

Motion No. 15

Proposer: Bishop Ken Good

Over the past 18 months, the Board of Education (NI) has been reviewing its function, its structure and its effectiveness. After detailed consideration, the Board now wishes to request the General Synod to agree to amendments to the Northern Ireland Board's composition and duties.

Many members of Synod will be aware that the Constitution and Duties of the General Synod Board of Education are contained in an Appendix to the Church of Ireland Constitution. These have already been amended by General Synod on at least six occasions since the 1960's, by means of a motion to Synod, not as a Bill, as the Bills procedure is not required to amend the appendices to the Constitution.

The purpose of this Motion 15 is to amend Paragraphs 7, 8 and 12 of the Education Appendix. One purpose of the amendment is to up-date the wording of the appendix to reflect better the changing landscape of education in Northern Ireland including reference to The Education Authority, the TRC, the Controlled Schools' Support Council, children's ministry and youth ministry.

A second reason for the changes is to streamline the membership of the Board of Education (NI) so as to enable it to be more proactive and focussed in its work.

The changes have been considered by the General Synod Board of Education as a whole, as well as by the Northern Ireland Board, and this motion comes in the name of both Boards and with the support of each.

Archbishop, I have pleasure in proposing Motion 15 and asking the Synod to give it favourable consideration.