



CNI

C of I General Synod 2017 - Day 1. An overview of yesterday's business

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[Communication from the House of Bishops on the Church of Ireland Theological Institute](#)

The Archbishop of Dublin read a communication from the House of Bishops on the recent review of the Church of Ireland Theological College which was carried out as part of a planned follow up to the restructuring of training and formation of ministry six years ago. It coincided with a review of CITI by the state agency, Quality and Qualifications Ireland (QQI). Both independent reviews have been overwhelmingly positive and the Archbishop commended the director and staff.

Catholic Bishop of Limerick Welcomes Synod Members to ‘Treaty City’ Church of Ireland

The Catholic Bishop of Limerick, The Most Revd Brendan Leahy, addressed Synod this afternoon (Thursday May 4). He said that Limerick was undergoing a whole new beginning and the presence of members of General Synod is a testament to the people of Limerick and an encouragement of their new beginning.

He spoke of he and Bishop Kenneth Kearon’s involvement last year in the International Anglican–Roman Catholic Commission for Unity and Mission (Iarccum) at which the Archbishop of Canterbury and Pope Francis signed a common declaration. At the meeting the bishops were encouraged to return to our own locations and look for ways the Catholic and Anglican communities could work together.

Bill Dealing with Clergy Pensions Presented at General Synod Church of Ireland

A Bill to allow for the revaluation of preserved pension benefits relating to deferred members of the Clergy Pensions Fund passed its first and

second stages at General Synod in Limerick this afternoon (Thursday May 4). The Bill was presented at the request of the Representative Church Body and proposed by Mr Geoffrey Perrin and seconded by the Bishop of Clogher. Under Section 33 of the Pensions Act 1990, defined benefit pension schemes in the Republic of Ireland are required annually to revalue the preserved benefits of deferred members by the rate prescribed annually by the Minister for Social Protection. To do this it is necessary to amend Chapter XIV of the Constitution of the Church of Ireland.

Bill Requiring Parishes to Keep Confirmation Registers Presented at General Synod

A Bill which seeks to require Select Vestries to maintain registers of confirmations passed its first and second stages at General Synod this afternoon (Thursday May 4). The recording of confirmations varies considerably between and within dioceses and certification of a confirmation is necessary at certain times, for example when seeking training for the ordained ministry.

While the Constitution of the Church of Ireland requires parishes to keep registers of baptisms and burials as well as a marriage record book, there is no such requirement relating to confirmations. While some parishes keep records of confirmation others do not.

The purpose of the Bill, proposed by the Bishop of Clogher and the Ven Adrian Wilkinson, is to ensure that records of confirmation are recorded with each parish, and uniformly throughout the Church of Ireland. This requires an amendment to Chapter III of the Constitution.

Bill Dealing with Synod Membership Considered at Synod

A Bill which provides 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 was presented at Synod this afternoon (Thursday May 4).

Bill No 3, in the name of the Ven George Davison and Ms Hazel Corrigan, seeks to amend Chapter I of the Constitution of the Church of Ireland.

The Bill will receive its third reading on Saturday morning.

Bill to Amend Chapters IV and XIV of the Constitution Presented

Following the consolidation and replacement of Chapter VI of the Constitution of the Church of Ireland by members of General Synod last year, a Bill amending Chapters IV and XIV of the Constitution to ensure that all cross-references to Chapter VI (Archbishops and Bishops) are correct passed its first and second stages this afternoon (Thursday May 4).

The Bill was proposed by Canon Gillian Wharton and seconded by Mr Kenneth Gibson. The Bill will receive its third reading on Saturday morning.

Bill Allowing for Appointment of Ecumenical and Lay Canons at Christ Church Cathedral, Dublin

A Bill allowing for the appointment of two honorary Lay Canons and two Ecumenical Canons to Christ Church Cathedral, Dublin, passed its first and second stages at Synod this afternoon (Thursday May 4). The Bill, if enacted, will allow for the appointment of two lay people who have given particular and distinguished service to the cathedral or community in the

Dioceses of Dublin & Glendalough as well as two Ecumenical Canons who would reflect the cathedral's mission and ministry in the city and a changing ecumenical culture.

The Bill was proposed by the Very Revd Dermot Dunne and seconded by Canon Adrienne Galligan.

Proposing the motion, Dean Dunne said that Christ Church Cathedral was known as the spiritual heart of Dublin.

He said in creating lay canonries, the chapter sought to recognize the contribution gifted lay people make to the life of the cathedral and the community.

The Bill will receive its third reading on Saturday.

Bills Amending the Book of Common Prayer Comes Before Synod

Two Bills providing for the amendment of the *Book of Common Prayer* by including in all future printings, an alteration to the Table of Readings has passed its first and second stages at General Synod (Thursday May 4).

At the last General Synod, the Liturgical Advisory Committee was given leave to introduce legislation at General Synod 2017 to amend The Table of Readings in The Book of Common Prayer, referring to the Sunday between 24th May and 29th May and the First Sunday of Christmas. A second amendment to the Table of Readings and the Collects to provide for Remembrance Sunday.

Bills No 6 and 7 were proposed by the Very Revd Nigel Dunne and seconded by the Very Revd Gerald Field.

Both Bills passed their first stages following a vote by orders.

Liturgical Advisory Committee Proposes Changes to Book of Common Prayer – Brexit Brackets Motion Falls

The work of the Liturgical Advisory Committee over the last year was presented at General Synod this afternoon (Thursday May 4). Proposing the LAC's report, the Very Revd Nigel Dunne focused brought several major projects to the attention of members.

He said the most significant piece of work completed was the new Morning and Evening Prayer for Use on Sundays. “The idea was originally tabled by our Chairman, Bishop Harold Miller, as there seemed to be widespread feeling that Morning Prayer and Evening Prayer in their traditional forms, designed to be daily offices rather than principal Sunday services, do not always make for meaningful Sunday worship,” he explained.

“Some people, particularly from the background I come from, might say that we have plenty of provision for Sunday use and isn’t the Eucharist the primary Sunday service anyway?

Well maybe so, but the reality is that most parishes have long established patterns of Sunday worship which include Morning Prayer anything from once to three times a month. Since the Service of the Word is designed for only occasional use (and with permission of the ordinary) we felt that the time had come to provide something a lot more ‘user friendly’ for use on Sundays,” Dean Dunne added.

The service echoes some of the familiar patterns embedded in the service in the Book of Common Prayer. A new and significant element of the service is the inclusion of the Collect of

the Word which are tied into the readings of the day, either before or after the sermon, he explained. He thanked the Revd Ken Rue for his work in compiling these collects.

Marriage Council Recognises Pressures on Busy Couples in Synod Report **Church of Ireland**

The report of the Church of Ireland Marriage Council was received by General Synod this afternoon (Thursday May 4). Proposing the report, the Revd Jonny Campbell-Smyth, gave an introduction to the work of the marriage council. He said that the pressures on couples in an ever more demanding world was immense and that supporting couples making the commitment of marriage was a crucial ministry of the Church.

He noted that in 2015, approximately 22,000 marriages were registered in Republic of Ireland, with 2,500 divorces taking place. In Northern Ireland there were approximately 8,500 marriages registered, with similarly 2,500 divorces taking place in the same year. “In the joy that comes in one big day, the reality of the hard work that must begin is never far away,” he said.

