

THE CHURCH OF IRELAND COUNCIL FOR MISSION

REPORT 2023

MEMBERSHIP (JANUARY 2023)

Rt Rev Ferran Glenfield (1)	House of Bishops / Kilmore
Rev. Tim Wright (Hon Chair) (4)	Synod
Rev Colin McConaghie (Hon Secretary) (3)	Synod
Mr Derek Neilson (Hon. Treasurer) (4)	Dublin
Ms Emma Lynch (4)	AMS
Ms Jenny Smyth (3)	AMS
Ms. Catherine Little (0)	AMS
Rev Stephen McElhinney (3)	AMS
Ms Lydia Monds (2)	Bishops' Appeal
Rev Dr Paddy McGlinchey (3)	CITI
Mr Steve Grasham (1)	CIYD
Rev Dr Laurence Graham (1)	Methodist Church (from January 2022)
Mr Thomas Stevenson (2)	Armagh
Ven. Paul Mooney (2)	Cashel
Rev Kingsley Sutton (2)	Cork
Rev Jonathan McFarland (2)	Derry and Raphoe
Rev Andrew Orr (1)	Synod
Rev Isaac Hannah. (3)	Synod (from March 2022)
Mrs Jill Lester (1)	Connor (from June 2022)
Mrs Hazel Speares (2)	Mothers' Union {temporary, from June 2022}
Mr David Frizelle (3)	Tuam, Limerick and Killaloe (from September 2022)
Rev William Jeffrey (2)	Clogher (from November 2022)

According to the constitution of the Council, each diocese is entitled to nominate a representative and an alternate. Alternates attend when the principal representative is unable to. Some members represent more than one possible constituency.

The Council for Mission met four times from June 2022 to January 2023. These meetings were a combination of in person in the City North Hotel and the Church of Ireland Theological Institute and online via Zoom.

Changes in membership since January 2022

Rev Charles McCartney (Limerick and Killaloe) stepped down from the Council in January 2022.

Very Rev Tim Wright (Meath and Kildare) and Rev Colin McConaghie (Clogher) transferred from Diocesan Reps to General Synod reps and Rev Isaac Hannah was elected as a Synod rep at the meeting of General Synod 2022.

Church of Ireland Council for Mission – Report 2023

Mrs Jill Lester joined as Connor rep in June 2022.

Mrs Hazel Speares joined as temporary Mothers' Union rep in June 2022.

Mr David Frizelle joined as Tuam, Limerick and Killaloe rep in September 2022.

Rev William Jeffers joined as Clogher rep in November 2022.

Rev Andrew Orr was elected as a Synod rep at the meeting of General Synod 2021. Rev

Dr Laurence Graham joined the Council as Methodist rep in January 2022.

We are grateful to all of the members who have contributed to the work of the Council for Mission over the years.

We continue to use the Anglican 5 marks of mission to focus our activities, which are:

1. To proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom (Tell)
2. To teach, baptise and nurture new believers (Teach)
3. To respond to human need by loving service (Tend)
4. To transform unjust structures of society, to challenge violence of every kind and pursue peace and reconciliation (Transform)
5. To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation, and sustain and renew the life of the earth (Treasure)

(Bonds of Affection-1984 ACC-6 p49, Mission in a Broken World-1990 ACC-8 p101)

Items for Discussion:

Council Membership

The aim of the CFM has always been to represent the wide breadth of the Church of Ireland with representation from each Diocese alongside members elected by General Synod and representatives of the Association of Missionary Societies.

We are delighted to have filled a number of the vacant Diocesan positions in 2022 and would encourage those Dioceses that aren't currently represented to prayerfully consider nominating someone to represent them on the Council.

Council for Mission Breakfast at General Synod

We were delighted to re-launch our Mission Breakfast at general Synod 2022. The Breakfast took place in the Europa Hotel with our key speakers, Ms Lydia Monds (Bishop's Appeal) and Mr Stephen Frew (representing Eco Congregations Ireland), delivering a presentation of the missional impact of our care for the Environment. CfM also launched its video on Creation at the Breakfast.

~~In 2023 we plan to hold our Mission Breakfast on the Saturday morning of General Synod. Further details will be available prior to Synod, and we hope you can join us as we gather as partners in our mission of God's kingdom.~~

Videos Highlighting the Five Marks of Mission

At General Synod 2019 we launched the first of five videos on the 5 Marks of Mission on Proclaiming the Good News (Tell). Following delays due to the Covid pandemic we launched our videos on Discipleship (Teach) and Creation (Treasure) at General Synod last year.

These videos are available on the Church of Ireland Website under General Synod / Council for Mission, Vimeo and YouTube and the Church of Ireland Council for Mission Facebook Page.

Church of Ireland Council for Mission – Report 2023

This year, with the continued support of the Priorities Fund, we complete the series of videos focusing on the third and fourth Marks of Mission, Christian Service (Tend) and Challenging Injustice (Transform). The videos will feature people and projects throughout the Church of Ireland and beyond whose mission, outreach and innovation is making a real difference to their communities and building God's Kingdom.

Thanks to Ms Ruth Garvey-Williams and Mr Jonny Sanlon for their professionalism and skill in creating the videos. Thank you to all who contributed to the videos and Priorities Fund for helping to fund these projects. We encourage you to share these videos in your parishes as tools for promoting and encouraging mission.

Internal Review

As our work on the videos on the Five Marks on Mission comes to an end, and with a large turnover in membership since Covid, we decided as a collective that the time was right for a review of the Council seeking God's guidance as to the direction the Council should be taking over the next few years and re-assessing our own priorities.

In September Council members met in the Church of Ireland Theological Institute for a two-day residential. Ms Ruth Garvey-Williams, Christian Communications Consultant and editor of Vox Magazine, was invited to come along to facilitate our residential and help us to put some structure on the direction we should be going as a Council.

Prior to the residential members were asked to read "Five Marks of Mission: Making God's Mission Ours" by Mr Chris Wright as a help to focus our thoughts. During the two days Ruth's facilitation began with a reflection on Isaiah 61 with members being asked to focus on key phrases in the passage that spoke to them. We then began to examine where we currently are as a Council and indeed a Church in terms of mission and what needed to change for mission to become an integral part of the Church of Ireland.

By using a number of creative tools Ruth examined our strengths and weaknesses as a Council as well as exploring our priorities and potential for mission and outreach. Again, this focused not only on the Council for Mission but also the wider Church of Ireland. During the discussions we gained a deeper insight into both obstacles to mission and the opportunities to develop a wider focus on mission as a priority for the church.

The two days left us with much to digest and pray over and we want to thank Ruth for her expertise and guiding our thought process.

As we met again in November, we dedicated our entire meeting to reflecting upon what we had learnt from the residential using Ruth's findings as a catalyst for discussion. A number of proposals were put forward by Council members as to our next project(s) as a Council and also how we can continue to be a facilitator of, and a promoter of mission across the Church of Ireland and overseas.

These proposals were further discussed at our meeting in January as we began to put an action plan into place.

Church of Ireland Council for Mission – Report 2023

The three major projects the CfM will be focusing on following our discussions:

1. The creation of a podcast promoting stories of mission from across Ireland and overseas that capture the heart of mission and will inspire others.
2. Supporting a visit from a delegate from overseas for a minimum 3-month period to both input on mission and to learn.
3. Creating an interactive Mission Map of Ireland again to highlight and promote mission on the ground across the Church of Ireland.

We would ask for your continued prayer and encouragement as we commence these new projects that they will be tools of promoting and initiating conversation around mission and inspiring others as to what is possible in their context.

The CfM exists to facilitate, encourage and promote mission activities and we trust these projects will help us to do so in new and innovative ways.

International Consultations

Rev Adam Pullen and Rev Tim Wright continue to represent the Church of Ireland at the International Discipleship Forum organised by the Anglican Consultative Council. Meetings take place remotely or in person either at Church House, Westminster or Lambeth Palace. There are representatives from the Archbishops' Council of the Church of England, the Scottish Theological Institute of the Scottish Episcopal Church and St Padarn's Institute from the Church in Wales. Among other participants there are the London Institutes of Contemporary Christianity, Thy Kingdom Come, BRF, Oxford Centre for Mission and USPG.

Input was made into the committee preparing the Lambeth Calls. Post the Lambeth Conference the Group is reassessing its task.

The Church in Wales and Scottish Episcopal Church are entering structured seasons of Discipleship. Restructuring within Church House Westminster will result in some changes to the Group.

The Rt Rev Andrew Forster of Derry and Raphoe has been invited to join the Group to provide episcopal wisdom.

Association of Missionary Societies

AMS Chair Stephen McElhinney shares "I have recently returned from Argentina and Uruguay and for me, the importance of organisations that allow for partnership in Mission are more important than ever. On the one hand, we are faced with a smaller global world where everyone is within reach, but on the other hand, there is a tendency for increased isolation as many local churches start the process of rebuilding confidence in re-establishing themselves following the pandemic. AMS is about helping each other do this together in the name of the Kingdom of God and the Mission it represents in Jesus."

CITI

Our continued welcome at CITI is much appreciated, and provides a wonderful setting to build community at AMS and liaise with structures in the C of I Council for Mission. There are currently 4 AMS members sitting on the Council for Mission. This year AMS members

Church of Ireland Council for Mission – Report 2023

were once again active in their contribution to the work of the Council. Present members are Ms Jenny Smyth, Ms Catherine Little, Ms Emma Lynch and Mr Stephen McElhinney. A special residential in September past will help to redefine the vision and focus of the Council for Mission going forward.

Kingdom Voices AMS decided to give a generous donation to Kingdom Voices. This was a special conference held in Belfast in following the Lambeth Conference. Eighteen Bishops and their wives attended from Africa, Asia and South America. Two special days around the Five marks of mission and a special celebration evening helped to enthuse local church leaders and others in mission. CMSI and SAMS Ireland were very grateful for the assistance that AMS was able to provide.

General Synod

General Synod did not host stand space in 2022 due to Covid-19 concerns. Thus, AMS were not able to host a joint missions stand as in other years to meet church membership as we have been accustomed to doing.

The Council for Mission were however able to host the Synod Mission breakfast in the Europa Hotel for the first time in 3 years. The Council kindly agreed for AMS members to have a joint stand space at the breakfast. Approximately 40-50 were in attendance at the breakfast event.

Bishops' Appeal

Following a decision by General Synod not to change the name of the Bishops Appeal; there has been a renewed emphasis at a local level to increase the awareness and activities of the BA. As yet, there has been no further dialogue between Mission agencies (some in AMS) and BA in order to consider how overseas mission practice has changed over the years and how this might inform how future funds be spent in ways which are appropriate with partners at a local level overseas.

Membership of AMS

Further ongoing discussion will help keep the purpose of AMS and its membership clear.

Continued Ministerial Education Programme (CME)

AMS members input into CME continues each January with a rolling 3 session program. The 2022 session supporting projects and programmes in the Global Church was facilitated by Tearfund Ireland (Emma) and CMSI (Linda). In January 2023 the session the church and Integral Mission was facilitated by Christian Aid (Ruth) and Church Army (Alan). The input has been well received by participating curates.

Finally, thank you to all the AMS members who have done so much to serve the most vulnerable in Christ's name and to keep mission on the agenda of the Church of Ireland this year. The friendship, solidarity and fellowship between AMS members strengthens all our work.