

Bill No. 5

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

Christ Church Cathedral lies at the heart of church life in the city of Dublin. Having a unique position, given its location at the top of one of Dublin’s main thoroughfares, Christ Church is an icon of faith in a context that has become multi-cultural and consequently multi faith in composition. The ministry of the cathedral reaches out across the city, not only as the mother church of the united dioceses of Dublin and Glendalough but further to churches of other denominations and other faiths. The cathedral is rich in its ecumenical expression and is much enhanced by the involvement of gifted lay people from across the community. The purpose of this Bill is to expand the Chapter of the Cathedral to reflect its mission and ministry in a changing city and a changing ecumenical culture. Through the appointment of Ecumenical and Lay Canons to the Chapter, the cathedral is enabled to engage in a tangible way in furthering ecumenical dialogue and recognising the contribution gifted lay people have given to the cathedral, the Church of Ireland and the wider community.

Clause 1 provides for the inclusion of two new sections, sections 3A and 3B, in the Statute of the General Synod Chapter I of 1902 which governs the regulation and management of Christ Church Cathedral.

The new section 3A (i) will enable the Archbishop of Dublin to appoint two honorary Lay Canons to the Cathedral in recognition of particular and distinguished service to the Cathedral or to the community in the Dioceses of Dublin and Glendalough or to the Church of Ireland. Subsections (ii) and (iii) of the new section 3A relate to the tenure of office of the Lay Canons and to their entitlements and subsection (iv) would enable the Archbishop to remove a Lay Canon for cause shown.

Section 3B provides for the appointment by the Archbishop of Dublin of two Ecumenical Canons. Apart from the appointment being made by the Archbishop of Dublin the provisions of this section are to all intents and purposes identical to those of section 24A of Chapter VII of the Constitution which relate to the appointment of Ecumenical Canons to St. Patrick’s Cathedral Dublin and to those of the legislation governing the appointment of Ecumenical Canons to the Chapter of St. Anne’s Cathedral, Belfast.

Clause 2 of this Bill provides that the Schedule containing the Declaration for Subscription to be made before the Archbishop of Dublin under the provisions of section 3A (iii) of the amended Statute of 1902 shall be annexed to the said Statute.

Clause 3 seeks to make minor and consequential amendments to Chapter VII of the Constitution of the Church of Ireland.

Bill No. 5

VERY REV DERMOT DUNNE
REV CANON ADRIENNE GALLIGAN

BILL

To amend the Statute of the General Synod, Chapter I of 1902, as amended by the Statutes of the General Synod Chapter V of 1920, Chapter VI of 1920 (Special Session), Chapter IX of 1971, Chapter II of 1997, and Chapter IV of 2006.

WHEREAS it is desirable to amend the provisions relating to the regulation and management of the Cathedral of the Holy Trinity, commonly called Christ Church, Dublin;

AND WHEREAS it is necessary therefore to amend the Statute of the General Synod Chapter I of 1902, as amended by the Statutes of the General Synod Chapter V of 1920, Chapter VI of 1920 (Special Session), Chapter IX of 1971, Chapter II of 1997, and Chapter IV of 2006, hereinafter referred to as ‘the Statute’;

AND WHEREAS it is desirable to make consequential amendment of the First Schedule to Chapter VII 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 Limerick in the year 2017 and by the authority of the same as follows:

1. Immediately after section 3 of the Statute there shall be inserted:

- 3A. (i) The Archbishop of Dublin shall have the right to appoint at his or her sole discretion two honorary Lay Canons to the Cathedral, such appointments to be in recognition of particular and distinguished service to the Cathedral or to the United Dioceses of Dublin and Glendalough or the community in those dioceses or to the Church of Ireland.
- (ii) A Lay Canon shall hold office for a term of five years from the date of appointment and shall be entitled to a designated seat in the Cathedral while holding such office. A Lay Canon shall be entitled to attend Chapter Meetings as a non-voting member.
- (iii) A Lay Canon who has served five years may be reappointed.
- (iv) A Lay Canon may be removed by the Archbishop for cause shown.
- 3B. (i) The Archbishop of Dublin may appoint two Ecumenical Canons to the Chapter. An Ecumenical Canon shall mean a minister or accredited preacher of one or other of such Christian denominations not in full communion with the Church as may from time to time be specified by the House of Bishops. The Ecumenical Canons shall each have a designated stall in the Cathedral and shall be non-voting members of the Chapter.
- (ii) Such Ecumenical Canons may be removed by the Archbishop for cause shown. Each Ecumenical Canon, if not so removed, shall hold office for a term of five years from the date of appointment or until such Ecumenical Canon shall resign from such office. An Ecumenical Canon who has served five years may be reappointed.
- (iii) The appointment of an Ecumenical Canon shall not be effective unless and until that person shall make and subscribe before the Archbishop the declaration contained in the Schedule hereto annexed.

- (iv) An Ecumenical Canon may be invited by the Archbishop to perform all or any of the following duties insofar as the same are consonant with the provisions of Canon 10 –
 - (a) To say or sing Morning or Evening Prayer or the Litany;
 - (b) To read the Holy Scriptures;
 - (c) To deliver an address;
 - (d) To assist at a Baptism, Marriage or Funeral Service or at the Celebration of the Holy Communion;

if the Ecumenical Canon is authorised to perform a similar duty in his or her own Church.

- (v) The Court of the General Synod shall have authority to determine all questions and disputes that may arise respecting the appointment or removal of an Ecumenical Canon.

2. The Schedule below shall be annexed to the Statute.

3. For paragraph (2) of the First Schedule to Chapter VII of the Constitution of the Church of Ireland there shall be substituted:-

1872, cap. IV; 1886, cap. VII; 1902, cap. I, as amended by 1920, cap. V, and 1920 (Special Session), cap. VI; 1935, cap. V; 1971, cap. IX; 1997, cap. II; 2006, cap. IV and 2017, cap. [].

Under these Statutes, the Archbishop of Dublin is the Ordinary and has the right of appointing the Dean, and also has the right of appointment to the Dignities and Canonries, other than (a) the Canon chosen in accordance with the schedule to 1971, cap. IX, and (b) the Precentor and the Priest Vicars appointed by the Dean and Chapter; the Archbishop also has the right of appointment of two Lay Canons and two Ecumenical Canons. The Statutes provide for the regulation of the Cathedral affairs; the registration of vestry members; the return of synod members; and the triennial election of nine lay members of the Cathedral Board, and of five clerical members, to form, with the Dean, the Precentor, the Chancellor and the Treasurer, the Cathedral Board.

SCHEDULE

DECLARATION FOR SUBSCRIPTION

I, A.B., do hereby solemnly declare that:

- (1) I am a minister or accredited preacher of _____ Church.
- (2) I agree to be bound by the provisions of Part II of Chapter VII of the Constitution of the Church of Ireland and, to that extent only, I submit myself to the authority of the Church of Ireland, and to the laws and tribunals thereof.

- (3) I A.B. do declare that I will perform Canonical obedience to the Ordinary of the Cathedral of the Holy Trinity commonly called Christ Church, Dublin, and his or her successors, Archbishops of Dublin. I will observe the statutes and ancient customs of Cathedral of the Holy Trinity commonly called Christ Church, Dublin, so far as they are not repugnant to the laws of the Church of Ireland, I will keep private and undisclosed the secrets of the Chapter.

I subscribe the above declaration to be appointed to the office of Ecumenical Canon of the Cathedral of the Holy Trinity, commonly called Christ Church, Dublin.