed that an appointment has been made before such appointment enters the public domain.

Ms Hazel Corrigan
Mr Wilfred Baker

BILL

To amend Chapter IV of the Constitution

WHEREAS it is desirable that there should be timely communication to clergy who are nominated to a parish, and to those who have been considered, or been willing to be considered, for the parish, but who have not been nominated;

AND WHEREAS for this purpose it is necessary to amend Chapter IV of the Constitution of the Church of Ireland;

BE IT ENACTED by the Archbishops and Bishops and by the clergy and laity of the Church of Ireland in General Synod assembled by means of electronic communications technology pursuant to section 30 of the Civil Law and Criminal Law (Miscellaneous Provisions Act) 2020 in the year 2021 and by the authority of the same as follows:

To amend Chapter IV of the Constitution

1. In this Statute, 'Chapter IV' means Chapter IV of the Constitution of the Church of Ireland.
2. In Chapter IV, section 20 shall be amended by substitution of the following:
 - (1) The person nominated as aforesaid shall immediately thereafter be notified of the fact by the person chairing the Board or the secretary of the Board. The person nominated shall be considered to have declined the nomination if such person does not accept the same by letter addressed to the bishop within a time to be fixed by the bishop. If such person shall accept, but through any default on the part of that person shall fail to be instituted within a time to be fixed by the bishop, that person's nomination shall be null and void; and in such case, and also in case that person shall decline to accept the nomination as aforesaid, the bishop shall re-summon the Board of Nomination, provided that the time which shall have elapsed between the nomination or choice and its rejection, or default of institution, as aforesaid, shall not be counted in the three months allowed to the Board of Nomination for action.
 - (2) Those clergy who have been considered for nomination to the cure, or who have indicated a willingness to be considered for nomination, but who have not been nominated shall be so informed in a timely fashion, before any announcement regarding the nomination is made by or on behalf of the bishop.

BILL NO. 5

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

In 2019, the General Synod enacted a Statute ‘To transfer a portion of the Diocese of Achonry within the United Dioceses of Tuam, Killala and Achonry to the Diocese of Elphin within the United Dioceses of Kilmore, Elphin and Ardagh; to alter the territorial boundaries of the Provinces of Armagh and Dublin by transferring the United Dioceses of Tuam, Killala and Achonry from the Province of Armagh to the Province of Dublin: and to unite under one bishop the two United Dioceses of Tuam, Killala and Achonry and Limerick, Ardfert, Aghadoe, Killaloe, Kilfenora, Clonfert, Kilmacduagh and Emly and for associated matters’.

The Statute provides for the union of the United Dioceses of Tuam, Killala and Achonry with the United Dioceses of Limerick and Killaloe under one bishop at a future date. The Statute also provides that on the retirement of either bishop the sees would be united and the bishop still serving would become bishop of the new United Dioceses of Tuam, Limerick and Killaloe.

The Schedule to the Statute contained a special provision to deal with the unlikely situation that vacancies arose in both sees before the necessary resolutions under the statute could be passed by both diocesan synods and communicated to the Honorary Secretaries of the General Synod. However, the Statute did not consider the situation where both sees become vacant at the same time following the passing of the necessary resolutions and by both diocesan synods and the notification thereof to the Honorary Secretaries.

The Bishop of Tuam, Killala and Achonry and the Bishop of Limerick and Killaloe have both signalled their intention to resign on the same date, meaning that it will not be possible for the two sees to unite under one bishop in the way envisaged by the Statute. It will be necessary to convene an episcopal electoral college for the new see.

This Bill provides for the electoral procedure detailed in the Schedule to the 2019 Statute to be used where both sees become vacant at the same time and an episcopal electoral college is required to choose a new bishop for the united see.

Rev Canon Gillian Wharton
Rev Canon Malcolm Kingston

BILL

To provide procedures for the election of a bishop for the United Dioceses of Tuam, Limerick and Killaloe in the event of the sees of Limerick and Killaloe and of Tuam, Killala and Achonry falling vacant simultaneously.

WHEREAS Statute Chapter III of 2019 provided for the union under one bishop of the two United Dioceses of Tuam, Killala and Achonry and Limerick, Ardfert, Aghadoe, Killaloe, Kilfenora, Clonfert, Kilmacduagh and Emly;

AND WHEREAS, the Diocesan Synods of the United Dioceses of Tuam, Killala and Achonry and the United Dioceses of Limerick, Ardfert, Aghadoe, Killaloe, Kilfenora, Clonfert, Kilmacduagh and Emly at their respective meetings in 2019 having passed resolutions consenting to the provisions of the Statute Chapter III of 2019 taking effect, and having communicated notice thereof to the Honorary Secretaries of the General Synod;

AND WHEREAS, the Bishop of Tuam, Killala and Achonry and the Bishop of Limerick, Ardfert, Aghadoe, Killaloe, Kilfenora, Clonfert, Kilmacduagh and Emly having both signalled their intention to resign their sees on the same date, 31st October 2021, creating a vacancy in both sees simultaneously;

BE IT ENACTED by the Archbishops and Bishops and the clergy and laity of the Church of Ireland in General Synod assembled by means of electronic communications technology pursuant to section 30 of the Civil Law and Criminal Law (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2020, in the year 2021 and by the authority of the same as follows:

1. In the event that vacancies exist in both the See of Tuam, Killala and Achonry and the See of Limerick, Ardfert, Aghadoe, Killaloe, Kilfenora, Clonfert, Kilmacduagh and Emly after the date on which the Honorary Secretaries have received notification of the passing of resolutions by the synods of both Sees consenting to the provisions in Statute Chapter III of 2019 taking effect, the provisions of the Schedule hereto, relating to the election of a bishop for the United Dioceses of Tuam, Limerick and Killaloe, shall have effect.

SCHEDULE

1. In this Schedule, “the new see” means the United Dioceses of Tuam, Limerick and Killaloe.
2. In this Schedule, “Chapter VI” means Chapter VI of the Constitution.
3. In the event that vacancies exist in both the see of Tuam, Killala and Achonry and the see of Limerick, Ardfert, Aghadoe, Killaloe, Kilfenora, Clonfert, Kilmacduagh and Emly after the date upon which notice of the passing of both the resolutions prescribed in section 2(1)(a) of Statute Chapter III of 2019 shall have been given to the Honorary Secretaries of the General Synod, an episcopal electoral college shall be constituted, convened and held for the purpose of electing a bishop for the new see.
4. Subject to paragraphs 5 and 6 below, the provisions of Chapter VI shall apply to the said election of a bishop for the new see as if the new see were a vacant see in the Province of Dublin.
5. For the purposes of section 4(c) of Chapter VI, the twelve diocesan clerical and twelve diocesan lay episcopal electors from the new see shall be the first four diocesan clerical episcopal electors and the first four diocesan lay episcopal electors from the respective lists of the dioceses of Tuam, Killala and Achonry and the first eight diocesan clerical episcopal electors and the first eight diocesan lay episcopal electors from the respective lists of the dioceses of Limerick, Ardfert, Aghadoe, Killaloe, Kilfenora, Clonfert, Kilmacduagh and Emly, including supplementals in each case where necessary, and those twenty-four persons shall be summoned to attend the meetings of the College as episcopal electors under section 8(1)(g)(ii) of Chapter VI.
6. For the purposes of section 8(1)(b) of Chapter VI, the twenty-four persons designated under paragraph 5 above shall be deemed to be the diocesan episcopal electors with whom the person appointed to assist the diocesan episcopal electors to prepare a diocesan profile and statement of needs for submission to the first meeting of the College shall engage.