

STANDING COMMITTEE

REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS LAID BEFORE

THE GENERAL SYNOD AT ITS

ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTY-THIRD ORDINARY SESSION 2003

Standing Committee – Report 2003

**THE GENERAL SYNOD
OF THE
CHURCH OF IRELAND**

HONORARY SECRETARIES OF THE GENERAL SYNOD

Very Rev H Cassidy, The Library, Abbey Street, Armagh BT61 7DY

Rev Canon RD Harman, The Rectory, Sandford Close, Ranelagh, Dublin 6

Mr SR Harper, Cramer's Grove, Kilkenny, Co Kilkenny

Lady Sheil, Killinchy, Co Down BT23 6RL

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The Standing Committee submits to the General Synod the Report of its proceedings for the period from 23 April 2002 to 11 March 2003.

1. SUMMARY

The report includes details of the various matters dealt with by the Standing Committee during the year. The most significant matters were:

- Appointment of Central Liturgical Officer (page 150)
- Sustainable Development (Appendices L, M, N, pp 235, 239, 242)
- Marriage Law reform (page 154)
- Sectarianism Education Project (Appendix S, page 266)
- Reform of the General Synod (Appendix T, page 269)
- Church in Society Committee (Appendix G page 201)

2. NAMES AND ATTENDANCES OF MEMBERS

During the period six ordinary meetings and one Special Meeting of the Committee have been held. The number of meetings attended by each member is placed before his/her name.

Ex-officio Members

THE ARCHBISHOPS AND BISHOPS

THE HONORARY SECRETARIES OF THE GENERAL SYNOD

6	Very Rev H Cassidy
7	Rev Canon RD Harman
6	Mr SR Harper
6	Lady Sheil

Elected Members

Diocese of:

Armagh	7	Rev Canon JM Barton
		Vacant
	3	Mr HW Young
	6	Mrs J Montgomery
Clogher	6	Rev Canon DP Hoey
	1	Rev BT Kerr (Elected March 2003)
	7	Mr H Stewart
	2	Mr SF Brooker
Derry	3	Ven MS Harte
	2	Very Rev WW Morton
	7	Mr JHD Livingston
	3	Mr WR Arnold

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Down	3	Rev Canon WJ Scott (Elected June 2002)
	5	Rev DA McClay
	1	Mr JD Johnston
	5	Dr PHC Trimble
Connor	7	Very Rev JFA Bond
	6	Rev Dr MJ Elliott
	5	Mr J Richardson
	6	Ms CS Turner
Kilmore	1	Very Rev DSG Godfrey (Elected March 2003)
	5	Rev Canon GTW Davison
	5	Mrs JM Johnston
	3	Mr N Trenier
Tuam	2	Ven AMA Previt�
	1	Rev Canon GL Hastings
	2	Mr DJ Auchmuty
	6	Ms AJ Wills
Dublin	7	Rev Canon NG McEndoo
	4	Rev JS Peoples
	6	Dr K Milne
	1	Mr LJW MacCann (Elected March 2003)
Meath	1	Ven PHA Lawrence (Elected February 2003)
	6	Rev Canon JDM Clarke
	7	Mrs JM Bruton
	2	Mr WG Colton (Elected January 2003)
Cashel	5	Ven JG Murray
	0	Rev Canon PA Harvey (Elected March 2003)
	7	Mr G Bradley
	2	Mr KGT Rothwell
Cork	6	Ven REB White
	6	Very Rev MAJ Burrows
	7	Mr WF Baker
	5	Dr AE St Leger
Limerick	5	Very Rev JMG Sirr
	7	Rev SM Neill
	2	Mr PDG Read
	6	Mr TS Hardy

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Co-opted Members

5	Mr MC Davey	3	Rev Canon KA Kearon
5	Ms C McCutcheon	4	Mr HRJ Totten
7	Rev Canon RB Rountree	1	Rev P Comerford (Elected February 2003)
6	Ven RG Hoey		

The Chief Officer and Secretary of the Representative Church Body is entitled to attend and speak at meetings of the Standing Committee. The Assistant Secretary of the General Synod is also entitled to speak at meetings.

COMMITTEES OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE

FINANCE AND ARRANGEMENTS SUB-COMMITTEE

Mr G Bradley
Very Rev TR Moore (up to 31 December 2002)
The Honorary Secretaries

LEGAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

His Honour Judge JG Buchanan	Mr RLK Mills SC
The Hon Mr Justice DNO Budd	Mr PDM Prentice
Lord Justice Campbell	His Honour Judge RF Rodgers
Mr MC Davey	Mr WB Stevenson
Mr WS McCarter	Vacant
The Hon Mrs Justice C McGuinness	The Honorary Secretaries

PRIORITIES FUND COMMITTEE

Mrs JM Bruton	Mr HRJ Totten
Rev Canon JAA Condell (up to 31 December 2002)	Mrs AJ Wills
Rev I Gallagher (up to 31 December 2002)	Mr HW Young
Very Rev TR Moore (up to 31 December 2002)	

BUDGET SUB-COMMITTEE

Mr G Bradley	Ms C McCutcheon
Very Rev H Cassidy	Mr HRJ Totten
Mr SR Harper	Vacant

3. ALTERATION TO DIOCESAN BOUNDARIES

The Standing Committee in November 2002 approved the transfer of Kiltyclogher Parish from Kilmore Diocese to the Parish of Garrison in Clogher Diocese. It was confirmed that the transfer had been approved by the Diocesan Synods of Clogher Diocese and Kilmore Diocese. Under Section 31 (2) of Chapter I of the Constitution, the Standing Committee of the General Synod has the power to approve any alteration to diocesan boundaries on behalf of the General Synod.

4. THE ANGLICAN COMMUNION

In June 1999, the Standing Committee submitted a preliminary response to the ACC on the Virginia Report which addressed authority within the Anglican Communion. The response is on page 132 of the Standing Committee report of 2000.

The Standing Committee in April 2002 submitted a further response to questions put by the Inter-Anglican Theological Doctrinal Commission concerning the Virginia Report and what is meant by “communion” in the Anglican context. The response is included as Appendix B on page 165.

5. THE ANGLICAN CONSULTATIVE COUNCIL

The meeting of the Anglican Consultative Council was held in Hong Kong from 15 to 25 September 2002. The Church of Ireland was represented by the Most Rev RHA Eames, as Chairman of the Inter-Anglican Finance Committee, and the Very Rev MAJ Burrows and Ms CS Turner, appointed by the Standing Committee. A report on the meeting is included as Appendix C on page 168.

6. APPOINTMENT OF ASSISTANT SECRETARY

In July 2002, Ms Valerie Beatty resigned as Assistant Secretary of the General Synod, after a period of four and a half years. In her time as Assistant Secretary, Ms Beatty made a very significant contribution to the organisation and future development of the General Synod department. She was also highly respected as the Church of Ireland representative on the Porvoo Contact Group.

In September 2002 the Standing Committee appointed Mrs Janet Maxwell to this post. While retaining her communications role, Mrs Maxwell became Head of Synod Services and Communications.

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7. APPOINTMENTS

The following appointments were made by the Standing Committee during the year:

Committee etc	Name
General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church, Belfast June 2002	Rt Rev AET Harper Rev Canon WA Lewis
Conference of the Methodist Church, Enniskillen June 2002	Most Rev RHA Eames Rt Rev HC Miller Mrs AJ Wills
Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends, Lisburn April 2002	Mrs R McKelvey
Porvoo Day, Finland October 2002	Rt Rev WP Colton
Global Anglican Congress on the Stewardship of Creation, Johannesburg August 2002	Rev G Pitt
Moravian Church in Great Britain and Ireland, Provincial Synod, Swanwick July 2002	Rev WKM Brew
Irish Council of Churches, Irish Inter-Church Committee	Rev Dr IM Ellis Very Rev LDA Forrest
Commission on Ministry	Mr J Richardson
Publication of Prayer Book Advisory Committee	Mr E Vincent
Anglican – Old Catholic Congress, Prague August 2002	Rt Rev PF Barrett
Conference of European Churches Assembly, Trondheim, Norway June 2003	Rev Canon WA Lewis Mrs A Wills
Christian Aid, Board	Rt Rev MHG Mayes
Porvoo Contact Group	Rev Canon RD Harman
Theological College Council	Rev Canon KA Kearon Mr HW Young
Churches Together in Britain and Ireland, Church Representatives Meeting	Rt Rev MGStA Jackson

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Ecumenical German Kirchentag, Berlin June 2003	Rev Dr IM Ellis
Church in Wales, meeting of the Governing Body, Lampeter September 2002	Ven DS McLean
Church of Ireland Youth Department, Central Board	Rev Dr MJ Elliott Mr TS Hardy
Central Liturgical Officer	Rev Canon RB Rountree
International Anglican Liturgical Consultation, Oxford August 2003	Rev Canon RB Rountree Very Rev MAJ Burrows Mr DB O'Callaghan
Irish Inter-Church Meeting, Dromantine Conference Centre November 2003	Rt Rev PF Barrett Very Rev RSJH McKelvey Dr A Pierce Mr A Gillis
North Sea Sailing Seminar, Norway June 2003	Rev Canon WA Lewis

8. AUDIT OF ACCOUNTS

The Standing Committee appointed PricewaterhouseCoopers to audit the accounts of the Representative Church Body.

9. BISHOPS' APPEAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

A report from the World Development – Bishops' Appeal Advisory Committee, including accounts for the year ended 31 December 2002, is included as Appendix D on page 172.

10. CENTRAL COMMUNICATIONS BOARD

A report from the Central Communications Board, which includes the work of the Broadcasting Committee, the Internet Committee and the Literature Committee, is included as Appendix E on page 181.

11. CENTRAL LITURGICAL OFFICER

The Standing Committee in November 2002 agreed in principle to the secondment of a stipendiary priest as the Central Liturgical Officer (CLO) of the Church of Ireland for a period of eighteen months from 1 August 2003. The appointment is subject to the consent of the diocesan bishop and select vestry concerned.

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The Central Liturgical Officer will develop the liturgical life of the Church of Ireland in the context of the publication of the new edition of the Book of Common Prayer in 2004. The CLO will also encourage creativity and innovation in the leading and conduct of liturgy within the structure and parameters of the Book of Common Prayer.

In January 2003, the Standing Committee appointed the Rev Canon RB Rountree, the Honorary Secretary of the Liturgical Advisory Committee, as Central Liturgical Officer.

12. CHRISTIAN STEWARDSHIP

As reported last year, the Standing Committee established a small group to consider the recommendations contained in Part Five of the John Truscott Report on the future of Christian Stewardship in the Church of Ireland. The group submitted an interim report to the Standing Committee in January 2003 and was requested to give further consideration to the issues raised and report on models in use elsewhere in the Anglican Communion.

13. CHURCHES TOGETHER IN BRITAIN AND IRELAND

A report on the Assembly of Churches Together in Britain and Ireland, held in Swanwick in February 2002 is included as Appendix F on page 199.

14. CHURCH HYMNAL

The Standing Committee in April 2002 authorised the printing of a large print words only edition of the Church Hymnal by Oxford University Press. Some 5,500 copies were printed to supply a number of books to be held by each parish to meet the specific need of those requiring large print to participate fully in worship.

15. THE CHURCH IN SOCIETY COMMITTEE

As reported last year, the Standing Committee in January 2001 approved proposals for the establishment of the Church in Society Committee to replace the former Role of the Church Committee. The proposals were reported to the General Synod in 2001 as Appendix N to the report of the Standing Committee.

In accordance with the terms of reference of the Church in Society Committee, the Rt Rev MGStA Jackson was appointed Chairperson by the House of Bishops. The two Archbishops are *ex-officio* members and the Honorary Secretaries have appointed the Very Rev H Cassidy and Mr SR Harper.

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The terms of reference also provide for the Standing Committee to elect up to seven members to chair the working groups. The following members were appointed:

Medical Ethics, Science and Technology	Dr R Corbett
Legislation and Political (NI)	Rev Canon WA Lewis
Legislation and Political (RI)	Mr LJW MacCann
Social Justice and Theological (NI)	Rev DA McClay
Social Justice and Theological (RI)	Rt Rev PF Barrett
Ecological and Environmental	Ms S Mew
European Affairs	Dr K Milne

The Church in Society is establishing a panel of specialists in particular fields and membership of the panel will be built up over a period. When a topic is referred to a working group, the chairperson of that working group will select members from the panel to deal with that particular topic. The report is included as Appendix G on page 201.

16. THE CHURCH OF IRELAND/METHODIST CHURCH COVENANT

Following the approval of the Covenant by the General Synod and by the Methodist Conference in 2002, the Archbishop of Armagh spoke of the signing of the Covenant as being an historic moment for the Church of Ireland. The House of Bishops undertook to explore ways in which the terms of the Covenant could be implemented.

The Standing Committee in January agreed in principle to the establishment of The Covenant Council to monitor and facilitate the implementation of the Covenant. A resolution, recommended by the Standing Committee to the General Synod, to establish The Covenant Council and to elect the Church of Ireland representatives is included in Appendix A on page 163.

17. CONFERENCE OF EUROPEAN CHURCHES

A report on the meeting of the Church and Society Commission of the Conference of European Churches, held in Switzerland in April 2002 is included as Appendix H on page 225.

18. FUNDING OF ORDINANDS

As reported last year, the Theological College Council established a fact finding group to investigate the funding of ordinands and Mr WF Baker was appointed to represent the Standing Committee on the group. In September 2002, the Standing Committee considered a report from the group, which was also submitted to the Representative Church Body and the RCB Allocations Committee. The Standing Committee endorsed the recommendations contained in the report, which is included as Appendix I on page 227.

19. GENERAL SYNOD – 2003 AND 2004

It was reported last year that the meeting of the General Synod in 2003 was arranged for 13, 14 and 15 May in the O'Reilly Hall, University College Dublin. Following the meeting in the Stillorgan Park Hotel in 2002, the Standing Committee decided to change the venue to the Stillorgan Park Hotel for 2003.

In accordance with the authority delegated to the Standing Committee by the General Synod in 1982, the meeting of the General Synod in 2004 has been arranged for 11, 12 and 13 May in the Armagh City Hotel, Armagh.

20. GENERAL SYNOD ROYALTIES FUND

The following grants were approved:

A grant of €5,546 for the production of a *Guide to Ordination*.

A grant of €42,500 to reimburse the loan requested from the Priorities Fund for the financing of the Central Liturgical Officer to advise on the introduction of the new Book of Common Prayer and for publication of the necessary resource material (See Priorities Report p 156).

A grant of €1,325 towards the cost of the publication entitled *The laity and the Church of Ireland, 1,000 to 2,000: all sorts and conditions* edited by the Rev Canon WG Neely and Dr R Gillespie.

A grant of €7,000 to the APCK for a reprint of the information leaflets on the Church of Ireland.

A grant of €1,000 to subvent the publication of *A History of Music in Christ Church Cathedral* written by Dr Barra Boydell of the Department of Music in the National University of Ireland, Maynooth.

21. GENERAL SYNOD – STANDING COMMITTEE BUDGETS

The Budget Sub-Committee considered budget submissions from various bodies concerning their projected expenditure for the year 2003 and presented a report to the Standing Committee in September 2002. Following consideration of the report, recommendations were submitted to the Representative Church Body Allocations Committee.

22. HISTORIOGRAPHER'S REPORT

A report from the Church of Ireland Historiographer, Dr K Milne, is included as Appendix J on page 231.

23. IRISH CHURCHES' COUNCIL FOR TELEVISION AND RADIO AFFAIRS

A report from the Irish Churches' Council for Television and Radio Affairs for the period 1 April 2001 to 30 December 2001 is included as Appendix K on page 233.

24. IRISH COUNCIL OF CHURCHES/IRISH INTER-CHURCH MEETING

The Standing Committee in November 2002 considered the Church of Ireland contribution to the Irish Council of Churches and the Irish Inter-Church Meeting in view of the ongoing review process of the relationship between the two ecumenical bodies. The Standing Committee affirmed its support for the Irish Council of Churches and encouraged those involved in the ICC/IICM review process to work towards the establishment of one ecumenical body in Ireland. It was also resolved to review the situation at its meeting in June 2005.

25. MARRIAGE LAW

As reported last year, the Standing Committee in March 2002 appointed a working group to investigate the practical implications of the reform of marriage law currently taking place in both Northern Ireland and in the Republic of Ireland. In a report to the Standing Committee in January 2003, the working group stated that it was probable that the proposed Marriage Bill in Northern Ireland would be processed by an Order in Council and may come into effect later in 2003. The Church of Ireland will be required to draw up a list of persons to be registered to perform marriage ceremonies.

The working group was represented at a meeting with an Inter-Departmental Committee on the civil registration of marriages in the Republic of Ireland in November 2002. Discussions with the Registrar General continue on the Government's document *Bringing Civil Registration into the 21st Century*.

Concern was expressed by the working group that the move to civil registration of marriages will involve various stages of legislation which will take some time to complete. The working group would like to see the responsibility for ascertaining capacity to marry transferred to the Civil Registrar as soon as possible.

The proposed changes in the civil law in the two jurisdictions will, if accepted, necessitate consequential amendment of the Canons and Rubrics and provision of a specific church register for use in recording marriages when the civil duplicate registers are no longer furnished. These are matters which the working group will address in anticipation of possible statutory changes.

26. OVERSEAS AID

The Rev G Pitt, Education Advisor for the World Development – Bishops' Appeal Advisory Committee, was appointed by the Standing Committee to attend the Global Anglican Congress on the Stewardship of Creation, followed by the United

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Nations World Summit on Sustainable Development. These meetings took place in Johannesburg in August 2002. A report on these events is included as Appendix L on page 235.

At the November 2002 meeting, the Rev G Pitt made a presentation to the Standing Committee on the work of Bishops' Appeal incorporating knowledge gained at the Anglican Congress and the World Summit. The Standing Committee welcomed the Declaration to the Anglican Communion from representatives of the Provinces of the Anglican Communion gathered in Johannesburg, which is included as Appendix M on page 239.

The Standing Committee also committed itself to encourage the members of the Church of Ireland, whenever possible, in co-operation with ecumenical and interfaith partners, to undertake the actions recommended in the Declaration.

An *ad hoc* group was appointed to advise on the recommendation in the Declaration. The group comprised of the Rev G Pitt, Ms S Mew, as Chairperson of the Ecological and Environmental group of the Church in Society Committee, the Rev R Elsdon and the Rev WD Humphries. The Standing Committee in January 2003 considered a report from the group, which was referred to the Church in Society Committee. The report is included as Appendix N on page 242.

In response to a resolution from Meath and Kildare Diocesan Synod, the Standing Committee adopted a resolution urging the government in the Republic of Ireland to set clear interim goals for achieving the target of 0.7% of Gross National Income for Official Development Assistance by 2007. A similar request was made to the United Kingdom Government.

27. POLICY STATEMENT ON DISABILITY

In June 2002, the Standing Committee established a working group to bring forward an agreed policy statement and suggest a way for the church to respond to and meet the needs of the disabled, in consultation with the Equality Commission in Northern Ireland. The group consisted of Mr MC Davey, the Rt Rev AET Harper, Lady Sheil and Dr P Trimble from the Standing Committee and the Ven GCS Linney and Mr RH Kay from the Representative Body.

The working group has prepared the following overall policy statement on disability:-

The Church of Ireland recognises that each person is entitled to participate fully in the life of the Church.

The Church is committed to keeping policies, practices and procedures under review to ensure that people with disabilities are not treated less favourably. Consultations will take place with disabled members of the Church and organisations representing disabled persons.

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The Church aims to promote, provide and maintain access for people with disabilities in relation to Church buildings and access to worship and church activities.

The Church aims to take all reasonable steps to facilitate participation in worship and parish life.

The Church aims to encourage members, employees and others acting on its behalf to promote practices and attitudes which do not discriminate against people with disabilities.

The Church will establish appropriate machinery for the implementation and monitoring of these policies.

Detailed action plans will be drawn up in the areas of property, communications, employment and training.

The working group requested relevant groups within the church to develop suitable responses. To date the Property Committee of the Representative Church Body has developed a set of guidelines relating to accessibility of buildings. A set of guidelines relating to printed material has been developed by the Central Communications Board with the assistance of the Royal National Institute for the Blind. Both of these are to be circulated to dioceses.

In November 2002, the Standing Committee agreed in principle to the working group exploring the possibility of establishing a Churches Joint Committee on Disability. The working group considered that the issues concerning disability are of mutual concern to all the Churches and that there was much to be gained by learning from the experience of others.

28. THE PORVOO COMMUNION

The Porvoo Communion held a Church Leaders' Consultation in Estonia in March 2002. The Consultation was attended by the Most Rev JRW Neill, the Rev Canon RD Harman and Ms V Beatty. A report on the consultation is included as Appendix O on page 255.

A report on the meeting of the Porvoo Contact Group held in Finland in October 2002 is included as Appendix P on page 260.

29. PRIORITIES FUND

- (a) The following allocations from the 2002 Priorities Fund were approved by the Standing Committee in March 2003:

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ALLOCATION OF GRANTS FROM 2002 PRIORITIES FUND

	€
Ministry	
‘A Space Apart’, Temple Bar, Dublin – To assist with the provision of a ‘space apart’ in this busy city quarter, where the public can withdraw a while in quiet, to pray, meditate or just be still	10,000
Ceiliuradh Liturgy Conference, Christ Church Cathedral, Dublin – To assist with the cost of organising this conference which, this year, has a theme ‘Worship in a violent world’	4,000
Church’s Ministry of Healing – To maintain progress in the work of this vital organisation	10,000
Theological College – In-service training of Clergy and Laity	6,350
Daisy Hill Hospital, Newry – To assist in relocating the interdenominational hospital church to a more central and convenient location	12,298
House of Bishops – Provision of in-service training for Clergy in each Diocese	70,000
House of Bishops – To assist with the start-up costs involved in the new process relating to the Bishops’ Selection Conference	5,000
Irish College of Preachers – To secure funding so that the valuable but unsung work of the College continues to provide a vital service to the Church of Ireland	1,500
Liturgical Advisory Committee – To assist with the appointment of a Central Liturgical Officer for a period of 18 months, to advise on the introduction of the new Book of Common Prayer – Grant €20,000, Loan €22,500	42,500
Sub-total	€161,648
Retirement	
C of I Pensions Board - Additional income for most needy	9,363
C of I Pensions Board - Retired Chaplain	644
Vicar’s Hill Property Committee, Armagh – To help with the refurbishment of properties in Vicar’s Hill, for use by retired clergy or clergy widows	18,447
Sub-total	€28,454
Education	
Central Communications Board – Financial support for the communications activities relating to the posts of Director of Communications in Dublin and Media Officer in Belfast	31,913
C of I Board of Education (RI) – Funding for ‘Follow Me’, the new religious education programme for primary schools	25,000
C of I Sectarianism Education Committee – To assist with consultancy and other expenses for a Scoping Study, on a possible future education programme on sectarianism	19,293
Diocese of Meath & Kildare – To assist applicants to participate in the Pastoral Studies Course	2,540
Dublin & Glendalough Diocesan Church Music Committee – To fund, on a 1 year pilot basis, a scheme for the encouragement of new junior choirs in leading the liturgical and musical aspects of worship	3,250
Girls’ Friendly Society – To hold two youth forums and formulate a strategic plan for three years	2,000
National Bible Society – To assist with the provision of a special edition of Luke’s gospel to all 3 rd – 6 th Class primary school pupils in the Republic	7,500
Search – To assist with the publication of three issues a year and to defray the costs of a Conference looking at theological aspects of the Middle East crisis	780
Sunday School Society – Funding for the provision of training for Sunday School teachers	1,000

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The Mothers' Union – To fund the third phase of facilitator training, under the Mothers' Union parenting programme 6,754

The following applications all concern youth work and the grants allocated are based on the recommendations made by the Church of Ireland Youth Department

C of I Youth Department – To develop the Summer Madness camp by engaging large numbers of young people in community based service	23,059
C of I Youth Department – To help with the development of plans to facilitate and deliver a youth ministry to the Church of Ireland nationally	30,746
Annaghmore Parish (Armagh Diocese) – To assist with the extension of ministry amongst the youth of the parish	4,612
Children's Ministry through the Arts (Kilmore Diocese) – To develop children's ministry through music and the arts, to enrich their contribution to parish life in general and worship in particular	3,000
Down & Dromore Youth Operational Group – To part fund a youth communications and volunteer project	3,075
Glenavy Parish (Connor Diocese) – To develop a new cross-community youth drop-in centre in Crumlin, which is an area of contention	6,149
Kidz Klub at CORE (Dublin Diocese) – To assist with the development of a project to reach out to underprivileged children in inner city Dublin	2,000
St John's Parish, Moira (Dromore Diocese) – To assist with the running costs of the community based drop-in centre, providing a safe environment for young people	4,612
St Stephen's Parish, Belfast (Connor Diocese) – To assist with the running costs of an after-schools club in a designated area of deprivation and high unemployment	9,224

Sub-total €186,507

Community

Churches in Co-operation – Funding to build upon and further develop the work of this inter-denominational organisation, on both sides of the border	3,843
C of I Board for Social Responsibility (NI) – To assist the Board in extending the fertility and adoption services and maintain social work services	19,985
C of I Gazette - Funding to maintain and develop this publication and help with the costs of distribution in the Republic of Ireland	10,761
Crossroads Social Club, Dublin – Funding to enable this club run its various activities, where young Church of Ireland meet and form new friendships	400
Harcourt Home, Dublin – Funding for the upgrading of bedrooms and installation of ensuite bathrooms	4,000
PACT (Protestant Adoption), Dublin – Reorganisation and restructuring of the agency, following an in-depth review of its present management and administrative structures	5,000
St John's House of Rest, Dublin – To remove a cast iron bath and replace with a 'drive-in' shower	5,769
The Corrymeela Community, Belfast – Funding for a personal development programme for 18 – 25 year olds, so that they will become peacemakers in their own communities	6,149
The Mageough Home, Dublin – To assist with funding for the upgrading of houses for elderly ladies	8,000

Sub-total €63,907

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Areas of Need

Armagh – Ballinalee Parish – Funding for the renovation of the old schoolhouse, to enable its continued use for the development of the ministry and outreach of the four parishes and wider community	5,000
Armagh – Desertlyn Parish – Replacement of floor in parish hall, which due to ravages of dry rot had become unsafe, rendering the hall unusable	3,997
Armagh – Tynan Parish – Assistance towards the renovation and extension of the parish hall	7,686
Clogher – Maguiresbridge Parish – Funding towards the building of a new parish hall	7,686
Clogher – St Margaret’s Parish, Clabby – Funding to establish and develop much needed premises, for use by both parish organisations and community	7,686
Connor – Woodburn Parish – To assist with the extension of the existing church complex	15,373
Cork – Kilmocomogue Union – Assistance with the transformation of a dilapidated caretaker’s house into a parish centre	5,000
Derry – Christ Church Parish, Castledawson – To assist with the building of a new parish hall	7,686
Down – Ballyphilip and Ardquin Parish – To assist with the building of a new purpose-built parish centre	11,530
Down – Willowfield Parish – Seed capital for a project designed to address some of the many complex social, physical and spiritual needs of people in the very deprived areas of east Belfast	38,432
Dublin – Rathfarnham Parish – Financial support for the ‘Christ First’ project, exploring and implementing an effective parish ministry for 2003 - 2006	5,500
Elphin – Calry Parish – Financial assistance towards the development of the five disused crypts under the church, for use as a parish centre	20,000
Glendalough – Greystones Parish – Part-funding for the construction of a new parish centre	17,500
Kildare – Geashill Union – Refurbishment of parish hall, for use by both parish and the wider community	5,000
Kilmore – Billis Parish – Financial assistance for the building of a new community and parish hall	5,000
Limerick – St Michael’s Church, Limerick – To help defray the cost of an additional Sunday School room	2,000
Lismore – Fiddown Union – Financial assistance for the restoration of the parish hall	5,000
Meath – Navan Union – Funding for the building of a new multi-purpose centre, adjacent to the parish’s primary school but with its own entrance gates and entrance hall	20,000
Sub-total	<u>€190,076</u>
Reconciliation and Outreach	
Derry and Raphoe Action – Funding to encourage community development processes within rural Protestant communities in the counties Londonderry, Tyrone and Donegal	7,686
Kill O’the Grange Parish, (Dublin Diocese) - To build upon and further reconciliation/ peace building, on a North/South and Church of Ireland/Roman Catholic framework	3,174
Sixmilecross & Termonmaguirke Parishes, (Armagh Diocese) – Funding for an annual Community Festival, which will celebrate both Protestant and Roman Catholic expressions of music and culture	7,686
Sydenham Cross Community Group, (Down Diocese) - To help with the development of a drop-in centre and community cafe, where the local churches can work together with the community	9,224
Think Again - Diocese of Down & Dromore - To help finance the 'Think Again Initiative' (Renewing the Church 2000-2005), in its outworkings in the parishes of the Diocese	18,447
Sub-total	<u>€46,217</u>
Total Allocated	<u>€676,809</u>

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- (b) Accounts for the year ending 31 December 2002 are included as Appendix Q on page 262. Contributions to the Fund do not close until the end of February. The amount actually received by 28 February 2003 was €521,020.
- (c) Following a recommendation from the Priorities Fund Committee, the Standing Committee in April 2002 agreed that the diocesan targets for the 2003 fund should be increased by 3%. No increase in targets had been recommended since 1998.
- (d) Sterling grants have been converted to Euro using the 2002 end of year rate of 0.6505.
- (e) The Priorities Fund Committee acknowledged with gratitude the bequest of the late Mrs Elizabeth Mundy of St Paul's Parish, Glenageary, Co Dublin has left the residue of her estate to the Priorities Fund amounting to over €360,000. This is a wonderful gift and when added to the investments already held with the Representative Church Body, will definitely cover the day to day running costs of the Fund.

30. PUBLICATION OF PRAYER BOOK ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Standing Committee in September 2000 established the Publication of Prayer Book Advisory Committee to assist the Rev Canon JAB Mayne as editor of the new edition of the Book of Common Prayer to be published in 2004. A report from the Advisory Committee is included as Appendix R on page 264.

31. REFERENDUM ON THE NICE TREATY

The Standing Committee in September considered issuing a statement prior to the referendum in the Republic of Ireland on the Nice Treaty. It was decided to request the European Affairs working group of the Church in Society Committee to issue a comprehensive statement in its own name, as the working group has the resources to prepare a more comprehensive statement setting out the issues involved. The statement is included in Appendix B of the report of the Church in Society Committee (Appendix G, page 201).

32. REPORTING PROCEDURE AT THE GENERAL SYNOD

The General Synod in 1998 adopted a resolution providing for certain committees and boards to present a report to the General Synod every second year. The resolution was passed at the start of a long period of liturgical revision in preparation for the new Book of Common Prayer in 2004, with the intention of saving time during the meeting of the Synod.

As committees have opted to report at irregular intervals for various reasons, the resolution is not achieving what was intended, which was to have about half of the ten committees listed in the resolution not presenting a report in any one year. The Standing Committee in January 2002 agreed to recommend that the Synod rescind the resolution of 1998. The recommendation is included in Appendix A on page 163.

33. SAFEGUARDING TRUST

The Department of Health and Children (RI) issued guidelines for child protection entitled *Our Duty to Care*, which supplements the earlier document entitled *Children First, the National Guidelines*. The new guidelines provided an opportunity to revise the two Church of Ireland handbooks whose print run is virtually exhausted.

The Standing Committee in September 2002 approved a revised text of the two Safeguarding Trust handbooks entitled *A Guide for Workers with Children and Young People* and *A Guide for Parish Panels and Select Vestries* for use in the Republic of Ireland.

34. SECTARIANISM EDUCATION PROJECT

As reported last year, the Standing Committee in September 2001 established the Sectarianism Education Project Committee which was instructed to present detailed proposals for a Sectarianism Education Programme to the Standing Committee in January 2003. As the Committee was not in a position to fulfil its obligation by that time, the Committee was appointed to continue its work until the end of January 2004.

As a preliminary stage in this process, the Committee outlined plans for a Scoping Study to the Standing Committee in January and March 2002. The study, undertaken by Dr G Higgins during 2002 and financed by grants from the International Fund for Ireland and the Priorities Fund, ascertained the attitudes, needs and experiences of clergy and lay people on the issue of sectarianism and living with difference.

A Special Meeting of the Standing Committee on 20 February 2003, including members of the Sectarianism Education Project Committee and its working group, met to consider the Scoping Study and the way forward for the process.

A report from the Sectarianism Education Project Committee is included as Appendix S on page 266.

35. SHOT AT DAWN CAMPAIGN

Following a request from the Irish Seamens' Relatives Association, the Standing Committee in November 2002 supported the Shot at Dawn Campaign seeking pardons for military personnel in the British Army who were unjustly executed during World War I.

36. STATUTORY EMPLOYMENT RIGHTS

The Department for Employment and Learning (Northern Ireland) gave the Church of Ireland the opportunity to respond to the Discussion Document on Employment Status in relation to Statutory Employment Rights. As the employment status of Church of Ireland clergy is unusual, legislation conferring statutory employment

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rights to those who are not employees could have significant implications for our clergy in relation to working conditions.

The Standing Committee and the Representative Body agreed to establish a working group to prepare a response to the Discussion Document to include two members from each body, together with a member of the House of Bishops, a member of the Commission on Ministry and the Chief Officer of the RCB. Lady Sheil and the Rev SM Neill represented the Standing Committee.

A response to the Discussion Document was considered by the Standing Committee in November 2002. The working group was asked to revise the response in the light of the reservations expressed by the Standing Committee.

37. SYNODICAL REFORM

The following resolution was passed by the General Synod in 2001:

In view of the request of the General Synod in 2000 to consider Synodical Structures and of the failure of Bill No 5, the Standing Committee be requested to give urgent consideration to the means by which enquiries into the structures and workings of the General Synod may be continued, with a view to further proposals being laid before the Synod during the triennium beginning in 2003.

Notwithstanding the failure of the Bill to amend Chapter I of the Constitution at the General Synod in 2002, the Standing Committee felt that there was a desire for Synodical reform and that it was necessary to act on the Synod resolution of 2001.

The Standing Committee appointed a working group to consult widely, as appropriate, and report to the Standing Committee in March 2003 on the reform of the General Synod. Members of the Standing Committee were given an opportunity to submit comments and advice on which issues should be addressed by the working group. A report from the working group is included as Appendix T on page 269.

38. OBITUARY

The Standing Committee regrets to report to the General Synod, that the following member has died since the last session:

Mr JD Getgood

Diocese of Connor