

## **General Synod 2022**

### **Standing Committee Report**

**Secunder: Ms Hilda Connolly**

**Check Against Delivery · Embargo Until Delivery**

Archbishop,

Following on from what the proposer has mentioned in his report, I am one of those people who had not met a lot of the group here today until I was elected on to General Synod and then on to Standing Committee back in 2018. And this has led to a lot of opportunities and networking within my own job, as well as getting down to the nitty-gritty of the work of the Standing Committee.

As you can see from the reports, there was a sub-group created for Standing Committee earlier this year, to explore the possibility of future use of videoconferencing for meetings and looking into other options to make meetings more accessible for people across Ireland. This is still a work in progress but nevertheless there has been a lot of positive discussions around the pros and cons of the issues being raised. Which again brings me back to the proposer's report when he mentions that a group like this brings 'diversity of knowledge and opinions' to the table which means hopefully, all angles will be covered and discussed fairly and to its full potential.

I would also like to highlight the report on page 202, Appendix E, from the Central Communications Board on its extensive broadcasting and news feeds via social media and TV. And not to forget the old reliable *Gazette*. In a time which we thought we would never see, the broadcasting and live streaming of services online were beneficial and needed by all. But also, the news that travels around Ireland through Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram, to name but a few, is very popular and encouraging to read each week.

Again, it has been a source of great communication for me in my role as Diocesan Youth Officer in Cork, Cloyne and Ross, it is great to see what is going on around our parishes and dioceses around the country. So, I would like to commend the board and the media officers for the support and all the work that goes into these areas.

And finally, another great love of mine, you will find on page 249, Appendix M, the report from the Safeguarding Board.

As someone who works with minors, I understand the importance of the training and policies brought forward by this board for our volunteers, staff, and youth leaders.

And I would also like to acknowledge the new system of online Safeguarding training, as it was often impossible for some of our younger volunteers to get to a particular venue at certain times due to college or work. This has had a huge impact on the number of people receiving their training without delay.

Safeguarding training is extremely important for the safety and care when working with children and young people. I know it is the bane of my life trying to get it all sorted for my volunteers, and the clergy

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nearly have me blocked from their emails at this stage, but without it, we have no youth leaders and without youth leaders, I cannot run events. And without events, I would never hear the end of it!

In closing, I am sure you will all join in on wishing Mrs Margaret Yarr a happy retirement from her post as Safeguarding Officer for Northern Ireland. And welcome to Ms Gillian Taylor on her new post.

And on that note, we would like to take this opportunity to thank the Honorary Secretaries and all the staff of Church House for your patience and hard work.

Your Grace, I am pleased to second the report of the Standing Committee.