

CHURCH OF IRELAND – GENERAL SYNOD 2024

MOTIONS

Motions received by the Honorary Secretaries of the General Synod not less than one month before the day appointed for the opening of the session of the General Synod at which the motion is to be moved (Standing Order 31).

1. TIMETABLE (SEE SEPARATE SHEET)

Proposer: The Honorary Secretaries

A motion or motions to allocate the time available between the items listed on the agenda paper (Standing Order 56). (See Timetable Motion on separate sheet).

2. ELECTION OF STANDING ORDERS COMMITTEE

Proposer: The Honorary Secretaries

That the following be elected members of the Standing Orders Committee:

The Honorary Secretaries

Very Revd Shane Forster

Ms Heather Pope

3. ELECTION OF PETITIONS COMMITTEE

Proposer: The Honorary Secretaries

That the following be elected members of the Petitions Committee:

The Honorary Secretaries

Mr Oswyn Paulin

Ms Linda Rainsberry

4. ELECTION OF ELECTIONS COMMITTEE

Proposer: The Honorary Secretaries

That the following be elected members of the Elections Committee:

The Honorary Secretaries

Rev Canon Harry Gilmore

Canon Graham Richards

5. ELECTION OF RECORD COMMITTEE

Proposer: The Honorary Secretaries

That the following be elected members of the Record Committee:

The Honorary Secretaries

Mrs Kaye Nesbitt

Mr Quentin Teggin

Canon Graham Richards

Dr Jacqui Wilkinson

Ven David Huss

6. ELECTION OF BILLS COMMITTEE

Proposer: The Honorary Secretaries

That the following be elected members of the Bills Committee:

The Honorary Secretaries

Prof. Patricia Barker

The Rt Rev Michael Burrows

Very Rev Stephen Farrell

Mr Oswyn Paulin

The Assessor (ex-officio)

7. ELECTION OF LEGISLATION COMMITTEE

Proposer: The Honorary Secretaries

That the following be elected members of the Legislation Committee:

The Rt Rev Michael Burrows

The Honorary Secretaries

Mr Garrett Casey JC

Rev Terence Dunlop SC

Mrs Judy Peters

8. AMENDMENT OF STANDING ORDER 22 (MOTION TO CHANGE THE STANDING ORDERS OF THE GENERAL SYNOD TO PREVENT A CLASH OF DEADLINES WITH HOLY WEEK)

Proposer: The Honorary Secretaries

That standing Order 22 should be amended to read as follows:

‘22. Notice of motion for leave to bring in bills for specified purposes may be sent to the honorary secretaries of the Synod with the proposed bill at any time not less than one week before the day appointed for the opening of the session of the Synod, and shall appear on the Agenda for the first day of such session; **provided that any bill** which is lodged with the honorary secretaries not less than six weeks before the first day of the session **(excluding the period from Sunday next before Easter (Palm Sunday) to Easter Day inclusive)** shall be printed and sent to the members with the summonses.’

9. AMENDMENT OF TIMETABLE FROM 2025 (TO REDUCE THE TIMETABLING REQUIREMENTS AROUND THE REPORTS OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE AND THE REPRESENTATIVE BODY)

Proposer: The Honorary Secretaries

That Standing Order 57 should be amended to replace the words ‘not less than two hours’ with the words ‘not less than one and a half hours.’

10. PRIVATE MEMBERS MOTION - BAPTISM

Proposer: Prof Patricia Barker

Secunder: Ms Lynn Wright

Diocese: Dublin & Glendalough

Diocese: Kilmore, Elphin & Ardagh

Whilst affirming the sanctity of marriage, this Synod acknowledges that it is a reality of modern life that infants are often born to single parents and/or to couples who are not married. In this regard, this Synod affirms that, in accordance with Canons, Chapter 9 of the Constitution of the Church of Ireland, irrespective of the marital status of the parents of an infant, a minister must not refuse or, save for the purpose of preparing or instructing the parents or godparents, delay to baptise any child within his or her cure who is brought to be baptised, provided that due notice has been given and the provisions relating to sponsors and godparents are observed.

11. CHURCH OF IRELAND MARRIAGE COUNCIL (MEMBERSHIP)

Proposer: Rev Jonathan Campbell-Smyth

Seconder: Rev Ian Linton

That the following be appointed to the Church of Ireland Marriage Council to serve from the first day of General Synod 2024 to the day before the meeting of General Synod 2026:

Most Rev Pat Storey

Vacant (Chairperson)

Rev Ian Linton

Ms Heather James

Rev Carlton Baxter

Rev Emma Rutherford

Mrs Patsy Devoy

Mrs Kay Clarke

Ms Esther Simpson

12. COMMISSION ON MINISTRY

Proposer: Very Rev Lynda Peilow

Seconder: Capt. George Newell

That the following be appointed by the General Synod as a member of the Commission on Ministry to serve from the first day of General Synod 2024 to the day before the meeting of General Synod 2027:

Ven Elizabeth Cairns (General Synod – Clerical)

Very Rev Paul Draper (General Synod – Clerical)

Rev Rob Jones (General Synod – Clerical)

Captain George Newell (General Synod – Lay)

Ms Hazel Uprichard (General Synod – Lay)

Mrs Judith Cairns (General Synod – Lay)

Rev Emma Gibson (Co-Option)

Rev Canon Alastair Graham (Co-Option)

Rev Dr Scott Brown (Co-Option)

13. REPRESENTATIVE CHURCH BODY - ALLOCATIONS

Proposer: Mr Lyndon MacCann

Seconder: Very Rev Nigel Crossey

That the General Synod hereby authorises the Representative Body to make the following allocations from General Funds in 2024:

| | € |
|---|-------------|
| A.Maintenance of the stipendiary ministry | |
| • Episcopal costs | 1,047,776 |
| • Chaplaincy costs | 317,328 |
| • Miscellaneous | 126,266 |
| B.Pension related costs | - |
| C.Training of ordinands | 1,152,292 |
| D.General Synod activities | 1,205,048 |
| E. Miscellaneous | 16,461 |
| F. Pioneer Ministry | 241,377 |
| | <hr/> |
| | 4,106,548 |
| | <hr/> <hr/> |

14. REPRESENTATIVE CHURCH BODY - THE CHURCH OF IRELAND VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTION SCHEMES

Proposer: Mr Robert Neill

Seconder: Ven Barry Forde

That the General Synod:

- (a) approves the closure of the Church of Ireland Voluntary Contributions Schemes ('the AVC Schemes') to further contributions from members of the Clergy Pensions Fund ('the Fund');
- (b) authorises the Trustee to transfer all monies held in the AVC Schemes for members of the Fund to the appointed pension providers for the Clergy Defined Contribution Pension Schemes;
- (c) authorises the Trustee and the RCB, following the transfer and re-investment of all monies held in the AVC Schemes in the appointed pension providers, to proceed to wind up the AVC Schemes;
- (d) notes the Bill being brought by the RCB before the General Synod to amend the wording

of section 49 of Chapter XIV of the *Constitution of the Church of Ireland* so that henceforth this section shall refer to the dates of the resolutions of the General Synod to establish, as well as to wind up, the AVC Schemes, for future reference.

15. PENSIONS BOARD – MEMBERSHIP

Proposer: Rev Canon Henry Gilmore

Seconder: TBC

That, in accordance with the provisions of Section 25 (b) of Chapter XIV of the Constitution of the Church of Ireland, the following be elected as members of the Church of Ireland Pensions Board:

Mr Robert Syme

Mr Mike Johnston

16. PRIVATE MEMBERS MOTION – CHURCH RESPONSE TO GAZA AND OTHER HUMANITARIAN CRISES

Proposer: The Revd Canon Elaine Murray

Diocese: Cork, Cloyne & Ross

Seconder: Dr Simon Woodworth

Diocese: Cork, Cloyne & Ross

That this Synod, mindful of the deafening silence from Christian churches regarding the current situation in Gaza and the humanitarian crisis that has unfolded since the appalling events of October 7:

- requests the Standing Committee to identify an enhanced mechanism by which we as a church community may publicly speak to such gross humanitarian situations in a timely and Christian manner, especially when sacred Scripture and the Word of God is being weaponised (whether in Israel / Gaza or in Russia / Ukraine) to justify atrocities and acts of war.

- further requests that progress in this matter will be reported to the General Synod of 2025.

17. MOTION TO AMEND TERMINOLOGY IN BILLS PROCEDURE

Proposer: The Honorary Secretaries

That the Standing Orders of the General Synod be amended as follows:

1. In Standing Order 18b the words ‘or of any bill’ shall be deleted.
2. In Standing Order 18, after the words ‘provided that the President’ shall be inserted the words ‘ (or person chairing the Synod at that time)’.
3. In Standing Order 20 the word “committee” shall be deleted and replaced with the words “Amendment/Detail Stage”.
4. In Standing Order 26 the words “second reading” shall be deleted and replaced with the words “Principle Stage”.
5. In Standing Order 28 the words “first reading” shall be deleted and replaced with the word “introduction” and the words “second reading” shall be deleted and replaced with the words “Principle and Amendment/Detail Stages”.
6. In Standing Order 29 (a) the words “and First Reading” shall be deleted.
7. In Standing Order 29 (a) the words “10 minutes” shall be deleted on both occasions that they appear and be replaced with the words “five minutes”.
8. In Standing Order 29 (a) the words “a first time” shall be deleted.
9. In Standing Order 29 (a) the words “second reading” shall be deleted and replaced with the words “Principle Stage”.
10. In Standing Order 29 (b) the words “second reading” shall be deleted and replaced with the words “Principle Stage”, the words “that the bill be now read a second time” shall be deleted and replaced with the words “ that the bill now be considered in Principle”, the words “being postponed to the committee stage” shall be deleted and replaced with

“being postponed to the Amendment/Detail Stage”, and the words “having been read a second time” shall be deleted and replaced with “having been through the Principle Stage”.

11. Furthermore, the words “in Committee of the whole Synod.” Shall be deleted and replaced with the words “at the Amendment/Detail Stage’.
12. In Standing Order 29 (c) the words “consideration in committee” shall be deleted and replaced with the words “Amendment/Detail Stage”.
13. Furthermore, the words “The Committee of the whole Synod shall be deleted and be replaced with the words “The Synod” and the words “the bill, with or without amendments, shall be reported to the Synod” shall be deleted and replaced with the words “at the conclusion of this consideration an order shall be made fixing a day for the Final Consideration and Final Decision stages”.
14. Standing Order 29 (d) shall be deleted and replaced with the words: “Final Consideration Stage”
15. At this stage the Synod may consider amendments which arise out of the Amendment/Detail Stage and of which notice has been given at least one day before this stage. Amendments rejected during the Amendment/Detail Stage shall not be in order. Amendments may also be made without notice if in the opinion of the President they involve merely matters of drafting or the correction of grammatical or clerical errors.
16. When the bill has received relevant consideration, an order may be made fixing a day for the Final Decision, provided that such order must permit, unless the Synod otherwise direct, for a at least one clear day being interposed between consideration at the Detail/Amendment Stage and the Final Decision.”
17. In Standing Order 29 (e) the words “Third Reading” shall be deleted and replaced with the words “Final Decision Stage” and that the words “now read a third time” shall be deleted.

18. In Standing Order 30 (a) the words “been read a first time” shall be deleted and replaced with the words “completed the Introduction Stage”.
19. Furthermore, the words “second reading” shall be deleted and replaced with the words “the Principle Stage” and the words “first reading stage” shall be deleted and replaced with the words “Introduction Stage”.
20. In addition, the words “Amendments of which notice has been given at the first reading stage, may be moved at the committee stage’ shall be deleted and replaced with the words “Amendments of which notice has been given at the Introduction stage may be moved at the Amendment/Detail stage”.
21. In Standing Order 30 (c) the words “(ii) that the bill now be read a second time and (iii) that the bill now be read a third time and passed” shall be deleted and replaced with the words “(ii) that the bill now progress through the Principle Stage and (iii) the bill now progress through the Amendment/Detail and Final Decision Stages”.
22. In Standing Order 34 the words “except on Committee” shall be deleted and replaced with the words “during the Amendment/Detail Stage”.
23. In Standing Order 41 (a) the words “or in a Committee of the whole Synod” shall be deleted.
24. In Standing Order 44 (a) the words “or to a Committee of the whole Synod” shall be deleted.
25. In Standing Order 55 the words “in Committee, and then awaiting its third reading” shall be deleted and replaced with the words “at the Amendment/Detail Stage and then awaiting the Final Consideration and Decision Stages”.

18. BISHOPS' APPEAL (FAIR TRADE)

Proposer: The Bishop of Kilmore, Elphin and Ardagh

Secunder: Ms Iris Suitor

That the General Synod recognises the significant part that the Fairtrade Foundation has played in raising awareness of the challenges facing farming communities in many parts of the world, and in particular the impact of the climate change in our generation and reaffirms our commitment as churches and individuals to use fairtrade products.

19. COMMISSION FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY AND DIALOGUE – MEMBERSHIP

Proposer: The Bishop of Derry and Raphoe

Secunder: Ms Cate Turner

That the following be appointed to the Commission for Christian Unity and Dialogue:

Rev David White

Very Rev Niall Sloane

The Archbishop of Dublin

The Bishop of Derry

Rev Canon Dr Daniel Nuzum

Rev Dr Christine O'Dowd Smyth

Rev Suzanne Cousins

Ms Cate Turner

Canon Dr Kenneth Milne

Ms Gina Copty

Rev Abigail Sines

Rev Canon Kevin O'Brien

Mr Femi Atoyebi

Dr Bridget Nichols

Dr Ryan Hawk

20. COUNCIL FOR MISSION – MEMBERSHIP

Proposer: Rev William Jeffrey

Seconder: Rev Jonathan McFarland

That the following be elected by General Synod to serve on the Church of Ireland Council for Mission:

Rev Tim Wright (Hon Chair)

Rev Colin McConaghie (Hon Secretary)

Ven Andrew Orr

Rev Capt. Isaac Hanna

Rev Adam Pullen

21. COVENANT COUNCIL – MEMBERSHIP

Proposer: Ven Barry Forde

Seconder: The Bishop of Tuam, Limerick and Killaloe

That the following be elected as Church of Ireland representatives on the Covenant Council for the coming year:

The Rt Rev Michael Burrows, Bishop of Tuam, Limerick and Killaloe (Co-Chair)

Ms Elva Byrne

Very Rev Nigel Dunne

Rev Canon Dr Maurice Elliott

Ven Barry Forde

Rev Claire Kakuru

22. PRIVATE MEMBER’S MOTION – EUTHANASIA AND ASSISTED SUICIDE

Proposer: Dr Keith Gardiner

Diocese: Connor

Seconder:

Diocese:

The General Synod, upholding the inherent dignity and value of every individual as being created in the image of God, and affirming the Christian calling to protect the most vulnerable in society, opposes legislation to permit euthanasia and assisted suicide; commends the loving service of all who provide physical, emotional and spiritual care for those who are suffering; and calls on governments to provide equity of access to high quality palliative care.

23. JOURNAL OF THE GENERAL SYNOD

Proposer: The Honorary Secretaries

That the Honorary Secretaries of the General Synod be instructed to publish with as little delay as possible, the Journal of the Proceedings of the General Synod during this session, with such appendices as they think expedient.