

GENERAL SYNOD
OF THE
CHURCH OF IRELAND
2024
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 the 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 the 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 the Bill procedure reference should be made to Part II of Chapter I of the Constitution and to the Standing Orders. A leaflet on the Bill procedure is available on application to the Honorary Secretaries.

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BILL NO. 1

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

In 2023, the General Synod approved by the required majority, a Resolution granting leave for the introduction of this Special Bill in 2024. The Motion of 2023 proposed the Amendment of the Table of Readings in The Book of Common Prayer 2004 (rev. ed. 2018) to observe the Second Sunday in November as Remembrance Sunday.

PROPOSER: Rev Adrian Dorrian

SECONDER: Very Rev Susan Green

(at the request of the General Synod)

BILL

To amend the Table of Readings in The Book of Common Prayer 2004 (rev. ed. 2018)

WHEREAS A Resolution to amend the Table of Readings in The Book of Common Prayer 2004 (rev. ed. 2018) was duly passed in full Synod in Wexford in the year 2023, by the required majorities and as duly transmitted to the Secretaries of all Diocesan Synods;

AND WHEREAS it is expedient that the said Resolution should be carried into effect by a Statute to amend the Table of Readings;

BE IT ENACTED by the Archbishops and Bishops and by the clergy and laity of the Church of Ireland in General Synod assembled in Armagh 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 2024 and by the authority of the same, as follows:-

1. That the Table of Readings in The Book of Common Prayer 2004 (rev. ed. 2018) shall be amended in accordance with the Schedule below.

SCHEDULE

In the Table of Readings at the lections for Remembrance Sunday, after ‘Any Combination of the above may be used’ insert:

“Remembrance Sunday is observed on the Second Sunday in November.”

BILL NO. 2

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

The purpose of this Bill is namely to ensure that those who are elected by a Parish, Parochial District or union or group of Parishes, to act as Diocesan Synod members are part of the Parish, Parochial District or union or group of Parishes for which they are elected as Diocesan Synod members. At present, in theory, the Constitution allows for a member of Parish X to be a Diocesan Synod member of Parish Y. It would be appropriate that a Diocesan Synod member is invested in their Parish to the extent of at least being a registered Vestry Member.

PROPOSER: MS Hazel Corrigan

SECONDER: Rev Canon Gillian Wharton

BILL

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

WHEREAS it is desirable, that a Diocesan Synod Member is invested in their parish to the extent of at least being a registered vestry member of their parish;

AND WHEREAS for this purpose it is necessary to amend Chapter II 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 Armagh 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 2024 and by the authority of the same, as follows: -

1. In this Statute, ‘Chapter II’ means Chapter II of the Constitution of the Church of Ireland.
2. In Chapter II, Part I, Section 13 (2) shall be amended to read:

“**13(2)(a)**. Every synod member and supplemental synod member elected by their parish, parochial district or union or group of parishes, shall, within one month from the date of the notification aforesaid sign and transmit to the secretaries of the diocesan synod a declaration in the following form:

I, [A.B.....], do solemnly declare that I have attained the age of eighteen years, and am a member of the Church of Ireland and a communicant of the said Church and a registered vestry member of the parish, parochial district or union or group of parishes, by whom I was elected as a diocesan synod member or supplemental diocesan synod member.

13(2)(b). Every synod member and supplemental synod member elected in accordance with the provisions of Sections 10 and 11 of this chapter, shall, within one month from the date of the notification aforesaid sign and transmit to the secretaries of the diocesan synod a declaration in the following form:

I, [A.B.....], do solemnly declare that I have attained the age of eighteen years, and am a member of the Church of Ireland and a communicant of the said Church.

And such declaration shall be *prima facie* evidence of such qualifications; and failure to do so within the time prescribed will result in the place becoming vacant: Provided that the secretaries of the diocesan synod shall have power to extend by not more than twenty-one days the time for signing the above declaration if they are satisfied that unavoidable circumstances have delayed the signing of such declaration.”

BILL NO. 3

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

This Bill has a very simple purpose, namely to align the age to which an Archdeacon may retain office with the retirement age for clergy. The Constitution stipulates that an Archdeacon shall be appointed from among the beneficed or licensed clergy of the diocese, and that this office of Archdeacon may be retained until the age of seventy, whereas the retirement age for licensed and beneficed clergy is seventy-five. The Bill addresses this anomaly, given that there is no discernible justification for maintaining the status quo.

PROPOSER: Ms Hazel Corrigan

SECONDER: Mr Ken Gibson

BILL

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

WHEREAS it is desirable that the office of Archdeacon may be retained until the retirement age for licensed or beneficed clergy;

AND WHEREAS for this purpose it is necessary to amend Chapter II 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 Armagh 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 2024 and by the authority of the same, as follows: -

1. In this Statute, 'Chapter II' means Chapter II of the Constitution of the Church of Ireland.
2. In Chapter II, Part III Section 40 shall be amended to read:

“40. The appointment of an archdeacon shall be made by the bishop of the diocese from among the beneficed or licensed clergy thereof; and it may be retained until such person has ceased to be beneficed or licensed in the diocese, or shall have been granted a retiring annuity under Chapter XIV, or shall have attained the age of seventy-five years, whichever be the earlier.”

BILL NO. 4

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

The purpose of this Bill is to recognise and authorise, both the licensing of clergy or laity as Pioneer Ministers within the Church of Ireland, and the establishment of a Pioneer Ministry at diocesan or parochial level. In particular, for a Pioneer Ministry having its own income and/or property, recognition and authorisation within the Constitution will enable the ministry to register as a charity with the Constitution of the Church of Ireland as its governing document.

PROPOSER: The Ven Barry Forde

SECONDER: The Bishop of Cork, Cloyne and Ross

BILL

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

WHEREAS the Executive Committee of the Representative Church Body, the Standing Committee of the General Synod and the House of Bishops have approved the establishment of Pioneer Ministry within the Church of Ireland;

AND WHEREAS it is expedient to make provision within the Constitution of the Church of Ireland for the regulation, governance and operation of Pioneer Ministry;

AND WHEREAS for such purposes it is desirable to amend Chapter V 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 in Armagh and subsequently by means of 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 2024 and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1. “Chapter V” means Chapter V of the Constitution of the Church of Ireland.
2. The following shall be substituted for the title to Chapter V:

“CHAPTER V

CURE OF SOULS IN PARISHES HAVING NO PARISH CHURCH, BUT IN WHICH THERE ARE PROPRIETARY OR OTHER NON-PAROCHIAL CHURCHES AND THE ESTABLISHMENT AND GOVERNANCE OF PIONEER MINISTRIES

Part 1”

3. The following shall be inserted after Section 11 of Chapter V:

“Part 2

PIONEER MINISTRIES

12. In this Part

- a. “Pioneer Minister” shall mean a person appointed in accordance with the Pioneer Ministry Terms of Reference to lead a Pioneer Ministry.
- b. “Pioneer Ministry” shall mean a ministry which has been approved by the Pioneer Approvals Committee of the Church of Ireland pursuant to such Pioneer Ministry Terms of Reference
- c. “Pioneer Ministry Terms of Reference” shall mean such terms of reference for the establishment, operation and oversight of Pioneer Ministry as may, from time to time, be approved by the Executive Committee of the Representative Church Body, the Standing Committee of the General Synod and the House of Bishops.

13. A Pioneer Minister may be a member of the clergy or of the laity.

14. No person shall be entitled to act as a Pioneer Minister in any diocese or part thereof unless he or she has first been so licensed by the bishop of the diocese.

15. No person shall be licensed to act as a Pioneer Minister unless he or she first undertakes or agrees to undertake such course or courses of instruction and training as may, from time to time, be prescribed by the House of Bishops.

16. Every Pioneer Minister, whether lay or ordained, shall be subject to the oversight, jurisdiction and authority of the bishop of the diocese.

17. A Pioneer Ministry may be established to operate at a diocesan level or at a parochial level.

- 18.** The establishment of a Pioneer Ministry to operate at a diocesan level shall require the prior permission of the bishop of the diocese and the approval of the diocesan council.
- 19.** The establishment of a Pioneer Ministry to operate at a parochial level shall require the prior permission of the bishop of the diocese and the approval of the diocesan council together with the prior permission of the incumbent or other member of the clergy officiating in each parish concerned as well as the approval of the select vestry of each such parish.
- 20.** A Pioneer Minister operating at a diocesan level who has not been elected to the diocesan council pursuant to Part II of Chapter II may nevertheless attend and speak at meetings of the diocesan council with the consent of the bishop of the diocese.
- 21.** A Pioneer Minister operating at a parochial level who has not been elected to the select vestry of the parish pursuant to Chapter III may nevertheless attend and speak at meetings of the select vestry with consent of the incumbent or other member of the clergy officiating in the parish.
- 22.** Subject to the consent of the diocesan council, a Pioneer Ministry operating within a portion of a parish attached to a church, chapel or church hall within a parish may, with the prior permission of the bishop and the incumbent or other member of the clergy officiating in the parish, establish itself as a parochial district within the parish and may maintain its own register of vestry members duly qualified as provided for in Chapter III, which said register shall constitute a subset and part of the register of vestry members of the parish.
- 23.** A Pioneer Ministry having its own income and/or property shall do the following:
 - a.** Register as a charity with the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland or the Charities Regulatory Authority, as applicable.
 - b.** Establish and maintain a register of members (all of whom shall be communicant members of the Church of Ireland).

- c. Elect annually from its registered members within the time period prescribed by Chapter III for the holding of an Easter Vestry, a committee comprised of the Pioneer Minister *ex officio* and not more than twelve lay persons, which shall:
 - i. be registered as the charity trustees of the charity;
 - ii. perform all of the functions and obligations of charity trustees in respect of the charity;
 - iii. have control and charge of all of the income and property of the Pioneer Ministry;
 - iv. prepare and submit annual accounts to the diocesan council, in such form as the diocesan council may prescribe; and
 - v. perform such other functions and be subject to such other duties and obligations as may, from time to time, be prescribed by the diocesan council.”

BILL NO. 5

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

This Bill has a very straightforward purpose, namely to allow for amendments to the register of vestry persons during the course of a year, rather than solely at the annual review of vestry persons. When the constitution was first drafted, the degree of mobility in the general population that is currently manifest would have been inconceivable. Additions and deletions would likely be largely of those coming of age or departing this life. As it currently stands, a person eminently suitable for serving on a select vestry, who arrives to reside in a parish the month after the register is reviewed, cannot be considered for a parochial office/select vestry for a minimum of another twelve months.

PROPOSER: Mr Quentin Teggin

SECONDER: Mr Robert Syme

BILL

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

WHEREAS it is desirable for a parish to leverage the skills and attributes of members of the congregation to the fullest extent possible through their availability to serve on the select vestry, this may not currently be possible for a period of twelve months or more, where an individual with such abilities joins a congregation in the month or months immediately following the annual revision of the register of vestry persons: -

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

BE IT ENACTED by the Archbishops and Bishops and clergy and laity of the Church of Ireland in General Synod assembled in Armagh 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 2024 and by the authority of the same as follows;

1. In this statute, ‘Chapter III’ means Chapter III of the constitution of the Church of Ireland
2. In Chapter III, Part 1, Section 5 be amended to read as follows:-

“5. The register of vestry members shall be revised at least once in each year at such time and in such manner as the diocesan synod shall appoint. A select vestry may decide to review the register of vestry members at other times during the year, provided public notice of such review is given in accordance with Chapter III, Part 1, Section 4 above, and such review does not take place less than one calendar month before the date of a meeting of the General Vestry, including the Easter Vestry. At each revision of the register of vestry members, there shall be added to

the register the name of any qualified person who has produced to the registering authority the appropriate form of declaration signed by such person not more than one month before the date of revision and there shall be removed the names of those who are no longer qualified.”

BILL NO. 6

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

This Bill has a very simple purpose, namely to authorise a Select Vestry to co-opt an additional registered vestry member (or members) onto the Select Vestry, where the Easter General Vestry has failed to elect a full complement of select vestry members.

For some parishes, particularly smaller parishes, electing a full complement of vestry persons on the night of the Easter General Vestry can prove challenging. While the Constitution of the Church of Ireland allows a Select Vestry to co-opt someone where a vacancy arises during the course of a year, if a position is left unfilled at Easter General Vestry, there is no similar provision under the Constitution to allow a Select Vestry to co-opt individuals to bring the Select Vestry up to its full complement.

PROPOSER: Mr Quentin Teggin

SECONDER: Mr Robert Syme

BILL

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

WHEREAS it is desirable for the Select Vestry of a parish to have its full complement throughout the course of a year, this is only possible if all elected positions are filled at Easter General Vestry. If a position is not filled at Easter General Vestry, it cannot subsequently be filled, notwithstanding that eminently suitable candidates may become available during the year.

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

BE IT ENACTED by the Archbishops and Bishops and clergy and laity of the Church of Ireland in General Synod assembled in Armagh 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 2024 and by the authority of the same as follows: -

1. In this statute, 'Chapter III' means Chapter III of the constitution of the Church of Ireland
2. In Chapter III, Part 1, a new sub-section (d) of Section 13 be added to the Constitution to read as follows:

“ (d) Should the Easter General Vestry fail to elect the full complement of select vestry members, the select vestry may subsequently, at its discretion, co-opt suitable registered vestry members on to the select vestry, to bring the select vestry up to its full complement.”

BILL NO. 7

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

The purpose of this Bill is to pave the way for Synod to consider changes to the terminology relating to the bills process in the Standing Orders. Changes to Standing Orders are dealt with not by bills but by motions. The overriding purpose is to make the bills process easier to understand and thus encourage greater participation of members.

A motion from the Standing Committee will be considered later in this Synod. It describes proposed changes to the terminology around the bills process.

PROPOSER: Mr Ken Gibson

SECONDER: Rev Canon Gillian Wharton

BILL

To clarify and simplify the procedure by which the General Synod considers bills.

WHEREAS it is desirable that the terminology for the procedure by which the General Synod considers bills proposed be simplified;

AND WHEREAS to accomplish this it is necessary to amend Chapter I of the Constitution of the Church of Ireland;

BE IT ENACTED by the Archbishops and Bishops and clergy and laity of the Church of Ireland in General Synod assembled in Armagh 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 2024 and by the authority of the same as follows: -

1. In this Statute, “the Constitution” means the Constitution of the Church of Ireland;
2. In this Statute, “Chapter I” means Chapter I of the Constitution;
3. In this Statute “the implementation date” shall refer to the day following the last day of the ordinary session of the General Synod of 2024;
4. With effect from the implementation date, for Chapter I Section 25 the following shall be substituted:

“**25.** Every proposed statute shall be introduced as a bill, leave to introduce having been given by a resolution passed in full Synod. When a bill shall have been passed in accordance with Standing Orders, it shall become a Statute of the General Synod, and shall thenceforth be a law of the Church of Ireland and binding on all the members thereof.”

5. With effect from the implementation date, for Chapter I Section 26, the following shall be substituted:

“**26.** (1) No modification or alteration shall at any time hereafter be made in the articles, doctrines, rites, rubrics or formularies of the Church, unless by a bill duly passed, as hereinbefore provided. No bill for such purpose shall be introduced except on a resolution passed in full synod at an ordinary meeting thereof, stating the nature of the proposed modification or alteration; and no such bill or resolution shall be deemed to have passed the House of Representatives except it have the consent of not less than two-thirds of each order of the said House present and voting on such bill or resolution: Provided that no bill for such purpose shall be introduced until the ordinary meeting of the General Synod next after the passing of such resolution. Copies of any such resolution shall be transmitted forthwith by the secretaries of the General Synod to the secretaries of each diocesan synod.

(2) In the case of any bill for the modification or alteration of any of the articles, doctrines, rites, rubrics or formularies of the Church, which has been introduced upon a resolution duly passed in accordance with the provisions of sub-section (1) of this Section, the consent of not less than two-thirds of each order of the House of Representatives present and voting on such bill, required by sub-section (1) of this Section for the passing of such bill, shall be necessary only upon the motions for the approval of the bill in principle and for its final consideration and decision stages.

(3) Any form of Service and any Lectionary and any Catechism which the Liturgical Advisory Committee of the General Synod has recommended for experimental use with a view to its permanent use being authorised by resolution and bill under the provisions of this Section may be used without the enactment of a statute from such date and for such period, not exceeding fifteen years, as may be appointed by the House of Bishops and notified by it to the Standing Committee of the General Synod, subject to the following conditions:

- (a) It shall be certified by the House of Bishops as being in its opinion neither contrary to, nor indicative of any departure from, the doctrine of the Church of Ireland.

- (b) Any such experimental use shall be under the supervision and control of the bishop of the diocese or other ordinary.
- (c) In the case of a cathedral which is not a parish church, such experimental use shall require the approval of the dean, the chapter, and the cathedral wardens if any.
- (d) In the case of any other church or place, such experimental use shall require the approval of the incumbent and of the churchwardens.”

BILL NO. 8

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

Following the revision of the Episcopal Electoral College process in 2016, the Standing Committee established a Working Group to review the effectiveness of the new arrangements. The Working Group consulted extensively and developed additional regulations and proposed some amendments to procedure. The procedure is included in Chapter VI of the Constitution and amendment of certain Sections is required to give effect to the proposed changes.

PROPOSER: The Bishop of Connor

SECONDER: Ms Hazel Corrigan

BILL

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

WHEREAS the Episcopal Electoral College Procedure was amended in 2016 by the decision of the General Synod.

AND WHEREAS the Standing Committee has reviewed the effectiveness of the new procedure and recommends changes to its operation.

BE IT ENACTED by the Archbishops and Bishops and by the clergy and laity of the Church of Ireland in General Synod assembled in Armagh 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 2024 and by the authority of the same, as follows:-

1. That the following be substituted for Section 4(c):

“(i) when the diocese of which the see is vacant is situated in the Province of Armagh, ten diocesan clerical and ten diocesan lay episcopal electors from the diocese of which the see is vacant;”
2. That the following be substituted for Section 4(e)(i):

“in the case of an election to fill a vacancy in a see due to the Archbishop or Bishop thereof having been elected to the Archbishop of Armagh:

 - (i) if the vacant see is in the Province of Armagh, five diocesan clerical and five diocesan lay episcopal electors from the Diocese of Armagh; and
 - (ii) if the vacant see is in the Province of Dublin, six diocesan clerical and six diocesan lay episcopal electors from the Diocese of Armagh;”
3. In Section 11(b) and (d) and in Section 15(2), replace “Shortlisting Committee” with “Due Diligence Committee”.

4. That the following be substituted for Section 11(c):

“elect from its members a Due Diligence Committee of four members, comprising one clerical episcopal elector and one lay episcopal elector from the vacant see and one clerical episcopal elector and one lay episcopal elector from outside the vacant see together with such reserve members as it may deem necessary; Provided however that no person nominated for election to the vacant see shall be a member of the Due Diligence Committee unless he or she rejects their own nomination; and provided that no member from outside the vacant see shall serve more than twice and never consecutively on a due diligence committee;”

5. That the following be substituted for Section 12:

“Between the first and second meetings of the Electoral College, the Due Diligence Committee shall inquire into each candidate so as to ascertain whether there is any good cause why that person ought not to be elected to the vacant see. The matters to which the Due Diligence Committee shall have regard in its inquiry into each candidate shall [comprise/include] the following:

- a) Whether the candidate has ever been convicted of a criminal offence.
- b) Whether the candidate is disqualified from acting as a trustee of a charity.
- c) Whether there are any safeguarding concerns in respect of the candidate.”

6. That the following be substituted for Section 13:

“(1) At the second meeting the Electoral College shall consider a written report of the Due Diligence Committee.

(2) In relation to each candidate the Due Diligence Committee shall simply state whether or not, according to its research, there is any good cause why that person ought not to be elected to the vacant see, without stating the reason or reasons for such opinion.

(3) The Electoral College shall only vote on the names of those candidates who are named in the written report of the Due Diligence Committee as being

persons in respect of whom the Diligence Committee's research does not disclose any good reason why they ought not to be elected to the vacant see.

(4) Any member of the Electoral College who has been nominated for election and who is named in the written report of the Due Diligence Committee as being a person in respect of whom the Diligence Committee's research does not disclose any good reason why he or she ought not to be elected to the vacant see, shall withdraw from any part of the meeting when the other members of the College discuss the candidates, but such members shall be entitled to return for and participate in each round of voting."

7. That the following be substituted for Section 15(3):

"Between the second and third meetings of the College the Due Diligence Committee shall inquire into each additional candidate who has been nominated at the second meeting so as to ascertain whether there is any good cause why that person ought not to be elected to the vacant see. The matters to which the Due Diligence Committee shall have regard in its inquiry into each additional candidate shall [comprise/include] those set out in Section 12."

8. That the following be substituted for Section 16:

"(1) At the third meeting the Electoral College shall consider a written report of the Due Diligence Committee in respect of the additional candidates.

(2) In relation to each additional candidate the Due Diligence Committee shall simply state whether or not, according to its research, there is any good cause why that person ought not to be elected to the vacant see, without stating the reason or reasons for such opinion.

(3) The Electoral College shall only vote on the names of those candidates who are named in the written reports of the Due Diligence Committee as being persons in respect of whom the Diligence Committee's research does not disclose any good reason why they ought not to be elected to be suitable for appointment to the vacant see.

(4) Any member of the Electoral College who has been nominated for election and who is named in either of the written reports of the Due Diligence Committee as being a person in respect of whom the Diligence Committee's research does not disclose any good reason why he or she ought not to be elected

to the vacant see, shall withdraw from any part of the meeting when the other members of the College discuss the candidates, but such members shall be entitled to return for and participate in each round of voting.

(5) If at a third meeting after several votes have been taken no person has received the requisite majority, the College may by a simple majority pass a resolution that no further vote be taken, and the appointment shall pass to the House of Bishops.”

BILL NO. 9

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

In 1985, the General Synod approved the establishment of a scheme of retirement benefits supplementary to the system provided by the Church of Ireland Clergy Pensions Fund (hereinafter referred to as “the Fund”). The new scheme, entitled ‘The Church of Ireland Voluntary Contribution Scheme’ (hereinafter referred to as “the AVC Schemes”), enabled a member of the Fund to make additional contributions towards that member’s pension benefits. The Church of Ireland Pensions Board was authorised to arrange the AVC Schemes with effect from the earliest practicable date and to administer the AVC Schemes, with the Representative Body appointed as trustee of the AVC Schemes alongside the Representative Body’s role as trustee of the Fund.

In 2013, with effect from 31st May 2013, the Fund was closed to new entrants or for future accrual of service by existing members. As part of changes to the Fund, ‘The Church of Ireland Clergy Pensions Trustee Limited’ (subsequently renamed ‘The Church of Ireland Pensions Trustee DAC’ and hereinafter referred to as “the Trustee”) was appointed trustee of both the Fund and the AVC Schemes, in succession to the Representative Body, which became the sponsor of the Fund and the AVC Schemes. From 1st June 2013, participation in the AVC Schemes has been restricted to those members of the Fund on 31st May 2013.

Following receipt of advice on the need for changes to the administration and management of the Clergy Defined Contribution Pension Schemes, the Trustee and the Representative Body have determined that it is no longer in the interests of members of the Fund to administer the AVC Schemes as stand-alone schemes, separate from the Fund and the Clergy Defined Contribution Pension Schemes. The Representative Body, on behalf of the Trustee, is bringing a Motion to this General Synod for consent to close the AVC Schemes to further contributions, to transfer and re-invest all monies held in the AVC Schemes with the appointed pension providers for the Clergy Defined Contribution Pension Schemes and thereafter to wind up the AVC Schemes.

Section 49 of Chapter XIV of the Constitution of the Church of Ireland refers to the date of the resolution of the General Synod establishing the AVC Schemes and to the role of the Trustee in

administering the AVC Schemes in compliance with Additional Voluntary Contributions statutory regulations in force in the Republic of Ireland and in Northern Ireland. Pursuant to the Motion being brought to this General Synod for consent to close the AVC Schemes to further contributions, to transfer and re-invest all monies held in the AVC Schemes and to wind up the AVC Schemes, the Representative Body seeks to amend section 49 of Chapter XIV of the Constitution for future reference.

PROPOSER: Mr Robert Neill

SECONDER: Ven Barry Forde

(At the request of the Representative Body)

BILL

To amend Chapter XIV of the Constitution

WHEREAS the Church of Ireland Clergy Pensions Trustee DAC and the Representative Body, as trustee and sponsor respectively of the Church of Ireland Clergy Pensions Fund, have determined that it is in the interests of members of the Church of Ireland Clergy Pensions Fund to close the Church of Ireland Voluntary Contributions Schemes to further contributions, to transfer and re-invest all monies in the schemes and to wind up the Church of Ireland Voluntary Contributions Schemes at soon as this can be effected.

AND WHEREAS the Representative Body, on behalf of the Church of Ireland Clergy Pensions Trustee DAC, has brought a motion to the General Synod seeking the approvals and authorisations required to wind up the Church of Ireland Voluntary Contributions Schemes.

AND WHEREAS following adoption of a Resolution by the General Synod approving and authorizing the wind up of the Church of Ireland Voluntary Contributions Schemes, the Representative Body seeks to amend Chapter XIV of the Constitution of the Church of Ireland.

BE IT ENACTED by the Archbishops and Bishops and the clergy and laity of the Church of Ireland in General Synod assembled in Armagh 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 2024 and by the authority of the same as follows: -

1. In this Statute, ‘Chapter XIV’ means Chapter XIV of the Constitution of the Church of Ireland.
2. For Section 49 of Chapter XIV there shall be substituted:

“49. The establishment of the Church of Ireland Voluntary Contribution Schemes was

approved by resolution of the General Synod dated 21st May 1985. The closure of the Church of Ireland Voluntary Contribution Schemes to contributors and the winding up of these schemes was approved by resolution of the General Synod dated 11th May 2024.”

BILL NO. 10

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

On 21st June 2022, the Standing Committee of the General Synod approved the creation of a new clergy ill health benefits policy, supplementary to existing pension benefits provided by the Church of Ireland Clergy Defined Contribution Pension Scheme for the Republic of Ireland and the Church of Ireland Clergy Defined Contribution Pension Scheme for Northern Ireland (each hereinafter referred to as a “Scheme”). The new benefits, entitled ‘Clergy Permanent Health Insurance’ (hereinafter referred to as “Clergy PHI”), enable a member of the Scheme to resign their incumbency or other stipendiary office within the Church of Ireland and to receive financial support under the Scheme. It is a condition of Clergy PHI that members of the clergy receiving financial support under Clergy PHI can continue to make member contributions to the Scheme under sub-section 8.(a)(i) of Chapter XIV of the Constitution of the Church of Ireland (hereinafter called referred to as “the Constitution” and can continue to receive Parish / Diocesan Council / Other contributions under sub-section 8.(a)(ii) of Chapter XIV towards their pension benefits under the Scheme.

Eligibility to make member contributions to the Scheme under sub-section 8.(a)(i) of Chapter XIV of the Constitution and to receive Parish / Diocesan Council / Other contributions towards their pension benefits under the Scheme, is contingent on a Member of the Clergy coming within the definition of “Service in the Church of Ireland” in section 1 of Chapter XIV of the Constitution.

Clergy PHI was created on terms that members of the clergy receiving financial support under Clergy PHI would be duly licensed and paid officers of the Church of Ireland, holding offices recommended by the House of Bishops and recognized by the Representative Body under the definition of “Service in the Church of Ireland” in Section 1 of Chapter XIV of the Constitution.

The Representative Body now wishes to amend Chapter XIV of the Constitution to insert a new definition of “Clergy PHI Scheme” into section 1 of Chapter XIV of the Constitution and to include an express reference to the Clergy PHI Scheme in the definition of “Service in the Church of Ireland” in section 1 of Chapter XIV of the Constitution.

PROPOSER: Mr Michael Johnston

SECONDER: Ms Hilary Prentice

(At the request of the Representative Body)

BILL

To amend Chapter XIV of the Constitution

WHEREAS the Representative Body, as sponsor of the Church of Ireland Clergy Defined Contribution Pension Scheme, wants to ensure that a member of the clergy of the Church of Ireland who is a member of the Church of Ireland Clergy Defined Contribution Pension Scheme but who, by reason of their health, has resigned from stipendiary service within the Church and is receiving financial support under the Clergy Permanent Health Insurance Policy, remains eligible to make member contributions to the Church of Ireland Clergy Defined Contribution Pension Scheme for the Republic of Ireland or to the Church of Ireland Clergy Defined Contribution Pension Scheme for Northern Ireland and for Parish / Diocesan Council / Other contributions to be paid to the applicable Church of Ireland Clergy Defined Contribution Pension Scheme in respect of that member of the clergy.

AND WHEREAS the Representative Body seeks to amend Chapter XIV of the Constitution of the Church of Ireland.

BE IT ENACTED by the Archbishops and Bishops and the clergy and laity of the Church of Ireland in General Synod assembled in Armagh 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 2024 and by the authority of the same as follows: -

1. In this Statute, 'Chapter XIV' means Chapter XIV of the Constitution of the Church of Ireland.
2. In Section 1 of Chapter XIV there shall be inserted the following new definition:

the "**Clergy PHI Policy**" shall mean the Clergy Permanent Health Insurance Policy approved by the Standing Committee of the General Synod on 21st June 2022 and as amended from time

to time.

3. In Section 1 of Chapter XIV, the following shall be substituted for the definition of “**Service in the Church of Ireland**”:

“Service in the Church of Ireland” for the purposes of this Chapter shall mean service as a Member of the Clergy who

(a) holds the office of bishop, incumbent, vicar, bishop’s curate or curate assistant in the Church of Ireland; or

(b) is the Dean, the Dean’s Vicar, or the Succentor of the Cathedral Church of St Patrick, Dublin; or

(c) is duly licensed and a paid officer of the Church of Ireland or of any Council of Churches of which the Church of Ireland is a member, or of any Society or Institution or Diocesan Organisation working in connection with the Church of Ireland, as recommended by the House of Bishops and recognised as such by the Representative Body for the purposes of this Chapter; or

(d) is in receipt of payments under the Clergy PHI Policy.

The Representative Body, in its discretion, may recognise service in a full time appointment in connection with Religious Education as equivalent for the purposes of this Chapter to service in the Church of Ireland but on such terms and conditions as the Trustee may from time to time prescribe.”

BILL NO. 11

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

As set out at the beginning of Chapter XIV of the Constitution of the Church of Ireland, pensions for Church of Ireland clergy are governed by two schemes, a Defined Benefit Scheme (closed to new entrants on 31st May 2013) and a Defined Contribution Scheme, comprising the Church of Ireland Clergy Defined Contribution Scheme for the Republic of Ireland and the Church of Ireland Clergy Defined Contribution Scheme for Northern Ireland (“the DC Schemes”).

Since the establishment of the DC Schemes with effect from 1st June 2013, the DC Schemes have been regulated by separate rules made by the Representative Body in conjunction with trustees appointed by the Representative Body for the DC Schemes. The rules are subject to the approval of the General Synod, with the Standing Committee empowered to approve amendments to the rules, provided such amendments are reported to the next following General Synod.

As sponsor of the DC Schemes, the Representative Body has been advised that the present structure of the DC Schemes, under which each scheme has stand-alone rules, with separate trustees appointed to administer each scheme unconnected to any other pension scheme, may no longer be in the best interests of members of the DC Schemes. The Representative Body has examined the emergence within employment/employment type pension schemes, of trustees administering pension schemes under Master Trust rules. Using Master Trusts, trustees have developed pension scheme rules which apply to all participating plans administered under a Master Trust scheme. This removes the requirement for an employer or sponsor to draw up and amend the rules for a particular pension scheme.

The Representative Body has determined that it is in the interests of members of the DC Schemes for the Representative Body to identify the Master Trust(s) considered most suitable for the DC Schemes and for the DC Schemes to be administered under Master Trust rules.

As part of the move to administer the DC Schemes under Master Trust rules, the present rules for the DC Schemes shall be replaced by the rules developed by the trustees for the Master Trust(s) appointed by the Representative Body. In circumstances where Master Trust rules are

drawn up by, reviewed and amended by the trustee of each Master Trust, not the employer or the sponsor of a pension scheme administered under a Master Trust, the Representative Body seeks approval from General Synod to amend certain sections of Chapter XIV of the Constitution as part of the future administration of the DC Schemes under Master Trust rules.

To implement this bill effectively, certain additional matters are required which sit outside the legislative provisions, for example, the appointment from time to time of a Master Trust. These further steps are included in a motion which will be put to the General Synod of 2024, at the appropriate point in the agenda.

PROPOSER: Mr Robert Neill

SECONDER: Rev Canon Harry Gilmore

(At the request of the Representative Body)

BILL

To amend Chapter XIV of the Constitution

WHEREAS the Representative Body, as sponsor of the Church of Ireland Clergy Defined Contribution Pension Scheme, has determined that it is in the best interests of members of the two sections of the Pension Scheme (the Church of Ireland Clergy Defined Contribution Pension Scheme for Northern Ireland and the Church of Ireland Clergy Defined Contribution Pension Scheme for the Republic of Ireland) that the Pension Scheme be administered under Master Trust rules, which shall include replacing the existing Church of Ireland Clergy Defined Contribution Pension Scheme - Northern Ireland Section Scheme Rules and the Church of Ireland Clergy Defined Contribution Pension Scheme - Republic of Ireland Section Scheme Rules, with the rules for the Master Trust(s) appointed by the Representative Body from time to time.

AND WHEREAS, the Representative Body seeks to amend Chapter XIV of the Constitution of the Church of Ireland.

BE IT ENACTED by the Archbishops and Bishops and the clergy and laity of the Church of Ireland in General Synod assembled in Armagh 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 2024 and by the authority of the same as follows: -

1. In this Statute, ‘Chapter XIV’ means Chapter XIV of the Constitution of the Church of Ireland.
2. In Section 1 of Chapter XIV there shall be inserted the following new definition:

“ **Master Trust**” shall mean a retirement benefits pension scheme used by multiple

employers/deemed employers to provide retirement benefits to employees/deemed employees under the Pensions Act, or the Pensions Schemes Act 2017 (as amended from time to time) in England and Wales, or the Pensions Schemes Act (Northern Ireland) 2021 (as amended from time to time) and regulated by either the Pensions Authority for the Republic of Ireland or authorised by the Pensions Regulator for the United Kingdom.”

3. In Section 2 of Chapter XIV there shall be substituted:

“2. The Church of Ireland Clergy Defined Contribution Pension Scheme was established with effect from 1st June 2013 and is divided into two Schemes known as the Church of Ireland Clergy Defined Contribution Pension Scheme for Northern Ireland (formerly known as the Northern Ireland Section) and the Church of Ireland Clergy Defined Contribution Pension Scheme for the Republic of Ireland (formerly known as the Republic of Ireland Section).”

4. In Section 3 of Chapter XIV there shall be substituted:

“3. Each Scheme shall have separate trustees appointed by the Representative Body or alternatively, either or both Schemes shall have trustees appointed by a Master Trust.”

5. In Section 4 of Chapter XIV there shall be substituted:

“4.(a)In accordance with statutory pension regulations, either or both Schemes shall be regulated by rules made by the Representative Body in conjunction with the trustees for the particular Scheme and subject to the approval of the General Synod, hereinafter referred to as the Church of Ireland Clergy Defined Contribution Pension Scheme - Northern Ireland Section Scheme Rules or the Church of Ireland Clergy Defined Contribution Pension Scheme - Republic of Ireland Section Scheme Rules or alternatively, either or both Schemes shall be regulated by rules made by the trustees of a Master Trust.

(b) Any amendment which may be made to the Church of Ireland Clergy Defined Contribution Pension Scheme - Northern Ireland Section Scheme Rules or the Church of Ireland Clergy Defined Contribution Pension Scheme - Republic of

Ireland Section Scheme Rules may be approved by the Standing Committee of the General Synod provided it is reported to the next following General Synod. The Representative Body shall report each appointment of a Master Trust for either or both Schemes and subsequent appointments for either Scheme, to the next following General Synod.”

6. In Section 10 of Chapter XIV there shall be substituted:

- “10. (a) On retirement, benefits will be paid in accordance with either (i) the Clergy Defined Contribution Scheme Rules, or (ii) the rules of the Master Trust, for each Pension Scheme.
- (b) On death in service before reaching Normal Retirement Age, benefits will be paid in accordance with the Life Assurance policy in place for the relevant jurisdiction.
- (c) On death in service on, or after, reaching Normal Retirement Age, benefits will be paid in accordance with either (i) the Clergy Defined Contribution Scheme Rules, or (ii) the rules of the Master Trust, for each Pension Scheme.
- (d) On death in retirement, benefits will be paid in accordance with selected options made by the member at retirement.”