

APPENDIX K**CHURCH OF IRELAND
SECTARIANISM EDUCATION PROJECT****REPORT 2002**

The Church of Ireland Sectarianism Education Project was established by Standing Committee in a resolution of 18th September, 2001. A Committee of 16 members under the Chairmanship of Ven AET Harper and a Working Group of 7 members under the Chairmanship of Very Rev DR Chillingworth were established.

The resolution of 18 September 2001 and the names of the committee members are included in section 29 of the Standing Committee Report to the General Synod.

The Committee presented an interim report to the Standing Committee in January, 2002, and a further report in March on plans for a Sectarianism Education Programme taking into account educational material already available from the Irish School of Ecumenics, Corrymeela, ECONI and other sources. While it has not been possible to conduct this review of other materials at this stage, the Committee intends to address this issue both in the Scoping Study and in its own programme of work. The Committee was further asked to present detailed proposals for a Sectarianism Education Programme to the Standing Committee for approval in January, 2003.

As a necessary preparation for the designing of a programme, the Committee has commissioned a significant research project which seeks to ‘map the landscape’ of the Church in relation to the issue of sectarianism and dealing with difference. This ‘Scoping Study’ will ascertain the attitudes, needs, and experiences of clergy and lay people throughout the Church regarding this issue. It will seek to provide a foundation for the committee to respond by, among other things, commissioning programmes and initiatives that serve the Church in regard to sectarianism and living with difference. This study has emerged from the work of the Church of Ireland Sectarianism Committee and its report to the General Synod of 1999, as well as the work of the Education Sub Committee. Dr Gareth Higgins, a sociologist with wide experience in this area, and research affiliations with both Queen’s University Belfast, and the Centre for Contemporary Christianity in Ireland has been retained as an independent consultant to the project.

The two main aspects of the programme envisaged by the Committee are:

- * Assisting parishes throughout the island to increase their capacity for dealing positively with sectarianism and difference.
- * Exploring how dealing positively with sectarianism and difference will impact the decision-making level within the Church.

The Scoping Study will involve examining 10% of the parishes of the Church of Ireland in detail, through interviewing clergy, carrying out focus groups with lay people, and doing documentary analysis. In addition, all clergy in the Church of Ireland will be invited to complete a questionnaire that seeks to examine the issue of how parishes approach the issues of sectarianism and living with difference.

The cost of the Scoping Study will be met from support provided by the Priorities Fund and by the Community Bridges Programme of the International Fund for Ireland.

The results of the Scoping Study will be published and made widely available. Following the publication of the Scoping Study, the Committee will undertake a process of consultation within the Church which will assist with the design of the proposed programme. In this process, the Committee will be assisted by Dr Cecelia Clegg and Rev Doug Baker of Partners in Transformation who have been acting as Consultants to the Committee in its work.

**CHURCH OF IRELAND
SECTARIANISM EDUCATION PROJECT**

REPORT TO STANDING COMMITTEE – JANUARY 2002

The Committee set up by resolution of the Standing Committee of 18 September 2001 to take forward a Sectarianism Education Project has met in full committee on three occasions. In order to take forward the aims of the Project as discussed in Standing Committee and set out in its resolution the Committee has agreed the need to conduct a “Scoping Study” and to this end is receiving advice from Dr C Clegg and the Rev D Baker of Partners in Transformation and is engaged with Dr Gareth Higgins, a freelance researcher, in designing and conducting the study. The Aims and Objectives and the Purpose of the Scoping Study are set out below.

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The two main aspects of the programme envisaged by the Committee are:

- Assisting parishes throughout the island to increase their capacity for dealing positively with sectarianism and difference.
- Exploring how dealing positively with sectarianism and difference will impact the decision-making level within the Church.

The main aim of this methodological proposal is to design a Scoping Study that will provide a picture of attitudes and identify what is happening throughout the Church of Ireland in response to the issue of sectarianism. This study is to be carried out in 2002 and lead to an operational plan of action.

PURPOSE

The purpose of the Scoping Study is four-fold:

- To ‘map the landscape’ of the Church of Ireland, North and South, in relation to the issue of sectarianism and dealing with difference.
- To ascertain the attitudes, experiences and needs of clergy and lay people, throughout the Church of Ireland, regarding this issue.
- To articulate this analysis in a manner that provides a sound basis for the Project Committee to respond by, among other things, commissioning programmes and initiatives that serve the Church in regard to sectarianism and living with difference, and for Partners in Transformation to assist the Committee in developing appropriate materials and actions. In other words, the Scoping Study aims to provide a foundation for the Committee to build on, with the appropriate involvement of Partners in Transformation.
- To ensure that this analysis is representative of attitudes, needs and experiences throughout the Church of Ireland.

Provision for initial financing consists of an allocation of £20,000 from the Priorities Fund together with a further allocation which is being negotiated with the Community Bridges Programme of the International Fund for Ireland. The broad budgetary allocations and costs are set out in the paper annexed to this report.

A fuller document setting out the methodology, process, timescale and costing will be provided to the March meeting of the Standing Committee.

The Committee seeks assurance that the residual monies held in the account of the former Sub-Committee on Sectarianism from which the Sectarianism Education Project descends may be allocated to provide for the ongoing support of the Project.

BUDGET FOR SCOPING STUDY

Finance available

Community Bridges Project (IFI)	£32,800 (letter of offer received)
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Priorities Fund	£20,000
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[Possibility of further grant from Community Relations Council]

Total	£52,800
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Costs

Consultant and Research Assistant	£44,970
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Direct Expenses	£5,870
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Total	£50,840
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<u>Balance</u>	£1,960
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The costs above make no provision for publication of the Scoping Study.

APPENDIX L**CHURCH OF IRELAND
SECTARIANISM EDUCATION PROJECT****SCOPING STUDY PROJECT METHODOLOGY****INTRODUCTION**

This study has emerged from the work of the Church of Ireland Sectarianism Committee and its report to the General Synod of 1999, as well as the work of the Education Sub Committee. Having been invited by Standing Committee in 1998 to develop a programme responding to the issue of sectarianism and living with difference, a Scoping Study has been commissioned, to ascertain the attitudes toward, needs regarding, and experiences of approaching sectarianism and living with difference in the Church of Ireland. Rev Doug Baker and Dr Cecelia Clegg of Partners in Transformation and Dr Gareth Higgins have been retained as consultants to the project. Dr Higgins has been commissioned to develop a proposed methodology for the Scoping Study, which will be submitted for approval by the Project Committee in January. The Scoping Study will be carried out by Dr Higgins, with one other consultant and a research assistant under his direction. Partners in Transformation will assist the Committee in the development of appropriate actions in response to the Scoping Study.

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- To ‘map the landscape’ of the Church of Ireland, North and South, in relation to the issue of sectarianism and dealing with difference.
- To ascertain the attitudes, experiences, and needs of clergy and lay people, throughout the Church of Ireland, regarding this issue.
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In other words, the Scoping Study aims to provide a foundation for the Committee to build on, with the appropriate involvement of Partners in Transformation.

- To ensure that this analysis is representative of attitudes, needs, and experiences throughout the Church of Ireland. The Committee is concerned that all levels of the Church have the opportunity to participate in the Scoping Study, including younger members.

PROJECT PLAN

The Scoping Study will employ both qualitative and quantitative methods (in-depth interviews, questionnaires, focus groups, documentary analysis). A representative sample of parishes in the Church of Ireland will be selected and studied in detail, but all clergy throughout the Church will be invited to complete a questionnaire, and offered the chance to participate further if they wish. The results of the Study will be presented in a credible, but accessible document, which will include statistics, narrative, and proposals for strategy development.

RESEARCH DESIGN AND METHODOLOGY

The comprehensive methodology is proposed as follows:

- Review of relevant literature produced or affirmed by the Church of Ireland on the issue of sectarianism and living with difference, and the terms of reference for this Scoping Study. This includes policy statements and the definition of sectarianism adopted by Standing Committee in 1999.
- Collation of sampling frame from the Church database. Put simply, this is the total number of dioceses, and the proportion of parishes within them.
- Construction of representative sample of 10% of the parishes,¹ sampled according to size of diocese, and clergy profile (age group and gender). This will result in a representative list of 48 parishes. This list will be submitted to the chair of the Committee, the chair of the Working Group and up to two other members of the Working Group to confirm its reliability. The list will be held in confidence at all times between these representatives of the Working Group and the consultant. All interview and Focus Group respondents' identity will be kept confidential, and quotations will be anonymous.
- Questionnaire design. A comprehensive questionnaire will be designed to collect statistical information on the needs in relation to, experiences of, and attitudes concerning sectarianism and living with difference. This questionnaire will be submitted to the Working Group for its input before being distributed to rectors, bishops, and lay people in the representative sample. A condensed version of this

¹ 10% is a relatively large sample in social scientific research, and is widely accepted as being more than enough to provide credible results. Any concerns about how this sample may exclude parts of the Church are addressed as the sample will be broadly representative of the dioceses in terms of their respective sizes, and the age group and gender of clergy, and all clergy throughout the Church of Ireland will be given the opportunity to participate by completing a questionnaire.

questionnaire will be sent to all incumbents and bishops in the Church of Ireland, and all members of Standing Committee.

- Interview structure design. A comprehensive in-depth interview structure will be designed for use with the 48 clergy in the sample. In-depth interviews will also be carried out with 4 bishops. The interview structure will include reference to experiences, attitudes, and needs in relation to sectarianism and dealing positively with difference; respondents will be invited to indicate the full range of their perspectives, including positive and negative responses. The interview structure will be piloted with representatives of the Working Group before being used in the research proper.
- Focus Group structure and content design. A comprehensive but accessible structure will be designed for use in Focus Groups to maximise the information received from lay respondents.
- Focus Group sampling frame design. Focus Group respondents will be drawn from each of the parishes in the representative sample, with one lay leader, and two lay people (approximately) from each. These respondents will be accessed through their respective clergy, and should provide a broad representation of church members (from a wide range of ages, beginning at secondary school age), from a wide range of backgrounds and leadership roles in the Church, including (but not exclusive to) youth leaders, Sunday School teachers, and members of Select Vestry. Attempts will be made to involve some less active parishioners in some of the Focus Groups.
- Advice of Working Group on which other groups and individuals to include in the research. Representatives of the Corrymeela Community, ECONI, and the ISE will be interviewed to ascertain their assessment of working with the Church of Ireland in relation to sectarianism and dealing positively with difference. There may be other appropriate individuals or bodies in the Church or outside it (for instance, those working with youth) who are relevant to this research. Up to 20 such interviews will be conducted.
- Letter to all clergy, informing them of the research, and inviting a response from all clergy to the condensed version of the questionnaire. This letter will be from the Standing Committee, with a brief outline of the context for the Scoping Study. This is an attempt at ensuring genuine action in response to the Scoping Study from throughout the Church, and to enable those who may feel that their voices are not always 'heard' to participate.
- Possible article in the Church of Ireland Gazette to inform the whole Church of the existence, value, potential outcomes and needs of the Scoping Study. This article could include the condensed version of the questionnaire and an invitation for anyone in the Church to respond.
- Construction of Focus Group sample in consultation with clergy in the Scoping Study sample.
- In-depth interviews with representative sample of parish clergy. All respondents will also complete the questionnaire if they have not already done so in response to the earlier letter.

- Focus Groups with sample of lay people from the representative sample of parishes. All Focus Group respondents will complete the questionnaire for statistical data.
- Documentary analysis of relevant policy documents, public statements, Synod documents, liturgical texts, church calendar, etc. A selection of documents relevant to the issue of sectarianism and living with difference will be analysed.
- Regular meetings with representatives of Working Group to update and advise on progress, etc.
- Write-up of the Scoping Study report.
- Outcomes.

PROPOSED OUTCOMES

- A comprehensive report² detailing the qualitative and quantitative findings of the research in a credible manner and accessible format. The report will recount, and seek to explain the range of attitudes and actions in the Church of Ireland in relation to sectarianism and the question of living with difference.
- Suggestions for areas of key need and/or opportunity. These are likely to cover a range of issues, including, for example, the manner in which youth relate to sectarianism and difference, the role of public worship in relation to approaching sectarianism and living with difference, the role of inter-church relations, the need to appreciate the wider social context, and so on.
- Proposals for possible strategy development that can be applied to the issue of sectarianism and living with difference. The Scoping Study aims to provide a solid foundation for such strategy development, in terms of highlighting both good and less strong current practice, and proposing possible avenues for further development of good practice.
- A residential meeting of Standing Committee (to be funded separately). The Working Group has suggested that the Standing Committee is receptive to the idea that it should have a residential meeting at some point in each triennium of its life. It has been further suggested that, “A focus on sectarianism and living with difference would seem to be the kind of theme which members might find attractive to supply at least some of the subject matter for such a conference. The Standing Committee was very involved in the process that produced the Report on Sectarianism for General Synod. That process was very much within the official processes of Standing Committee and General Synod. It therefore produced a definitive statement of the ‘mind of the church’ at that point. Given the nature of such processes, it therefore could not provide for members an adequate opportunity to express feelings/tell

² All data elicited by the Scoping Study and its published report will be copyrighted to the Church of Ireland. Research materials will be kept by the consultancy for use in relation to the Scoping Study. Such materials may also be used, with permission, in further work by the consultancy. Acknowledgement should be made to the funding and commissioning bodies, and the same standards of anonymity and confidentiality should be applied.

story/explore in the ways in which the exploration of sectarianism demands. Indeed, members may have been concerned that such exploration, conducted in what might have seemed an inappropriate forum, might have brought further division to the Church of Ireland. A Residential gathering of Standing Committee would not be particularly relevant to the statistical analysis of the Scoping Study – although the Standing Committee represents the General Synod and is, therefore, a body representative of the Church of Ireland as a whole. However, it would be of immense significance in helping the body that has the major decision-making responsibility in this area to ‘own’ the process/journey which we are undertaking and to measure its significance for the future life and renewal of the Church of Ireland.” Any such conference would not be likely to take place during 2002, but could be seen as a potential outcome of the Scoping Study. Partners in Transformation have offered to facilitate such a conference.

- Personal input from the consultant to the Working Group/Committee throughout 2002 in terms of attending meetings, and being available for appropriate consultation on issues pertinent to the research.

SCHEDULE

The general schedule for the Scoping Study is outlined as follows:³

February – March 2002

- Methodology approved, or revised as appropriate
- Initial sampling, questionnaire, interview and Focus Group structure design
- Construction of sampling frames
- Final questionnaire design
- Final interview structure design
- Sampling of parishes and clergy
- Letter of invitation to all clergy
- Interview timetable agreed with respondents

March – August 2002

- Fieldwork: interviews, questionnaires, Focus Groups, documentary analysis

September – November 2002

- Analysis and completion of draft report
- Revision of report in consultation with Working Group representatives

³ None of these dates is fixed; this is a general guide to the kind of schedule the Working Group might expect. A comprehensive schedule is at the very end of this document.

December 2002

- Delivery of report to Project Committee

BUDGET

The total maximum cost for the Scoping Study is **£50840** including all fees, expenses, and overheads. The Agreement is between the Sectarianism Education Project of the General Synod of the Church of Ireland, the Representative Church Body of the Church of Ireland and Dr Gareth Higgins. It is proposed that costs be invoiced in instalments, as in the following example: 30% of the total estimated cost (**£15252**) at the beginning of the Scoping Study, followed by monthly invoices, with the final payment on delivery of the report. Every effort will be made to keep the total cost below this figure. Any cost in excess of this figure, arising from circumstances outside the Consultant's control, will be negotiated at the earliest opportunity with the Committee. No such expense will be incurred unless this is approved.

PUBLICATION OF THE REPORT

The Scoping Study Report will be presented in a document that is to be designed and printed in the most economical manner. Example: 1000 printed copies with a two-colour cover might cost around £3000. Before this budget is finalised, the Working Group has requested that the consultancy provide a number of hard copies and a copy of the report on computer disk, to be turned into a printed version according to the Committee's wishes later. The Chair of the Working Group is liaising with the Communications Office on this issue. The amount below is therefore notional and subject to change, although alternative sources of funding will be sought for this by the Committee.

Total estimated printing and design costs: £3000