

CHURCH OF IRELAND – GENERAL SYNOD 2025

MOTIONS

Motions received by the Honorary Secretaries of the General Synod not less than one month before the day appointed for the opening of the session of the General Synod at which the motion is to be moved (Standing Order 31).

1. TIMETABLE (SEE SEPARATE SHEET)

Proposer: The Honorary Secretaries

A motion or motions to allocate the time available between the items listed on the agenda paper (Standing Order 56). (See Timetable Motion on separate sheet).

2. STANDING COMMITTEE - ELECTRONIC VOTING AT IN-PERSON MEETINGS OF THE GENERAL SYNOD

Proposer: The Honorary Secretaries

That Standing Order 44 be substituted for the following:

44. This Standing Order and Standing Order 45 shall apply to physical meetings of Synod.

(a) When any question is to be put to the Synod, the President shall rise and announce that “The question is that ...”, thereupon reading or stating the question, and shall require that as many as are of that opinion shall say “Aye” and as many as are of the contrary opinion shall say “No”. The President shall judge from the answers to such requests and state the result, as an opinion, of putting the question.

(b) After the President shall have stated the result, as an opinion, of the putting of any question, any member may call for a vote upon that question. If a vote is not called for, the President shall forthwith declare the result to be that which had previously been expressed as an opinion.

(c) When a vote is called for, it shall be taken by show of hands or by electronic means, unless 20 members request a division; and the President, before calling for a vote, shall afford sufficient opportunity for requests to be made for a vote by orders.

(d) A vote by orders shall be taken if ten members of either order or the provisions of Ch. 1 sec. 26 of the Constitution so require, and such vote shall be by show of hands or by electronic means unless a division is requested by the requisite number of members.

(e) When a division is to be taken, an interval of five minutes shall be allowed after which the doors shall be closed and the question put a second time. The president shall appoint two tellers for each side and order the house to divide; whereupon every member of the House of representatives present, and wishing to vote, shall record an

opinion by passing into the lobby with the “Ayes” or with the “Noes”. At the conclusion of the voting the tellers, having added their own votes, shall report the result to the President, who shall communicate it to the Synod.

(f) No question shall be deemed to be carried in the House of Representatives unless, in the case of both orders voting together, there is a majority in favour of the same of the representatives voting thereon, or in the case of the votes being taken by orders there is a majority in favour of the same of the representatives of each order voting thereon. (But see S.O. 30(c) in the case of Special Bills.)

3. PRIVATE MEMBERS’ MOTION – SOLEMNISATION OF MARRIAGES IN SECULAR VENUES

Proposer: Rev Canon Lesley Robinson (Dublin and Glendalough)

Seconder: Ms Nuala Dudley (Derry and Raphoe)

That the Standing Committee establish a working group (to include members of both the House of Bishops and the House of Representatives) to investigate the possibility of allowing Church of Ireland clergy to solemnise marriages in secular venues as part of the church's outreach, and that this Working Group brings its final report and recommendations to the General Synod of 2027 at the latest.

4. COMMISSION FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY AND DIALOGUE – MEMBERSHIP

Proposer: Rev Canon Stephen Fielding

Seconder: Rev Suzanne Cousins

That the following be appointed to the Commission for Christian Unity and Dialogue for the coming year:

Ms Gina Coptý

Very Rev Niall Sloane

Rev Canon Dr Daniel Nuzum

Rev Meurig Williams

Rev Suzanne Cousins

Ms Cate Turner

Rev Abigail Sines

Rev Canon Kevin O’Brien

Mr Femi Atoyebi

Dr Bridget Nicholls

Rev Dr Ryan Hawk

5. COMMISSION ON MINISTRY – MEMBERSHIP

Proposer: Capt. George Newell

Seconder: Ms Judith Peters

That the following be appointed by the General Synod as a member of the Commission on Ministry to serve until the day before the meeting of the General Synod of 2027:

Rev. Canon Lesley Robinson

6. STANDING COMMITTEE- CONSISTENCY REGARDING BILS PROCESS TERMINOLOGY

Proposer: The Honorary Secretaries

That the Standing Orders of the General Synod be amended as follows:

In S.O. 3 the words ‘first and second readings’ shall be replaced with ‘introduction and principle stages’.

7. RACIAL JUSTICE SUNDAY (THE PRIMATE’S ETHNIC DIVERSITY, INCLUSION AND RACIAL JUSTICE REFERENCE GROUP)

Proposer: Dr Lucy Michael

Seconder: Rev Philip McKinley

That, noting the celebration this year of Racial Justice Sunday at the National Cathedral, and the work of Churches Together in Britain and Ireland (CTBI) to raise awareness of the issue of racial justice over the past decade, and with thanks to the Liturgical Advisory Committee for their ongoing work to develop an official liturgical resource for future celebrations, and to the many parishes already working to address racial justice in their communities, each diocese should seek to hold one Racial Justice Sunday service in a format and venue of their choosing on the second Sunday of February each year.

8. LITURGICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE – MEMBERSHIP

Proposer: Ven Peter Thompson

Seconder: Very Rev. Nigel Dunne

That the following be elected to the Liturgical Advisory Committee to serve from 2025 to 2028:

Rev Julie Bell
Rev Adrian Dorrian
Very Rev Nigel Dunne
Very Rev Susan Green
Rev Canon Peter McDowell
Rev John McLoughlin
Mr John Morris
Mrs Jacqueline Mullen
Very Rev Lynda Peilow
Rev Nigel Pierpoint
Rev Alan Rufli
Re. Abigail Sines
Ven Dr Peter Thompson

9. COVENANT COUNCIL – MEMBERSHIP

Proposer: Very Rev Nigel Dunne

Seconder: Ven Barry Forde

That the following be elected as Church of Ireland Representatives on the Covenant Council for the coming year:

Rt Rev Michael Burrows, Bishop of Tuam, Limerick and Killaloe (Co-Chair)
Ms Elva Byrne
Very Rev Nigel Dunne
Rev Canon Dr Maurice Elliott
Ven Barry Forde
Rev Claire Kakuru

10. REPRESENTATIVE CHURCH BODY – ALLOCATIONS

Proposer: Mr Lyndon MacCann

Seconded: Very Rev Niall Sloane

That the General Synod hereby authorises the Representative Body to make the following allocations from General Funds in 2025:

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A.Maintenance of the stipendiary ministry	
• Episcopal costs	1,240,798
• Chaplaincy costs	431,200
• Miscellaneous	220,066
B.Pension related costs	-
C.Training of ordinands	1,424,727
D.General Synod activities	1,680,713
E.Miscellaneous	56,625
F.Pioneer Ministry	431,399
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	5,485,528
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11. REPRESENTATIVE CHURCH BODY – CLERGY AND MINISTRY PROTECTION FUND

Proposer: Mr Lyndon MacCann

Seconded: Very Rev Niall Sloane

That, in accordance with the Statute Ch XVI of 2003 as amended by the Statute Ch III of 2015, the General Synod hereby affirms the decision of the Representative Body that the rate of contribution from each diocese to the Clergy and Ministry Protection Fund in respect of the year 2026 be set at 2.0% of the Minimum Approved Stipend in force at 1 January 2026 multiplied by the sum of the number of cures, including vacant cures, in such diocese at 30 June 2025.

12. MARRIAGE COUNCIL – TERMS OF REFERENCE

Proposer: Rev Carlton Baxter

Seconded: Rev Dr Leonard Madden

That the Terms of Reference of the Marriage Council be amended to remove the requirement to have a member from the House of Bishops.

13. JOURNAL OF THE GENERAL SYNOD

Proposer: The Honorary Secretaries

That the Honorary Secretaries of the General Synod be instructed to publish with as little delay as possible, the Journal of the Proceedings of the General Synod during this session, with such appendices as they think expedient.