

**GENERAL SYNOD
OF THE
CHURCH OF IRELAND**

2001

BILLS

AND

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDA

INTRODUCTION

This pamphlet contains those Bills which were lodged with the honorary secretaries at least six weeks before the first day of the session.

A Bill is a proposal for legislation which, if passed, will become a Statute, binding on all members of the Church of Ireland. The procedure is designed to ensure that the proposed legislation is considered carefully, both in principle and in detail, and that there is a day's interval for reflection before final approval is given.

The Bills will be taken into consideration in the order in which they appear in this pamphlet, unless the Synod directs otherwise. On the first stage, the proposer moves "That leave be given to introduce Bill no. ___" unless leave has been given in the previous session. This is a formal motion which is normally put to the Synod without debate, but in certain circumstances one speech in support of the motion, and one in opposition to it, may be permitted.

If that motion is passed, the Synod proceeds to the Second Reading, when the principles of the Bill are open to debate. At the conclusion of the debate on this stage, the motion "That the Bill be approved in principle and given a second reading" is put to the Synod. If this motion is passed, indicating that the Synod approved the Bill in principle, the Committee stage follows.

In the case of Special Bills leave to introduce such a Bill may only be given at an ordinary session of the Synod; leave having been given, the Bill shall be deemed to have been read a first time, but it shall not be processed further until the next ordinary session when it will come before the Synod for second reading.

On the Committee stage, the Bill is considered in detail, the clauses being put to the Synod one by one for debate and decision. The clauses are taken first in their order; then, the schedules (if any); and, finally, the Preamble (the introductory matter). Amendments, notice of which was given to the honorary secretaries not later than the Friday before the session, will appear on the agenda paper for the first day; no other amendment may be moved on Committee stage except with the leave of the Synod. An amendment is taken on the clause to which it relates, and is disposed of before the clause itself is put to the Synod.

In the case of Special Bills, an amendment can be moved on Committee stage only if notice has been given in the previous session except for any dealing with omissions or grammatical errors.

When the Committee stage has been concluded, the Bill is reported to the Synod, and a day – usually the third day – is fixed for the remaining stages.

On the third day the Report stage is taken. Any amendments which have been lodged with the honorary secretaries before the close of business on the second day will appear on the supplemental agenda paper for the third day. After these amendments have been disposed of – or immediately if there are not any amendments – the Synod proceeds to the Third Reading. At this stage, debate is confined to the provisions of the Bill, and at its conclusion the motion "That the Bill be now read a third time and passed" is put to the Synod.

A simple majority of the House of Representatives is required to pass any and every motion during the passage of a Bill through the Synod, except when

- (a) a vote by orders has been requisitioned by ten members of either order (which may be done on any motion), in which case a simple majority of each order, voting separately, is required.
- (b) a two-thirds majority of each order, voting separately, is required to pass the Second Reading and the Third Reading of a Bill which proposes a modification or alteration in the articles, doctrines, rites, rubrics or formularies of the Church.

For fuller information on Bill procedure reference should be made to Part II of Chapter I of the Constitution and to the Standing Orders. A leaflet on Bill procedure is available on application to the Honorary Secretaries.

CONTENTS

The following Bills were lodged with the Honorary Secretaries of the General Synod before 2 April 2001:

		Page
BILL NO 1	REV CANON RB ROUNTREE REV CANON MAJ BURROWS <i>(at the request of the General Synod)</i>	
Explanatory Memorandum		4
	To carry into effect a Resolution of the General Synod of 2000 to amend that part of the <i>Book of Common Prayer</i> entitled <i>The Order for the Administration of the Lord's Supper or Holy Communion</i> by substituting, for the above-mentioned part of the <i>Book of Common Prayer</i> , <i>The Order for the Administration of the Lord's Supper or Holy Communion</i> as set out in the accompanying Schedule.	4

BILL NO 2	REV CANON RB ROUNTREE REV CANON MAJ BURROWS <i>(at the request of the General Synod)</i>	
Explanatory Memorandum		5
	To carry into effect a Resolution of the General Synod of 2000 to amend the <i>Book of Common Prayer</i> by including therein <i>The Celebration of the Holy Communion also called The Lord's Supper or The Eucharist</i> as set out in the accompanying Schedule.	5

BILL NO 3	REV CANON RB ROUNTREE REV CANON MAJ BURROWS <i>(at the request of the General Synod)</i>	
Explanatory Memorandum		6
	To carry into effect a Resolution of the General Synod of 2000 to amend those parts of the <i>Book of Common Prayer</i> entitled <i>The Calendar; Tables and Rules; and The Collects, Epistles and Gospels to be used throughout the year</i> by substituting, for the above-mentioned parts of the <i>Book of Common Prayer</i> , <i>The Calendar and Collects and Post-Communion Prayers</i> as set out in the accompanying Schedule.	6

BILL NO 4	REV CANON RB ROUNTREE REV CANON MAJ BURROWS <i>(at the request of the General Synod)</i>	
Explanatory Memorandum		7
	To carry into effect a Resolution of the General Synod of 2000 to amend the <i>Book of Common Prayer</i> by including therein <i>The Canticles</i> as set out in the accompanying Schedule.	7

BILL NO 5	REV CANON PF PATTERSON MR DJ AUCHMUTY <i>(at the request of the Standing Committee)</i>	
Explanatory Memorandum		8
	To amend Chapter I of the Constitution.	8

BILL NO 6	LADY SHEIL <i>(at the request of the Church of Ireland Pensions Board)</i>	
Explanatory Memorandum		9
	To amend Chapters XIV and XV of the Constitution.	12

BILL NO 7	REV CANON JAA CONDELL VEN KR GOOD	
Explanatory Memorandum		14

To provide for the establishment of Provincial Mediation Panels and to make further provision concerning mediation in conflict resolution and related matters. 14

BILL NO 1**Explanatory Memorandum**

In 2000 the General Synod approved, by the requisite majorities, a resolution granting leave for the introduction of this Bill and accompanying Schedule in 2001.

This Bill incorporates material from the Book of Common Prayer of 1926, makes minimal changes to remove anachronisms and to update rubrics; but other than changing the “which” form to “who” in the Lord’s Prayer and “Ghost” to “Spirit”, preserves the traditional language of that book.

This is part of the process of making a revision of the Book of Common Prayer, 1926.

* * * * *

REV CANON RB ROUNTREE
REV CANON MAJ BURROWS

(at the request of the General Synod)

BILL

To carry into effect a Resolution of the General Synod of 2000 to amend that part of the *Book of Common Prayer* entitled *The Order for the Administration of the Lord’s Supper or Holy Communion* by substituting, for the above-mentioned part of the *Book of Common Prayer*, *The Order for the Administration of the Lord’s Supper or Holy Communion* as set out in the accompanying Schedule.

WHEREAS a Resolution to amend that part of the *Book of Common Prayer* entitled *The Order for the Administration of the Lord’s Supper or Holy Communion* by substituting, for the above-mentioned part of the *Book of Common Prayer*, *The Order for the Administration of the Lord’s Supper or Holy Communion* as set out in the accompanying Schedule was duly passed in full Synod assembled in Belfast in the year 2000 by the required majorities, and was duly transmitted to the Secretaries of all Diocesan Synods;

AND WHEREAS it is expedient that the said Resolution shall be carried into effect by a Statute;

AND WHEREAS in accordance with the provisions of section 26(1) of Chapter 1 of the Constitution leave was given for the introduction of a Bill in the General Synod of 2001;

BE IT ENACTED by the Archbishops and Bishops and the Clergy and Laity of the Church of Ireland in General Synod assembled in Dublin in the year 2001, and by the authority of the same as follows:

1. In the *Book of Common Prayer* for that part entitled *The Order for the Administration of the Lord’s Supper or Holy Communion* there shall be substituted *The Order for the Administration of the Lord’s Supper or Holy Communion* as set out in the accompanying schedule.
2. The provisions of Section 1 of and the Schedule to this Statute shall come into force on such day or days as may hereafter be appointed by the General Synod.

BILL NO 2**Explanatory Memorandum**

In 2000 the General Synod approved, by the requisite majorities, a resolution granting leave for the introduction of this Bill and accompanying Schedule in 2001.

This Bill incorporates material from the Alternative Prayer Book 1984, amended and extended in the light of practical usage and of recent liturgical scholarship.

These services will thus be part of the new edition of the Book of Common Prayer.

* * * * *

REV CANON RB ROUNTREE
REV CANON MAJ BURROWS

(at the request of the General Synod)

BILL

**To carry into effect a Resolution of the General Synod of 2000
to amend the *Book of Common Prayer* by including therein *The Celebration of the Holy Communion also called The Lord's Supper or The Eucharist*
as set out in the accompanying Schedule.**

WHEREAS a Resolution to include in the *Book of Common Prayer* the form entitled *The Celebration of the Holy Communion also called The Lord's Supper or The Eucharist* as set out in the accompanying Schedule was duly passed in full Synod assembled in Belfast in the year 2000 by the required majorities, and was duly transmitted to the Secretaries of all Diocesan Synods;

AND WHEREAS it is expedient that the said Resolution shall be carried into effect by a Statute;

AND WHEREAS in accordance with the provisions of section 26(1) of Chapter 1 of the Constitution leave was given for the introduction of a Bill in the General Synod of 2001;

BE IT ENACTED by the Archbishops and Bishops and the Clergy and Laity of the Church of Ireland in General Synod assembled in Dublin in the year 2001, and by the authority of the same as follows:

1. In the *Book of Common Prayer* there shall be included the form entitled *The Celebration of the Holy Communion also called The Lord's Supper or The Eucharist* as set out in the Schedule.
2. The provisions of Section 1 of and the Schedule to this Statute shall come into force on such day or days as may hereafter be appointed by the General Synod.

BILL NO 3**Explanatory Memorandum**

In 2000 the General Synod approved, by the requisite majorities, a resolution granting leave for the introduction of this Bill and accompanying Schedule in 2001.

This Bill incorporates material from the Alternative Prayer Book 1984, amended and extended in the light of practical usage and of recent liturgical scholarship.

The Calendar, Collects and Post-Communion Prayers will be part of the new edition of the Book of Common Prayer, and will come into effect immediately.

* * * * *

REV CANON RB ROUNTREE
REV CANON MAJ BURROWS

(at the request of the General Synod)

BILL

To carry into effect a Resolution of the General Synod of 2000 to amend those parts of the *Book of Common Prayer* entitled *The Calendar; Tables and Rules; and The Collects, Epistles and Gospels to be used throughout the year* by substituting, for the above-mentioned parts of the *Book of Common Prayer, The Calendar and Collects and Post-Communion Prayers* as set out in the accompanying Schedule.

WHEREAS a Resolution to amend those parts of the *Book of Common Prayer* entitled *The Calendar; Tables and Rules; and The Collects, Epistles and Gospels to be used throughout the year* by substituting, for the above-mentioned parts of the *Book of Common Prayer, The Calendar and Collects and Post-Communion Prayers* as set out in the accompanying Schedule was duly passed in full Synod assembled in Belfast in the year 2000 by the required majorities, and was duly transmitted to the Secretaries of all Diocesan Synods;

AND WHEREAS it is expedient that the said Resolution shall be carried into effect by a Statute;

AND WHEREAS in accordance with the provisions of section 26(1) of Chapter 1 of the Constitution leave was given for the introduction of a Bill in the General Synod of 2001;

BE IT ENACTED by the Archbishops and Bishops and the Clergy and Laity of the Church of Ireland in General Synod assembled in Dublin in the year 2001, and by the authority of the same as follows:

In the *Book of Common Prayer* for those parts entitled *The Calendar; Tables and Rules; and The Collects, Epistles and Gospels to be used throughout the year* there shall be substituted *The Calendar and Collects and Post-Communion Prayers* as set out in the accompanying Schedule.

BILL NO 4

Explanatory Memorandum

In 2000 the General Synod approved, by the requisite majorities, a resolution granting leave for the introduction of this Bill and accompanying Schedule in 2001.

This Bill provides for additional material known as “The Canticles” to be included in the new edition of the Book of Common Prayer.

REV CANON RB ROUNTREE
REV CANON MAJ BURROWS

(at the request of the General Synod)

BILL

**To carry into effect a Resolution of the General Synod of 2000 to amend the
Book of Common Prayer by including therein *The Canticles*
as set out in the accompanying Schedule.**

WHEREAS a Resolution to amend the *Book of Common Prayer* by including therein *The Canticles* as set out in the accompanying Schedule was duly passed in full Synod assembled in Belfast in the year 2000 by the required majorities, and was duly transmitted to the Secretaries of all Diocesan Synods;

AND WHEREAS it is expedient that the said Resolution shall be carried into effect by a Statute;

AND WHEREAS in accordance with the provisions of section 26(1) of Chapter 1 of the Constitution leave was given for the introduction of a Bill in the General Synod of 2001;

BE IT ENACTED by the Archbishops and Bishops and the Clergy and Laity of the Church of Ireland in General Synod assembled in Dublin in the year 2001, and by the authority of the same as follows:

1. In the *Book of Common Prayer* there shall be included *The Canticles* as set out in the Schedule to this Resolution.
2. The provisions of Section 1 of and the Schedule to this Statute shall come into force on such day or days as may hereafter be appointed by the General Synod.

BILL NO 5**Explanatory Memorandum**

Please refer to the report of the Synodical Structures Working Group on page 211 of the Book of Reports.

* * * * *

REV CANON PF PATTERSON
MR DJ AUCHMUTY

(at the request of the Standing Committee)

BILL**To amend Chapter I of the Constitution.**

WHEREAS it is expedient to conduct a continuing review of the size of the House of Representatives;

AND WHEREAS it is desirable that the principles upon which the clerical and lay representatives returned to the General Synod to represent the several Dioceses and United Dioceses of the Church of Ireland be set out in the Constitution of the Church of Ireland;

AND WHEREAS it is desirable that the table contained in Section 4 (2) of Part 1 of Chapter I of the said Constitution be amended in accordance with such continuing review;

AND WHEREAS it is desirable that a review of the number of clerical and lay representatives returned to the General Synod to represent the several Dioceses and United Dioceses of the Church of Ireland be conducted at least every third triennium;

AND WHEREAS it is desirable to specify the method of election to be utilised in returning the said clerical and lay representatives to the General Synod;

AND WHEREAS for such purposes it is necessary to amend Chapter I 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 Dublin in the year 2001, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

- (1) Section 4 (1) of Part 1 of Chapter I of the Constitution is hereby amended by deleting the said provision and substituting the following therefor:
 - (a) The House of Representatives shall consist of representatives of the clergy and of the laity to be elected as hereinafter provided in the year 2002 and triennially thereafter.
 - (b) The number of clerical representatives to be returned to the General Synod by each Diocese or United Dioceses shall be in the proportion of one representative to every five beneficed or licensed clergy of the Diocese, such clergy neither being in receipt of a retiring annuity under the provisions of Chapter XIV, nor having attained the age of seventy four years, and notwithstanding any vacancy in any benefice within the Diocese or United Dioceses. An additional representative shall be returned for any remaining number of such clergy exceeding two.
 - (c) For the purpose of 1 (b) the number of beneficed or licensed clergy shall, in the year 2002 and at every subsequent review carried out in accordance with Section 4 (1) (e), be ascertained on 1 January of the review year.
 - (d) The number of lay representatives shall be to the clergy in the proportion of 2 to 1.
 - (e) A review of the number of representatives both clerical and lay to be returned by each Diocese or United Dioceses to the General Synod shall be conducted on the basis of the principles hereinbefore set out at least every third triennium, in a manner determined by the Honorary Secretaries of the General Synod, provided that the number of representatives of the clergy to be returned by any Diocese or United Dioceses shall not fall below 4.
- (2) Section 4 (2) of Part 1 of Chapter I of the Constitution is hereby amended by deleting the table contained therein and substituting therefor in the year 2002 and at every subsequent review carried out under 1 (e) a table showing the number of representatives both clerical and lay returned to represent in the General Synod each Diocese or United Dioceses as calculated in accordance with the principles set out in Section 4 (1) (b).
- (3) Section 4 of Part 1 of Chapter I of the Constitution be further amended by adding the following as subsection (6):

Representatives to the General Synod both clerical and lay shall be elected by each Diocesan Synod on the system of Proportional Representation by means of the single transferable vote in accordance with regulations prescribed from time to time by the Standing Committee of the General Synod.
- (4) For Section 6 of Part I of Chapter I of the Constitution there shall be substituted the following section:
 6. Every beneficed or licensed clergyman of the Church of Ireland who is not in receipt of a retiring annuity under the provisions of Chapter XIV, and who has not on 1 January preceding the election attained the age of seventy four

years, shall be qualified to be elected as a clerical representative or supplemental clerical representative whether resident or not in the in the diocese for which the election is being held.

BILL NO 6

Explanatory Memorandum

CHAPTER XIV

1. General

This Bill proposes substantial improvements in the benefits provided from the Pensions Fund. It follows the triennial actuarial report on the Fund, particulars of which are included in the Report of the Church of Ireland Pensions Board. The Bill also includes some other proposals.

It is proposed that the changes (other than that included in section 18) should come into effect on the date of enactment of the Bill or as soon thereafter as is administratively practicable.

There are several references to “members”. A “member” is a bishop, priest or deacon in the service of the Church of Ireland on or after 1 January 1976 other than any who have been exempted from membership or who have exercised their right under legislation in the United Kingdom to opt out of membership.

The word “widow” is defined in section 2 of Chapter XIV as including a widower.

As the Pensions Fund is an Exempt Approved Scheme, the approval of the Revenue Commissioners (Republic of Ireland) and the Commissioners of Inland Revenue (United Kingdom) to this legislation will be required.

Section 1 contains a definition.

2. Increases in Pensions

(a) Members

In consequence of the special increases in minimum approved stipend effective on 1 January 2000 and 1 January 2001 pensions payment of which commenced on or before 1 January 2001 have fallen below parity with those where payment commenced after that date.

It is proposed in section 12 that parity be restored to the pensions of these members and also to the pensions of clergy who retired before 1976.

Section 17 makes provision for increases of the same percentages in the pensions of an archbishop and of bishops.

(b) Surviving Spouses of Members

The surviving spouse of a member (other than a member who was in the service of the Church of Ireland on 18 May 1989 - the date on which commutation of pensions was made available - and was 70 or over on that date or a member who was in receipt of a pension on that date) is entitled to a pension of three-fifths of his or her late spouse's pension or pension entitlement, which corresponds to four-fifths of his or her net pension if maximum commutation had been taken.

The surviving spouses of members who were in service on 18 May 1989 and were 70 or over on that date or who were in receipt of a pension on that date are entitled to a pension of four-fifths of their late spouses' pensions.

Each method of calculation produces the same result in monetary terms.

It is proposed in section 10 that these fractions be increased by one-ninth, from three-fifths to two-thirds and from four-fifths to eight-ninths. This is the ceiling acceptable to Revenue authorities for tax exempt schemes.

A child dependency allowance is one-third of the surviving spouse's pension, and an increase in this will follow without amending legislation.

Section 16 makes provision for the same increase in the pension entitlement of the surviving spouses of archbishops or bishops.

It is proposed in section 12 that pensions of surviving spouses and child dependency allowances which are currently in course of payment be increased by the same fraction in addition to the percentage required to restore parity of pensions as in the case of members.

Section 17 makes provision for the same increase in the pensions currently being paid to the surviving spouses of archbishops or bishops.

(c) Widows of Clergy who died or retired before 1976

Until 1980 the widows of clergy who died or retired before 1976, and therefore were not members of the Fund, received a pension of £80. Since then there has been a series of increases.

It is proposed in section 11 that these pensions be increased by the same percentages as those applicable to the pensions of surviving spouses of members payment of which commenced on or before 1 January 2000.

This will have the effect of increasing these pensions from £4,196.39 to £5,301.30 and from IR£4,341.11 to IR£5,414.67.

(d) Summary

Following the enactment of this Bill the normal rates of pension will be:

Member (gross pension)	£12,724.00	or	IR£12,996.00
Surviving spouse of member	£8,482.66	or	IR£8,664.00
Child dependency allowance	£2,827.55	or	IR£2,888.00

The funding required to restore parity to pensions is £2,614,000 and IR£1,981,000.

The funding required for the proposals in (b) and (c) other than insofar as they relate to parity of pensions is £1,083,000 and IR£764,000.

3. Years, Months and Days of Service

Until 1998 retirement benefits were calculated on the number of completed years of service, the portion of an uncompleted year being disregarded. The 1998 legislation provided that the calculation would be based on the number of completed years and months of service.

It is proposed in section 3 that the calculation should be based in future on the number of completed years and days of service.

Section 8 is consequential.

4. Contributions

Contributions are not payable in respect of a member who has retired.

It is proposed in sections 7 and 15 that contributions should also cease to be payable in respect of a member who continues in service after reaching the age of 65. This will not affect the benefits to which these members and their spouses will be entitled.

As there is an actuarial assumption that all members will retire on reaching normal pensionable age, funding is not required.

5. Child Dependency Allowances

Children legally adopted by a member are eligible for child dependency allowances.

It is proposed in section 2 that stepchildren of a member should also be eligible.

6. Pensions Acts

Following protracted discussions between officials of the Department of Social, Community and Family Affairs (Republic of Ireland) and the Department of Social Security (United Kingdom), on the consequences of the differing legislation of the two Parliaments relating to pension funds based in one State but having members in the other State, Regulations have been made by the respective Ministers operative from 31 December 2000.

These Regulations are based on certain principles, one of which is that a member who is resident in the State other than that in which the fund is based shall have the benefit of the legislation of the Parliament of the State in which he or she resides where this is to his or her advantage.

The United Kingdom legislation provides that the annual increase in pensions payment of which commenced in or after 1997 shall not be less than the figure for inflation as measured by the Retail Prices Index for the previous

September up to a maximum of 5%. As this limits the discretion currently open to the Board and the Representative Body, it is necessary to amend the present provision to make it subject to the statutory requirement.

This is the purpose of section 13.

7. Medical Panel

- (a) It is the duty of the Board to appoint a Medical Panel consisting of three medical experts. Experience has shown that the limitation on membership of the Panel has proved to be inconvenient to some members and prospective members of the Pensions Fund.

It is proposed in section 5 that the limitation be removed.

- (b) The purpose of section 6 is to clarify that a report shall come from a member of the Medical Panel and not from the full Panel.

8. Consolidation of the Constitution

To facilitate the proposed Consolidation of the Constitution which has been initiated by the Standing Committee of the General Synod the following have been included in the Bill. They do not involve any change of substance.

- (a) For many years the Board has elected a vice-chairman, although such office is not mentioned in Chapter XIV. Further, the triennial election of officers has at present to take place before the date for completion of the triennial election of members.

It is proposed in section 4 to repeal section 15 of Chapter XIV and re-enact it, making provision for the office of vice-chairman and providing that the triennial election of officers shall take place at the first meeting following the date for completion of the triennial election of members.

- (b) When death in service benefit was introduced, the benefit was on a sliding scale between 1980 and 1985 inclusive until it was fixed definitively from 1986 as minimum approved stipend x 4. The provisions for the earlier period are spent.

It is proposed in section 9 that section 47 of Chapter XIV be repealed and re-enacted omitting the references to the period between 1980 and 1985.

- (c) Section 67 of Chapter XIV relates to episcopal pensions payment of which commenced before 1979 when the separate episcopal funds were amalgamated with the Pensions Fund. It consists of nine paragraphs. The first paragraph charges these pensions on the Pensions Fund. The other eight paragraphs refer to increases in pensions between 1985 and 1995.

As one pension which was originally paid out of a separate episcopal fund remains in course of payment, the first paragraph must stand. The other eight paragraphs are spent.

It is proposed in section 14 that all of section 67 except the first paragraph be repealed.

- (d) “IR£” appears four times in section 80A (1) and (2) of Chapter XIV.

Irish Pounds will be replaced by Euros on 1 January 2002 and will cease to be legal tender after 9 February 2002.

It is proposed in section 18 that “IR£” be replaced by “€” from 1 January 2002.

- (e) Section 80A (4) of Chapter XIV was enacted in 1998 when normal pensionable age was reduced from 67 to 65 to define the rights of those members who were aged 65 or 66 on the operative date. It is spent.

It is proposed in section 19 that it be repealed.

CHAPTER XV

Supplemental Fund - Reporting

The Board is required to set out in its Report each year to the General Synod the rules and regulations regarding assistance from the Supplemental Fund in force during the year.

Compliance with this requirement takes considerable space in the Report. It consists largely of reprinting what has appeared in Reports for earlier years with changes confined to monetary amounts and dates.

The Board does not consider that this is any longer necessary. The number of grants is greatly reduced, and it will continue to fall. On 31 December 1987 there were 219 grants in course of payment. The corresponding figure on 31 December 2000 was 48.

It is proposed in section 20 that the present provision should be replaced by a direction that the Board report to the General Synod any changes made to the rules and regulations during the year.

* * * * *

LADY SHEIL

(at the request of the Church of Ireland Pensions Board)

BILL

To amend Chapters XIV and XV of the Constitution.

WHEREAS it is desirable to improve the benefits provided under Chapter XIV of the Constitution and to make sundry other amendments to the said Chapter;

AND WHEREAS for such purposes it is necessary to amend Chapter XIV of the Constitution;

AND WHEREAS the Church of Ireland Pensions Board has certified that on the enactment of this Statute the Fund will remain solvent as required by Section 16 (1) of Chapter XIV of the Constitution;

AND WHEREAS it is desirable to simplify the reporting procedure concerning the Supplemental Fund as set out in Chapter XV 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 Dublin in the year 2001, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1. In this Statute 'Chapter XIV' means Chapter XIV of the Constitution of the Church of Ireland, and 'Chapter XV' means Chapter XV of the said Constitution.
2. For section 2 (1) (c) of Chapter XIV there shall be substituted the following paragraph:
'(c) 'orphan' or 'child' as the case may be shall include a stepchild and a child legally adopted by a member of the Fund.'
3. In Section 2 (1) (i) of Chapter XIV for the word 'months' there shall be substituted the word 'days'.
4. For section 15 of Chapter XIV there shall be substituted the following:
15. The Board shall, at its first meeting after 30 June 2003, and triennially thereafter, elect a chairman, a vice-chairman, and an honorary secretary out of its own members. The chairman, or in his absence the vice-chairman, shall have a casting as well as an ordinary vote on all questions. Casual vacancies in any of the offices referred to in this section may be filled at any meeting of the Board, the person so elected to hold office until the next triennial election.
5. Section 31 of Chapter XIV is hereby amended by inserting the words "not less than" before the word "three".
6. Section 32 (1) of Chapter XIV is hereby amended by inserting the words "member of the " before the words "Medical Panel".
7. In Section 34 of Chapter XIV for the words 'A contribution shall not be payable in respect of any period after retirement' there shall be substituted the following:
Provided that no contribution shall be payable in respect of any member after that member has reached the age of 65 years or has retired whichever is the earlier.
8. In Section 35 (2) of Chapter XIV the words 'provided that no payment shall be made in respect of a period of less than one month' shall be deleted.
9. For section 47 of Chapter XIV there shall be substituted the following:
47. Where on or after 17 May 2001 a member dies while in the service of the Church of Ireland before reaching the age of 65 years and in respect of whom a contribution has been paid to the Fund, there shall be paid to his legal personal representatives a lump sum calculated in the following manner, that is to say, the minimum approved stipend of the office held by the member concerned as fixed by the General Synod in accordance with section 51 (1) of Chapter IV of the Constitution in force on the date of death of the said member multiplied by four.
10. Sub-section (1) of section 49 of Chapter XIV is hereby amended
 - (a) by substituting '17 May 2001' for '14 May 1998' and 'two-thirds' for '60%' in paragraph (a);
 - (b) by substituting 'eight-ninths' for '80%' in paragraph (b);
 - (c) by substituting 'two-thirds' for '60%' in paragraph (c).
11. For section 59A (1) of Chapter XIV there shall be substituted the following:
59A.(1) The rate of annuity payable under section 4 of this Chapter to the widow of a clergyman (not being the widow of a voluntary member) shall be increased with effect from 1 June 2001 by 26.33% in the case of annuities

payable out of the Clergy Pensions Fund (Northern Ireland) or by 24.73% in the case of annuities payable out of the Clergy Pensions Fund (Republic of Ireland).

12. For section 59 of Chapter XIV there shall be substituted the following:

59. (1) The rate of each pension payable to a clergyman under section 4 or any of sections 42 to 45B (inclusive) of this Chapter, payment of which commenced on or before 1 January 2001, and which is in course of payment on 31 May 2001, shall be increased with effect from 1 June 2001 in accordance with the following Table:

Commencement of pension	Rate of increase	
	Northern Ireland Fund	Republic of Ireland Fund
On or before 1 January 2000	13.70%	12.26%
After 1 January 2000 and on or before 1 January 2001	6.71%	6.56%

(2) The rate of

(a) each pension payable to the widow of a clergyman under section 49 of this Chapter, and

(b) each child dependency allowance payable under section 54 of this Chapter,

payment of which commenced on or before 1 January 2001, and which is in course of payment on 31 May 2001, shall be increased with effect from 1 June 2001 in accordance with the following Table provided that the total of pension and child dependency allowances shall not in any instance exceed the limit permitted by the revenue authorities:

Commencement of pension	Rate of increase	
	Northern Ireland Fund	Republic of Ireland Fund
On or before 1 January 2000	26.33%	24.73%
After 1 January 2000 and on or before 1 January 2001	18.57%	18.40%

(3) Where the pension of a clergyman payable under any of sections 42 to 45B (inclusive) of this Chapter commenced on or before 1 January 2001 and such clergyman has died before 1 June 2001, any pension or child dependency allowance in course of payment on 31 May 2001 to or in respect of the widow or a child of any such clergyman shall for the purposes of this section be deemed to have commenced on the date of commencement of payment of pension to such clergyman.

13. In Section 60 of Chapter XIV for the words 'by such percentage, not exceeding the lesser of the percentage permitted by law and 5% as the Board on the advice of the actuary and with the approval of the Representative Body may determine' there shall be substituted the following:

'by the percentage required by law, or such greater percentage up to 5% as the Board on the advice of the actuary and with the approval of the Representative Body may determine.'

14. Section 67 of Chapter XIV (other than the first paragraph of the section) is hereby repealed.

15. For Section 68 (5) of Chapter XIV there shall be substituted the following sub-section:

(5) A contribution prescribed under sub-section (1) or sub-section (2) shall not be payable in respect of any archbishop or bishop after that archbishop or bishop has reached the age of 65 years or has retired whichever is the earlier.

16. Section 76 of Chapter XIV is hereby amended

(a) by substituting '17 May 2001' for '14 May 1998' and 'two-thirds' for '60%' in sub-section (A1);

(b) by substituting 'eight-ninths' for '80%' in sub-section (1);

(c) by substituting 'two-thirds' for '60%' in sub-section (2).

17. For section 78AA of Chapter XIV there shall be substituted the following:

78AA. The rate of each pension payable to an archbishop or a bishop or to the widow of an archbishop or of a bishop, payment of which commenced on or before 1 January 2001, and which is in course of payment on 31 May 2001, shall be increased with effect from 1 June 2001 in accordance with the provisions of section 59 of this Chapter.

18. (1) In subsections (1) and (2) of section 80A of Chapter XIV for "IR£" wherever it occurs there shall be substituted "€".

(2) This section shall come into operation on 1 January 2002.

19. Subsection (4) of section 80A of Chapter XIV is hereby repealed.

20. For section (3) (d) of Chapter XV there shall be substituted the following:

- (d) report to the General Synod upon any changes made to the rules and regulations concerning assistance from the Fund during the preceding year.

BILL NO 7**Explanatory Memorandum**

This Bill, which comes before General Synod at the request of the Commission on Ministry, seeks to implement the main proposals contained in that Commission's White Paper on Pastoral Breakdown brought before General Synod in 2000.

Sections 1 and 2 provide for the establishment, in June 2002, of two Provincial Mediation Panels each with power to make recommendations to a Bishop concerning any case of pastoral conflict which that Bishop has referred to it being a case which he deems incapable of resolution at local level within the Diocese.

In Section 3 details of the composition of the panels are set out; one ordained priest and one lay person shall be appointed for three years by the Diocesan Council from each Diocese, upon the nomination of the Bishop, and shall be eligible for up to two further re-appointments.

The need for sensitivity and absolute confidentiality in all matters concerning pastoral breakdown is recognised in Section 4 which details the manner in which the Mediation Teams established by the Panels will operate.

Section 5 provides that where permanent cessation from stipendiary ministry is the agreed course of action the Representative Church Body shall be so notified by the Bishop and in Section 6 that Body is empowered to make regulations concerning severance terms and other related matters.

* * * * *

REV CANON JAA CONDELL
VEN KR GOOD

BILL

To provide for the establishment of Provincial Mediation Panels and to make further provision concerning mediation in conflict resolution and related matters.

WHEREAS it is expedient that provision be made for the establishment of mediation procedures for the assistance of Bishops in the resolution of conflict within Dioceses and to make further provision in relation to mediation and related matters;

BE IT ENACTED by the Archbishops and Bishops and the Clergy and Laity of the Church of Ireland in General Synod assembled in Dublin in the year 2001, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1. With effect from 1 June 2002 a Provincial Mediation Panel (hereinafter referred to as 'the Panel') shall be established within each of the Provinces of the Church of Ireland to which any Bishop within that Province may, when he considers it appropriate, refer any case of pastoral conflict which he deems to be incapable of resolution at a local level within the Diocese.
2. The Panel shall have power to make recommendations to a Bishop upon all matters referred to it by that Bishop and in particular to make recommendations under section 4 below.
3. (i) The Panel shall comprise one ordained priest and one lay person from each Diocese in the Province who shall, in each case, be appointed by the Diocesan Council upon the nomination of the diocesan Bishop from among the licensed clergy and the laity thereof and shall hold office for three years from the date upon which they are appointed.
 - (ii) Each member of the Panel shall receive training in conflict resolution prior to taking up office.

- (iii) Each member of the Panel shall be eligible for reappointment but no member shall hold office for longer than nine years from the date of that member's first appointment to the Panel.
 - (iv) The Panel shall at its first meeting and thereafter triennially elect a Chairman and Honorary Secretary from among its own members.
 - (v) The Chairman shall have a casting as well as an ordinary vote on all questions. Casual vacancies in either of the offices referred to in subsection (iv) above may be filled, by election, at any meeting of the Panel, the person so elected to hold office until the next triennial election.
4. (i) Upon a reference being made under section 1 above by a diocesan Bishop the Panel shall appoint a Mediation Team (hereinafter referred to as 'the Team') of four of its own members none of whom shall be appointees from the Diocese concerned.
- (ii) The Team shall have power to co-opt not more than two additional members being persons with relevant experience and expertise in conflict resolution.
 - (iii) The Team shall have access in absolute confidence to all records of previous attempts within the Diocese concerned to resolve the matter which is the subject of the reference.
 - (iv) The Team shall be entitled to meet the parties concerned, each of whom may be accompanied at any such meeting by an adviser of their choice.
 - (v) The Team shall have power to recommend a particular course of action within the Parish or Diocese concerned or to make such other recommendations as it may, in the circumstances, consider appropriate.
 - (vi) Upon completion of its work the Team shall report its recommendations in writing to the Chairman of the Panel who shall, within twelve months of the first reference having been made under subsection (i) above, forward them to the Bishop concerned.
5. Where a recommendation under section 4 (v) above is made by the Team and that recommendation includes permanent cessation from stipendiary ministry, and where the minister concerned agrees with the recommendation, the Bishop shall notify the Representative Church Body.
6. Regulations may be made by the Representative Church Body concerning severance terms and all other related matters.