

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

The Constitution of the Church of Ireland requires parishes to have, and to keep, registers of baptisms and burials, as well as a Marriage Record Book.

No similar requirement exists in relation to records of Confirmations which take place in a parish. Many, but not all, parishes do keep records of Confirmation or maintain a Confirmation Register. Many do not. It appears that the pattern of practice varies between dioceses and within dioceses of the Church of Ireland.

Certification of Confirmation may be required at times in life including, for example, when someone offers him or herself for training for ordained ministry, or for training as a reader. Members of the Church of Ireland who have lost the Confirmation Certificate issued at the time of their Confirmation frequently turn to clergy, bishops and/or diocesan offices seeking certification of their Confirmation. This may or may not be available depending on the practice of or within particular parishes and dioceses.

The purpose of this Bill is to ensure that records of Confirmation which take place in a parish are recorded within that parish and uniformly in parishes throughout the Church of Ireland.

Accordingly clause 2 seeks to make the necessary amendment to Chapter III by inserting into Chapter III a new section 25(1B) which would require the Select Vestry in each parish to provide a Confirmation Register in which are recorded confirmations by the Bishop in that parish;

Clause 3 seeks to make the consequential amendments by substituting a new section 25(2) into Chapter III to include reference to registers of confirmation.

THE BISHOP OF CLOGHER
VEN ADRIAN WILKINSON

BILL

To amend Chapter III of the Constitution.

WHEREAS it is desirable that Confirmation Registers should be provided in parishes to enable records to be maintained of those who are confirmed;

AND WHEREAS for such purposes it is necessary to amend Chapter III 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 Limerick in the year 2017 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. Immediately after section 25(1A) of Chapter III there shall be inserted:

25(1B) The select vestry shall also provide in each parish a Confirmation Register in which the incumbent or other member of the clergy officiating in the parish shall maintain records of those who are confirmed by the Bishop in that parish.

3. For section 25(2) of Chapter III there shall be substituted:

- (2) Every incumbent or other member of the clergy officiating in the parish, who shall have the custody for the time being of any registers of baptisms, or of confirmations, or of marriages, or of burials, shall at all reasonable times, on demand, allow search in such registers, and shall give a signed certified copy of any entry or entries in the same, on payment of the fee hereinafter mentioned; that is to say, for every search in a register of baptisms, or of confirmations, or of burials and for every single certificate of baptism, or of confirmation, or of burial the fees prescribed from time to time by the Standing Committee of the General Synod; and for every search in a register of marriages, and for each certified copy of an entry therein, the statutory fees prescribed by the State in which is situated the church to which the relevant register of marriages pertains.

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

At present, lay representatives who, during their membership of General Synod, become deacons serving in an internship, may retain their membership until the end of the triennium. This Bill (if passed) will provide that a lay person who becomes a deacon serving in an internship shall be deemed to have resigned his or her membership of General Synod.

VEN GEORGE DAVISON
MS HAZEL CORRIGAN

BILL

To amend Chapter I of the Constitution

WHEREAS it is expedient that lay representatives who become deacons serving in an internship should not continue to hold their seats as members of General Synod;

AND WHEREAS to reflect this change it is necessary to amend Chapter I 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. In this Statute “Chapter I” means Chapter I of the Constitution of the Church of Ireland.
2. For Section 7 of Chapter I there shall be substituted:

“ 7. Every lay person who, on 1st January preceding election, had attained the age of seventeen years and had not attained the age of seventy-four years, being a member of the Church of Ireland and a communicant of the said Church and not being a deacon serving in an internship, shall be qualified to be elected as a lay representative or supplemental lay representative for any diocese; provided that clergy residing in the diocese who are neither beneficed nor licensed shall be deemed to be lay persons for the purpose of this section and provided that a lay person who has become a deacon serving in an internship since election as a lay representative or supplemental lay representative for any diocese shall be deemed to have resigned from General Synod as a lay representative or supplemental lay representative for any diocese.”

Bill No. 4

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

Statute Ch I of 2016 consolidated and replaced Chapter VI of the Constitution of the Church of Ireland. Following this, amendment of Chapters IV and XIV is required to ensure that all cross-references to Chapter VI are correct.

REV CANON GILLIAN WHARTON
MR KENNETH GIBSON

BILL

To amend Chapter IV and Chapter XIV of the Constitution

WHEREAS Statute Chapter I of 2016 amended Chapter VI of the Constitution of the Church of Ireland;

AND WHEREAS in consequence of the amendments and consolidations of Chapter VI it is necessary to amend Chapter IV and Chapter XIV of the said Constitution;

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. In this Statute “Chapter IV” means Chapter IV of the Constitution of the Church of Ireland and “Chapter XIV” means Chapter XIV of the Constitution of the Church of Ireland.
2. In Section 13 (2) of Chapter IV, for the words “or has failed to meet its liabilities under section 35 of Chapter VI of the Constitution” there shall be substituted the words “or has failed to meet its liabilities under section 38 of Chapter VI of the Constitution”.
3. In Section 13 (2) of Chapter IV, for the words “section 35 of Chapter XIV of the Constitution” there shall be substituted “sections 8 and 36 of Chapter XIV of the Constitution”.
4. For section 31 (1) (b) of Chapter VI there shall be substituted the following “a decision of the Church Panel as defined in section 34 of this Chapter or a judgment of the Court of General Synod under section 34 of this Chapter or an order made by a Disciplinary Tribunal under section 33 (d) (v) or (vi) of Chapter VIII or an order made by an Appeal Tribunal under section 36 of Chapter VIII, or”

5. In Section 68 of Chapter XIV, for the words “Section 25 of Chapter VI” there shall be substituted the words “Section 28 of Chapter VI”.
6. In Section 69 of Chapter XIV, for the words “Section 27 (2) of Chapter VI” there shall be substituted the words “Section 30 (2) of Chapter VI”.
7. In section 71 of Chapter XIV, for the words “Section 26 (3) of Chapter VI” there shall be substituted the words “Section 29 (3) of Chapter VI” in both occurrences.
8. In section 77 of Chapter XIV, for the words “Section 25 of Chapter VI” there shall be substituted “Section 28 of Chapter VI”.
9. In Section 78 of Chapter XIV, for the words “Section 27 (2) of Chapter VI” there shall be substituted “Section 30 (2) of Chapter VI”.
10. In Section 79 of Chapter XIV, for the words “Section 26 (3) of Chapter VI” there shall be substituted “Section 29 (3)” in both occurrences.

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.

Bill No. 6

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

In 2016, the General Synod approved, by the requisite majorities, a resolution granting leave for the introduction of this Bill and accompanying Schedule in 2017.

The Bill provides for the amendment of the *Book of Common Prayer* (2004; rev.ed. 2005) by including, in all future printings thereof, an alteration to The Table of Readings.

VERY REV NIGEL DUNNE
BISHOP OF DOWN AND DROMORE

BILL

To amend The Table of Readings in *The Book of Common Prayer*

WHEREAS it is desirable to amend The Table of Readings in *The Book of Common Prayer* (2004; rev. ed. 2005);

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:

THE TABLE OF READINGS

In The Table of Readings immediately before the Sunday between 29 May and 4 June the following be inserted:

“The Sunday between 24 and 29 May Proper 3

If after Trinity Sunday Green

The provisions for the Second Sunday before Lent are used”

In The Table of Readings immediately after the Principal Service readings for The First Sunday of Christmas the following rubric be inserted:

“*When this Sunday is 1 January the readings for The Circumcision and Naming of Jesus are used.*”

Bill No. 7

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

In 2016, the General Synod approved, by the requisite majorities, a resolution granting leave for the introduction of this Bill and accompanying Schedule in 2017.

The Bill provides for the amendment of the *Book of Common Prayer* (2004; rev. ed. 2005) by including, in all future printings thereof, an alteration to The Table of Readings and The Collects to make provision for readings, psalms, a collect and Post Communion Prayer for Remembrance Sunday.

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Proposer: Very Rev Nigel Dunne
Seconder: Bishop of Down and Dromore

To amend the Table of Readings and The Collects in *The Book of Common Prayer*

WHEREAS it is desirable to amend The Table of Readings and The Collects in *The Book of Common Prayer* (2004; rev. ed. 2005);

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:

THE TABLE OF READINGS

In the Table of Readings under the Sunday between 6 and 12 November the following be inserted:

“Remembrance Sunday
Isaiah 2:1-5 or Isaiah 10:33-11:9 or Ezekiel 37:1-14
Psalm 4 or Psalm 47 or Psalm 93 or Psalm 126 or Psalm 130
Romans 8:31-39 or Revelation 1:1-7
Matthew 5:1-12 or John 15:9-17
Any combination of the above may be used.”

THE COLLECTS

In The Collects after The Third Sunday before Advent insert the following rubric:

“*Collect Two and the Post Communion Prayer above are suitable for use on Remembrance Sunday*”.