

GENERAL SYNOD  
OF THE  
CHURCH OF IRELAND

2023

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.

## CONTENTS

The following Bills were lodged with the Honorary Secretaries of the General Synod before 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023:

<b>BILL NO. 1</b>	<b>REV CANON GILLIAN WHARTON</b> <b>MR KEN GIBSON</b>	
Explanatory Memorandum		5
To amend Chapter III of the Constitution of the Church of Ireland		6
<b>BILL NO. 2</b>	<b>REV CANON MALCOLM KINGSTON</b> <b>MS HAZEL CORRIGAN</b>	
Explanatory Memorandum		9
To amend Chapter III of the Church of Ireland		10
<b>BILL NO. 3</b>	<b>REV CANON GILLIAN WHARTON</b> <b>MR KEN GIBSON</b>	
Explanatory Memorandum		12
To amend Chapter I of the Constitution of the Church of Ireland		13
<b>BILL NO. 4</b>	<b>REV CANON MALCOLM KINGSTON</b> <b>MS HAZEL CORRIGAN</b>	
Explanatory Memorandum		15
To amend Chapter I of the Constitution of the Church of Ireland		16
<b>BILL NO. 5</b>	<b>VERY REV DR WILLIAM MORTON</b> <b>REV CANON JENNIFER MCWHIRTER</b>	
Explanatory Memorandum		17
To amend Part II of Chapter VII of the Constitution of the Church of Ireland		18
<b>BILL NO. 6</b>	<b>THE BISHOP OF DERRY AND RAPHOE</b> <b>THE BISHOP OF KILMORE, ELPHIN AND ARDAGH</b>	
Explanatory Memorandum		19
To amend chapter IX of the Constitution of the Church of Ireland		20

<b>BILL NO. 7</b>	<b>MS HAZEL CORRIGAN</b>	
	<b>REV CANON GILLIAN WHARTON</b>	
Explanatory Memorandum		21
To amend chapter XVII of the Constitution of the Church of Ireland		22
<b>BILL NO. 8</b>	<b>MR ROBERT NEILL</b>	
	<b>VEN BARRY FORDE</b>	
Explanatory Memorandum		24
To amend chapter XIV of the Constitution of the Church of Ireland		25
<b>BILL NO. 9</b>	<b>MR ROBERT NEILL</b>	
	<b>VEN BARRY FORDE</b>	
Explanatory Memorandum		27
To amend chapter XIV of the Constitution of the Church of Ireland		29

## **BILL NO. 1**

### **EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM**

At present, under Chapter III of the Constitution of the Church of Ireland, every vestry member must sign a 'Form of Declaration' stating that they are a member of the Church of Ireland and either resident in the parish (Form No 1) or an accustomed member of the congregation (Form No 2). The relevant forms used for this purpose are contained in the Schedule to Chapter III of the Constitution of the Church of Ireland. The purpose of this Bill is to simplify both forms, so that the address of the individual filling out the form need only be supplied once and so that more space is provided for the input of personal details.

REV CANON GILLIAN WHARTON

MR KEN GIBSON

**BILL**

**To amend Chapter III of the Constitution of the Church of Ireland**

WHEREAS it is deemed not necessary for an individual to supply the details of their residential address more than once in the completion of the ‘Form of declaration by a resident’ and the ‘Form of declaration by an accustomed member of a congregation’ found in the Schedule to Chapter III of the Constitution of the Church of Ireland;

AND WHEREAS it has been deemed preferable that more space be provided for the input of personal details in the abovementioned forms;

AND WHEREAS for this purpose it is necessary to amend Chapter III of the Constitution;

BE IT ENACTED by the Archbishops and Bishops and by the clergy and laity of the Church of Ireland in General Synod assembled in Wexford and subsequently by electronic communications technology in accordance with the provisions of section 14 of Chapter I of the Constitution of the Church of Ireland in the year 2023 and by the authority of the same, as follows:-

1. In this Bill, ‘Chapter III’ means Chapter III of the Constitution of the Church of Ireland.
2. That for the ‘Form of declaration by a resident’ in the Schedule to Chapter III of the Constitution there shall be substituted the ‘Form of declaration by a resident’ contained in the Schedule to this Bill.
3. That for the ‘Form of declaration by an accustomed member of a congregation’ in the Schedule to Chapter III of the Constitution there shall be substituted the ‘Form of declaration by an accustomed member of a congregation’ contained in the Schedule to this Bill.

**SCHEDULE**

**No 1 - Form of declaration by a resident**

I, [A.B.....], do hereby solemnly declare that I am a member of the Church of Ireland, and that I am usually resident at the address below, in the parish or district of....., in the diocese of ....., and that I am not registered as a vestry member in any church or chapel or church hall within the same parish or district as an accustomed member of the congregation.

Signed .....

Name (in block capitals) .....

Address .....

.....

.....

Date.....

**No 2 - Form of declaration by an accustomed member**

I, [A.B.....] of the below address, do hereby solemnly declare that I am a member of the Church of Ireland, and that I have for three calendar months last past been, and now am, an accustomed member of the congregation attending the church or chapel or church hall of....., in the parish or district of ..... in the diocese of....., and that I am not registered as a vestry member in any church or chapel or church hall in Ireland as an accustomed member of the congregation.

Signed .....

Name (in block capitals) .....

Address .....

.....

.....

Date.....



## **BILL NO. 2**

### **EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM**

Being mindful of more effective means of communication in the modern age, the purpose of this Bill is to remove from the Constitution of the Church of Ireland the necessity of affixing to the principal door of the church, chapel or church hall notice of the revision of registered vestry members and notice of a meeting of the general vestry (known as the Easter vestry).

REV CANON MALCOLM KINGSTON

MS HAZEL CORRIGAN

## **BILL**

### **To amend Chapter III of the Constitution of the Church of Ireland**

WHEREAS it is deemed no longer necessary that notice of the date of any meeting in respect of the revision of registered vestry members and notice of a meeting of the general vestry of each parish, known as the Easter vestry, be affixed to the principal door of the church or chapel or church hall;

AND WHEREAS for this purpose it is necessary to amend Chapter III of the Constitution;

BE IT ENACTED by the Archbishops and Bishops and by the clergy and laity of the Church of Ireland in General Synod assembled in Wexford and subsequently by electronic communications technology in accordance with the provisions of section 14 of Chapter I of the Constitution of the Church of Ireland in the year 2023 and by the authority of the same, as follows:-

1. In this Bill, 'Chapter III' means Chapter III of the Constitution of the Church of Ireland.
2. In Chapter III, Part I, Section 4 shall be amended to read:

**4.** In every parish there shall be a list of persons qualified to be vestry members, which shall have been settled at a meeting of all persons claiming to be so qualified: Provided that the name of a person shall not be placed on the list until that person has signed either of the forms of declaration contained in the schedule to this Chapter.

Public notice shall be given of the holding of such meeting and of the place and hour of the same, and such notice shall be authorised by the incumbent or other member of the clergy officiating in the parish or, failing such person, by a churchwarden, and shall be widely communicated in advance and announced at all services in the parish for at least the two Sundays next preceding the day appointed for the meeting.

The list so formed shall be recorded in a book to be kept for that purpose by the incumbent and churchwardens and shall thereupon be the register of vestry members of the parish.

3. In Chapter III, Part I, Section 11 shall be amended to read:

**11.** Public notice shall be given of the holding of such meeting and of the place and hour of the same, and such notice shall be authorised by the incumbent or other member of the clergy officiating in the parish or, failing such person, by a churchwarden, and shall be widely communicated in advance and announced at all services in the parish for at least the two Sundays next preceding the day appointed for the meeting of the vestry.

## **BILL NO. 3**

### **EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM**

The purpose of this Bill is to amend Chapter I of the Constitution to remove the rule that allows for any member of the Church of Ireland to be elected to General Synod as a representative for any diocese.

At present, a lay person may be elected to General Synod to represent a diocese in which they are not a registered general vestry member of a parish, parochial district, or union or group of parishes therein, or for a beneficed or licenced member of the clergy to be elected to General Synod to represent a diocese whether or not such person resides in that diocese.

The argument behind this proposal is that it is appropriate that those elected to represent a certain diocese at General Synod should be invested in that diocese through, in the case of the laity, registered general vestry membership of a parish within that diocese or, in the case of clergy, being licenced in the diocese which they are elected to represent.

*Individual representatives, who may move out of a diocese during a triennium will continue to have the right to serve to the end of the triennium in the representative role for the diocese to which they were originally elected.*

REV CANON GILLIAN WHARTON

MR KEN GIBSON

**BILL**

**To amend Chapter I of the Constitution of the Church of Ireland**

WHEREAS it is desirable that those elected to represent a particular diocese at General Synod should be invested in that diocese through, in the case of the laity, registered general vestry membership of a parish within that diocese or, in the case of clergy, being licenced in the diocese for which they are elected to represent;

AND WHEREAS for this purpose it is necessary to amend Chapter I 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 in Wexford and subsequently by electronic communications technology in accordance with the provisions of section 14 of Chapter I of the Constitution of the Church of Ireland in the year 2023 and by the authority of the same, as follows:-

1. In this Bill, 'Chapter I' means Chapter I of the Constitution of the Church of Ireland.
2. In Chapter I, Part I, Section 6 shall be amended to read:
  6. Every beneficed or licensed member of the clergy of the Church of Ireland who is not a deacon serving in an internship or in receipt of a retiring annuity under the provisions of Chapter XIV and who on 1st January preceding election had not attained the age of seventy-four years shall be qualified to be elected as a clerical representative or supplemental clerical representative for a diocese in which such person is licenced.
3. In Chapter I, Part I, Section 7 shall be amended to read:
  7. Every lay person who, on 1st January preceding election, had attained the age of seventeen years and had not attained the age of seventy-four years, being a member of the Church of Ireland and a communicant of the said Church and a registered general vestry member and not being a deacon serving an internship, shall be qualified to be

elected as a lay representative or supplemental lay representative for the diocese in which such person is a registered general vestry member; provided that clergy residing in the diocese who are neither beneficed nor licensed shall be deemed to be lay persons for the purpose of this section and provided that a lay person who has become a deacon serving in an internship since election as a lay representative or supplemental lay representative for any diocese shall be deemed to have resigned from General Synod as a lay representative or supplemental lay representative for any diocese.

**BILL NO. 4**  
**EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM**

At present, the Constitution does not require newly-elected lay General Synod representatives or supplementarlists to provide an email address as a part of the declaration form in Chapter I Section 9. Given the increase in communication to General Synod members via email, this Bill amends this declaration form to include a space for the provision of an email address.

REV CANON MALCOLM KINGSTON  
MS HAZEL CORRIGAN

**BILL**

**To amend Chapter I of the Constitution of the Church of Ireland**

WHEREAS it is desirable that a newly-elected lay General Synod representative or supplementalist should provide an email address to the secretaries of the synod for the diocese for which they have been elected;

AND WHEREAS for this purpose it is necessary to amend Chapter I 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 in Wexford and subsequently by electronic communications technology in accordance with the provisions of section 14 of Chapter I of the Constitution of the Church of Ireland in the year 2023 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.
2. In Chapter I, the declaration form in Part I Section 9 shall be amended to read:

I, A.B., of \_\_\_\_\_, do hereby solemnly declare that, on 1<sup>st</sup> January last preceding, I had attained the age of seventeen years and had not attained the age of seventy-four years, and I further solemnly declare that I am a member of the Church of Ireland and a communicant of the said Church.

Signature.....

Date of Birth.....

Email Address.....

Dated this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ in the Year of Our Lord



## **BILL NO. 5**

### **EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM**

Section 32 of Part II (*National Cathedral of St Patrick, Dublin*) of Chapter 7 (*Cathedrals*) of the Constitution makes provision for a cathedral board for the National Cathedral of St Patrick known as the “Board” to manage various functions in relation to the Cathedral. The Board is a company limited by guarantee which was originally incorporated under the name “The Board of St Patrick’s Cathedral Company Limited by Guarantee”. On 30 November 2021 the Board changed its name to "Saint Patrick’s Cathedral, Dublin" being entitled under section 1180 of the Companies Act 2014 to drop "company limited by guarantee from its name. The purpose of this Bill is to amend the Constitution to reflect the change in name of the Board.

VERY REV DR WILLIAM MORTON

REV CANON JENNIFER MCWHIRTER

## **BILL**

### **To amend Part II of Chapter VII of the Constitution of the Church of Ireland**

WHEREAS Part II (*National Cathedral of St Patrick, Dublin*) of Chapter 7 (*Cathedrals*) of the Constitution makes provision for a cathedral board (the “**Board**”) for the National Cathedral of St Patrick, Dublin to have control, charge, and management of certain functions in relation to the Cathedral as set out in section 32 of Chapter VII;

AND WHEREAS the Board is a company limited by guarantee which was originally incorporated under the name “The Board of St Patrick’s Cathedral Company Limited by Guarantee”;

AND WHEREAS the Board is entitled under section 1180 of the Companies Act 2014 to omit "company limited by guarantee" from its name and has changed its name to "Saint Patrick’s Cathedral, Dublin”;

AND WHEREAS it is desirable to amend section 32(1) to reflect the change of name of the Board;

BE IT ENACTED by the Archbishops and Bishops and by the clergy and laity of the Church of Ireland in General Synod assembled in Wexford and subsequently by electronic communications technology in accordance with the provisions of section 14 of Chapter I of the Constitution of the Church of Ireland in the year 2023 and by the authority of the same, as follows:-

1. In this Bill, ‘Chapter VII’ refers to Chapter VII of the Constitution of the Church of Ireland.
2. Section 32 of Chapter VII shall be amended by the substitution of the following subsection for subsection (1):
  32. (1) There shall be a Cathedral Board (the “**Board**”) comprising the company limited by guarantee known as "Saint Patrick’s Cathedral, Dublin" (registered number 695957).

**BILL NO. 6**  
**EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM**

The passing by the General Synod in 2014 of Canon 10A marked a major breakthrough in ecumenical relationships, particularly those with our Covenant partner the Methodist Church in terms of a converging common understanding of the ministry of *episcopus*. However, the main intention at the time was to facilitate long term transfer of members of the clergy between one polity and the other, and to enable ministers of the Methodist Church in Ireland in full Connexion to be considered eligible to become office-holders in the Church of Ireland.

The existing canon has proved over the years to have been, perhaps unintentionally, unclear about more occasional exercise of ministerial interchangeability ... for example during shared missional activities, or periods of holiday and sick leave.

The Bill now presented seeks to clarify the situation, and provide opportunity for occasional exercise of interchangeability with the express consent of the Ordinary. It also addresses the reality that longer-term expressions of interchangeability are less likely to arise if there is no clear opportunity for short-term practical experience of ministering in one another's distinctive contexts.

It should be noted that no parallel difficulty concerning occasional interchangeability currently exists in the Methodist context.

**BILL**

THE BISHOP OF DERRY AND RAPHOE

THE BISHOP OF KILMORE, ELPHIN AND ARDAGH

**To amend Chapter IX of the Constitution of the Church of Ireland**

WHEREAS it is desirable that existing provisions for the interchangeability of Ministry with the Methodist Church in Ireland should be extended;

AND WHEREAS for such purposes it is necessary to amend Chapter IX 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 in Wexford and subsequently by electronic communications technology in accordance with the provisions of section 14 of Chapter I of the Constitution of the Church of Ireland in the year 2023 and by the authority of the same, as follows:-

1. In this Statute, ‘chapter IX’ means Chapter IX of the Constitution of the Church of Ireland.
2. In Canon 10A (3)(a) in Ch IX the word ‘solely’ shall be deleted.
3. At the close of Canon 10A (3)(a) after the words ‘priest’s orders within the Church’ shall be inserted a comma and the following additional words ‘or such other occasional ministry as may be approved by the Ordinary’.
4. In Canon 10A (3)(b) the word ‘solely’ shall be deleted.

## **BILL NO. 7**

### **EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM**

The Charities Regulatory Authority (CRA) has approached the Church of Ireland in respect of approvals previously given to the Church in 2020 in terms of the structure of the Charitable Objects ROI included in Chapter XVII of the Constitution of the Church of Ireland. The CRA is now requesting that the Required Clauses on income and property should be deleted from the Charitable Objects ROI and included in Chapter XVII as a separate section relating to restrictions of the powers and entitlements of charitable trustees and speaking to the quintessentially charitable nature of those volunteers who act as trustees of Church of Ireland bodies operating under the Constitution. This is, in essence, a rearranging exercise in respect of Chapter XVII that was requested by the CRA following the review of the group of pilot parish applications made in 2022. Unfortunately, the request is now delaying the registration of these parishes, and the rolling out of the registration process to other parishes. Therefore, it is proposed to ask the General Synod to make this amendment expeditiously. The amendment does not alter any aspect of regulation of parishes and simply places the Required Clauses in a separate section. Resolution of this point will enable the process of wider parish registration to recommence following the General Synod in 2023.

## **BILL**

MS HAZEL CORRIGAN

REV CANON GILLIAN WHARTON

### **To amend Chapter XVII of the Constitution of the Church of Ireland**

WHEREAS it is desirable that the Required Clauses, produced by the Charities Regulator for Ireland relating to the charitable nature of trustees and payments thereto, be clearly identified in the Constitution of the Church of Ireland;

AND WHEREAS the Required Clauses speak to the essentially charitable nature of the trustees of Church of Ireland bodies operating under the Constitution of the said Church;

AND WHEREAS the Church has been requested by the Charities Regulatory Authority to create a separate Part within Chapter XVII of the Constitution of the Church of Ireland for this purpose;

BE IT ENACTED by the Archbishops and Bishops and by the clergy and laity of the Church of Ireland in General Synod assembled in Wexford and subsequently by electronic communications technology in accordance with the provisions of section 14 of Chapter I of the Constitution of the Church of Ireland in the year 2023 and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1. In this Bill, ‘Chapter XVII’ means Chapter XVII of the Constitution of the Church of Ireland.
2. Part IV of Chapter XVII paragraph (ii) shall be deleted and the Roman numeral “(i)” shall be deleted from paragraph (i).
3. The following shall be inserted following Part IV of Chapter XVII:

‘PART V

STATEMENT OF REQUIRED CLAUSES ROI

## **1. Required Clauses on Income and Property ROI**

No charity trustee as defined by section 2(1) of the Charities Act, 2009 of a parish shall be appointed to any office of the parish paid by salary or fees, or receive any remuneration or other benefit in money or money's worth from the parish. However, nothing shall prevent any payment in good faith by the parish in respect of:

- a) The performance by the select vestry of its obligations under section 24 of Chapter III of the Constitution and under the Glebe Rules (as contained in Chapter XIII of the Constitution) to repair, maintain and insure each glebe or other ecclesiastical residence in the parish and to provide for same such carpets, curtains and equipment as may be determined by regulation of the diocesan council;
- b) Reasonable and proper remuneration to any member or servant of the parish (not being a charity trustee) for any services rendered to the parish;
- c) Interest at a rate not exceeding 1% above the Euro Interbank Offered Rate (Euribor) per annum on money lent by charity trustees or other members of the parish to the parish;
- d) Reasonable and proper rent for premises demised and let by any member of the parish (including any charity trustee) to the parish;
- e) Reasonable and proper out-of-pocket expenses incurred by any charity trustee in connection with his or her attendance to any matter affecting the parish;
- f) Fees, remuneration or other benefit in money or money's worth to any company of which a charity trustee may be a member holding not more than one hundredth part of the issued capital of such Company;
- g) Any payment by the parish to a person pursuant to an agreement entered into in compliance with section 89 of the Charities Act, 2009 (as for the time being amended, extended or replaced).

## **BILL NO. 8**

### **EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM**

Section 61 of Chapter XIV of the Constitution of the Church of Ireland includes a ceiling on the amount by which pensions payable to members, and to the spouses of deceased members, of the Church of Ireland Clergy Pensions Fund ('the Fund') may be increased from one year to the following year. The same provision applies to annual increases to any child dependency allowances payable to the children of members, or deceased members, of the Fund.

Section 61 restricts any annual increase to such percentage required by law, or such greater percentage up to 5%, determined by the Church of Ireland Clergy Pensions Trustee DAC ('the Trustee') on the advice of the Actuary and with the approval of the Representative Body.

Section 61 mandates that any increase to pensions or child dependency allowances in course of payment on 31<sup>st</sup> December shall take effect on and from 1<sup>st</sup> January of the following year.

The Trustee considered that a ceiling figure in section 61 impeded the ability of the Trustee to respond to the needs of individuals in receipt of pensions or child dependency allowances under the Fund and could cause hardship. The Trustee further considered that the requirement that any increase in pensions or child dependency allowances only take effect on and from 1<sup>st</sup> January of the following year, might result in delay to individuals receiving increases in pensions or child dependency allowances, causing further hardship.

The Trustee recommended to the Representative Body that proposals be brought to General Synod to amend Chapter XIV of the Constitution to remove a ceiling figure on annual increases to pensions and child dependency allowances under the Fund and to grant the Trustee discretion to implement any increase on and from a date other than 1<sup>st</sup> January of the year following approval of any increase.

The Representative Body agreed with the recommendations of the Trustee and accordingly proposes the attached Bill to General Synod. The proposed changes would take effect from 1<sup>st</sup> June 2023.



MR ROBERT NEILL  
VEN BARRY FORDE

**BILL**

**(At the request of The Representative Church Body)**

**To amend Chapter XIV of the Constitution of the Church of Ireland**

WHEREAS it is desirable to allow for increases in pensions to members, and to the spouses of deceased members, of the Church of Ireland Clergy Pensions Fund, without imposing a ceiling on the maximum annual increase to the amount of such pensions;

AND WHEREAS it is desirable to allow for increases in any child dependency allowances to the children of members, or deceased members, of the Church of Ireland Clergy Pensions Fund, without imposing a ceiling on the maximum annual increase to the amount of such payments;

AND WHEREAS it is desirable to allow any increase in pensions to members, and to the spouses of deceased members, of the Church of Ireland Clergy Pensions Fund, and child dependency allowance payments to the children of members, or deceased members, of the Church of Ireland Clergy Pensions Fund, to take effect on and from a date other than 1<sup>st</sup> January in the year following approval of any increase;

AND WHEREAS for such purposes it is necessary to amend Chapter XIV 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 in Wexford and subsequently by electronic communications technology in accordance with the provisions of section 14 of Chapter I of the Constitution of the Church of Ireland in the year 2023 and by the authority of the same, as follows:-

1. In this Bill, 'Chapter XIV' means Chapter XIV of the Constitution of the Church of Ireland.
2. With effect from 1<sup>st</sup> June 2023, for Section 61 of Chapter XIV there shall be substituted:

**‘61** The rate of

- (a) each pension payable to a member of the Fund under Section 14 or any of Sections 42 to 45 (inclusive) of this Chapter,
- (b) each pension payable to the surviving spouse of a member of the Fund (not being the surviving spouse of a voluntary member) under Section 14 or Section 52 of this Chapter, and
- (c) each child dependency allowance under Section 57 of this Chapter,

which was in course of payment on 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023 and each subsequent year shall be increased with effect on and from 1<sup>st</sup> January of the following year or such other date as the Trustee on the advice of the Actuary and with the approval of the Representative Body may determine, by the percentage required by law, or such greater percentage as the Trustee on the advice of the Actuary and with the approval of the Representative Body may determine.’

## **BILL NO. 9**

### **EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM**

In 2013, the Church of Ireland Clergy Pensions Fund (the ‘CPF’) was closed to future accruals and a Funding Proposal was entered into by the Representative Church Body, as Sponsor, with the Pensions Authority. A condition of the Funding Proposal was that pensions-in-payment and future pensions that would commence during the term of the Funding Proposal, would be based on Pensionable Stipend.

Following the closure of the CPF, two Clergy Defined Contribution Pension Schemes were established, for Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland. Chapter XIV Section 8 sets the member contribution to the Clergy Defined Contribution Pension Schemes as 9% of the relevant Minimum Approved Stipend or Episcopal Stipend, alongside a parish/diocesan council/other contribution (the ‘Church of Ireland Contribution’) set as 8% of the relevant Minimum Approved Stipend or Episcopal Stipend.

The RCB, as Sponsor of the CPF, is considering options for the CPF to recommend an increase in Pensionable Stipend when the CPF is expected to exit the Funding Proposal at the end of 2023. As part of this review, the RCB, as Sponsor, will consider the expected future pensions that would be payable from the Clergy Defined Contribution Pension Schemes.

Where the analysis of the pension benefits recommends an increase in the Church of Ireland Contribution to the Clergy Defined Contribution Pension Schemes then this shall require the following additional provision in Chapter XIV, Sub-Section 8(ii):

“provided that this contribution rate may be increased from time to time by the Standing Committee on behalf of the General Synod on the recommendation of the Representative Body, having taken appropriate advice, or, having previously been increased, the contribution rate may be reduced from time to time by the Standing Committee on behalf of the General Synod on the recommendation of the Representative Body, having taken appropriate advice, but shall not be reduced below 8% per annum of the relevant Minimum Approved Stipend or Episcopal Stipend.”

This will amend Chapter XIV to provide for future changes in the Church of Ireland

Contribution to the Church of Ireland Clergy Defined Contribution Pension Schemes, provided always that this contribution rate will not be reduced below 8% of the relevant Minimum Approved Stipend or Episcopal Stipend.

MR ROBERT NEILL

VEN BARRY FORDE

**(At the request of The Representative Church Body)**

**BILL**

**To amend Chapter XIV of the Constitution of the Church of Ireland**

WHEREAS Parish / Diocesan Council / Other contributions to the Church of Ireland Clergy Defined Contribution Pension Schemes for Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland for Members of the Clergy or members of the House of Bishops who are members of either Scheme, are fixed at 8% per annum of the relevant Minimum Approved Stipend or Episcopal Stipend for each Member of the Clergy or member of the House of Bishops.

AND WHEREAS in order to secure the benefits of members of each Scheme, it is desirable to make provision for the Standing Committee, on behalf of the General Synod, to increase the contribution rate for Parish / Diocesan Council / Other contributions to each Scheme on the recommendation of the Representative Body, having taken appropriate advice.

AND WHEREAS for such purposes it is necessary to amend Chapter XIV 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 in Wexford and subsequently by electronic communications technology in accordance with the provisions of section 14 of Chapter I of the Constitution of the Church of Ireland in the year 2023 and by the authority of the same, as follows:-

3. In this Statute, 'Chapter XIV' means Chapter XIV of the Constitution of the Church of Ireland.
4. With effect from 1<sup>st</sup> June 2023, for Section 8 of Chapter XIV there shall be substituted:
8. (a) Member's pension fund

Unless a member, upon or after attaining his or her Normal Retirement Age, requests the cessation of pension contributions, contributions required to be paid to the member's pension fund until the member retires shall be as follows:

- (i) A member contribution of 9% per annum of the relevant Minimum Approved Stipend or Episcopal Stipend by a monthly deduction from the stipend of each member concerned; and
- (ii) A Parish / Diocesan Council / Other contribution of 8% per annum of the relevant Minimum Approved Stipend or Episcopal Stipend by assessment on that Parish / Diocesan Council / Other concerned for paying that member's stipend provided that this contribution rate may be increased from time to time by the Standing Committee on behalf of the General Synod on the recommendation of the Representative Body, having taken appropriate advice, or, having previously been increased, the contribution rate may be reduced from time to time by the Standing Committee on behalf of the General Synod on the recommendation of the Representative Body, having taken appropriate advice, but shall not be reduced below 8% per annum of the relevant Minimum Approved Stipend or Episcopal Stipend.

(b) Death in Service insured benefit:

Until a member attains his or her Normal Retirement Age contributions to Death in Service insured benefit is payable by a Parish / Diocesan Council / Other contribution at a contribution rate determined by the Representative Body to meet the cost of the benefit by way of assessment on that Parish / Diocesan Council / Other concerned for paying that member's stipend.