

Motion No.10

Proposer: Bishop Ferran Glenfield

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Archbishop, in proposing Motion 10, I will refer to pages 13 to 18 of the Motion papers.

Early this year, the Pioneer Ministry Initiative was formally launched in a paean of praise and prayer, in the National Cathedral. St. Patrick's Dublin. Already the Pioneer Leadership Team of the Revd Rob Jones, the Ven Barry Forde and Ms Ingrid Brennan, have started their work in forging Pioneer Ministry into the DNA of the Church of Ireland. In proposing this motion to General Synod, I will focus on some of the key governance principles and Rev Canon Gillian Wharton (seconder of the motion) will highlight membership of the Governing Council.

What we have before us in the motion schedule is the scaffolding for the building of Pioneer Ministry in the Church of Ireland. In the last number of General Synods and at various forums, such as IDLE, we have heard much about the vision of Pioneer Ministry in our church. Vision and structure belong together, in order that Pioneer Ministry is embedded in the Church of Ireland.

The purpose of the Pioneer Ministry Council is to support, encourage and provide advocacy and accountability, for the Pioneer Leadership Team and the wider Church through the following key principles:

A robust governance structure (p.14) which will ensure that Pioneer Ministry will be sustainable going forward.

Financial Accountability (pp.15-16). The RCB is releasing considerable sums of money to fund Pioneer Ministry over the next decade and these monies need to be well spent. The annual budget of the Pioneer Ministry Council will be agreed by the RB and approved by General Synod.

Oversee the application process for Pioneer Ministry projects and paid Pioneer ministers (pp.16-17) in a transparent and equitable way across the dioceses of the Church of Ireland.

Communication (pp.17-18). The Pioneer Ministry Council will be a conduit linking Pioneer Ministry and the Pioneer Leadership Team to a variety of bodies: General Synod, Standing Committee, RCB, CITI, Church Army and dioceses and parishes.

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Safeguarding (p17). As in all ministries the church, Safeguarding is paramount, and the Pioneer Ministry Council will ensure compliance and the highest standards in this vital area.

In proposing Motion 10, I trust that Synod will respond positively to the key principles and precepts set out in the schedule and like other bodies embrace the potential of Pioneer Ministry to revitalise the ministry and mission of the Church of Ireland in the 21st century.