



Church history made at installation of Methodist President

Ecumenical history made in Dublin



Rev Peter D Murray pictured after being elected and installed as President of the Methodist Church in Ireland at a ceremony in Christ Church Leeson Park, Dublin

Church of Ireland archbishops take part in installation ceremony of Methodist president

History was made in Dublin last night (11th June) when the two [Church of Ireland](#) archbishops took part in the installation of the new Methodist President Rev [Peter D Murray](#).

Irish Times - The Church of [Ireland](#) primate Archbishop [Richard Clarke](#), Archbishop of Dublin Michael Jackson and the Bishop of Dromore [Harold Miller](#) took part in the installation ceremony at Christ Church Leeson Park.

The ceremony was also attended by Rev Murray's predecessor, Rev Dr [Heather Morris](#), who was the first woman to lead a church in Ireland. Her one-

year term of office ended tonight with the installation of Rev Murray and the opening of the 2014 Methodist Conference.

The participation of the Church of Ireland archbishops and bishop in the ceremony follows agreement by both churches that, while they remain distinct, interchangeability of their ministries can now take place. An ordained minister of either may now come under the discipline and oversight of the other.

The historic decision was approved by the required two-thirds majority of Church of Ireland General Synod. Equivalent legislation had already been approved by the [Methodist Church](#) in Ireland.

Both churches also now agree that a Methodist president, who is elected and holds office for a year, is recognised as an “episcopal minister”, as are all previous holders of the office.

In future, Church of Ireland bishops will take part in the installation ceremony of a Methodist president, and vice versa at the installation of a Church of Ireland bishop.

Methodist ministers may henceforth be considered for clerical positions within the Church of Ireland and the church’s presidents will be eligible for election as Church of Ireland bishops.

Among the attendance at the installation tonight were Col Brendan McAndrew, aide-de-camp to President Michael D [Higgins](#), the Catholic Coadjutor Archbishop of Armagh Eamon Martin and the General Secretary of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland, Rev Dr [Donald Watts](#).

There are an estimated 50,000 Methodists on the island of Ireland, about 38,000 of whom are in [Northern Ireland](#).

<http://www.irishtimes.com/news/social-affairs/religion-and-beliefs/ecumenical-history-made-in-dublin-1.1828853>

Freedom of speech is vital, but so is freedom from fear

New Irish Methodist President, the Rev Peter D Murray, said last night that if Northern Ireland people are to live together peacefully they must speak about others as they would want themselves to be spoken about.

News Letter - Mr Murray, superintendent of the North West Methodist circuit in Londonderry, said Methodists must seek better relationships with other

Christian denominations; with partners in the world church and people of other faiths.

The new president was installed at the opening night of the Methodist conference in Dublin, succeeding the Rev Dr Heather Morris for a year's term.



Rev Peter D Murray

Mr Murray, whose presidential theme is 'Moving Out Together', said: "Our church has clearly stated: 'Freedom of speech is a fundamental human right and a very important tenet of democracy, but so is freedom from fear. We need to learn to speak in a way that does not humiliate, frighten, denigrate, make people vulnerable or incite others.'

"There are some things that are fundamental, which we must hold to whatever, with love. There are some things we hold dear but which are not fundamental, mostly about the way we do things, that do not matter a bit to God," he said.

"And if we are so precious about them that we will not change when we need to change, we will be the poorer and God our Father, is grieved. Let's not grieve Him that way. Let's not grieve Him at all. Let's move out together with other churches."

Mr Murray, referring to recent comments made in Northern Ireland about Islam, added: "As we think of how we can grieve God in our attitude to other Christians, it has become painfully obvious in recent weeks that one of the ways we can grieve Him sorely is by a failure to respect those from other political traditions and other religions."

Mr Murray said the challenge for Methodists is to make real connections with a neighbour, a work colleague or parent at a school gate, who is from the Muslim community. "Ministers and church leaders should make connections

with Muslim leaders in your community. This is not about diluting our theology or our belief in Jesus. Just the opposite – it is about embodying the life, death and resurrection of Jesus and letting it be seen in real life action.”

He said that, with no agreement in Northern Ireland on contentious issues, the Methodist Church met with the political parties to urge them to consider five core principles: developing trust; offering generosity; being accountable; acting responsibly; and seeking common good.

<http://www.newsletter.co.uk/news/regional/top-churchman-freedom-of-speech-is-vital-but-so-is-freedom-from-fear-1-6113955>