

APPENDIX S

SECTARIANISM EDUCATION PROJECT COMMITTEE REPORT 2003

MEMBERSHIP

Rt Rev AET Harper (Chairman)	Ms A Kee
Mr D Brown	Rev CB Leeke
Mrs JM Bruton	Rev Canon WA Lewis
Ven DR Chillingworth	Rev Canon JE McCullagh
Rt Rev KH Clarke	Very Rev RSJH McKelvey
Rev OMR Donohoe	Dr M Milne
Mr JN Fryday	Rev B Parker
Very Rev DSG Godfrey	Lady Sheil
Rev Canon RD Harman	Rev WEC Storey
Rev PG Heak	Ms CS Turner
Rt Rev RCA Henderson	Mr E Twaddell
Mr J Hinds	Rev Canon TR Williams

The original remit of the Committee agreed by the Standing Committee in its Resolution of 18th September, 2001, required the Project Committee to present an initial report on plans for a Sectarianism Education Programme taking into account educational material already available from a variety of sources. The Project Committee was also instructed to present detailed proposals for a Sectarianism Education Programme for approval in January, 2003.

When the committee began its work, it swiftly became apparent that before a programme could be considered it would be necessary to gather information and build up a picture of the spectrum of attitudes experiences and needs concerning sectarianism and living with difference that are to be found throughout the Church of Ireland in order to tailor appropriate responses. A Scoping Study was therefore proposed and agreement for the Study was granted by the Standing Committee on 12th March 2002. The design and conduct of the Scoping Study was placed in the hands of Dr Gareth Higgins in consultation with Partners in Transformation and the Project Committee. **The Committee presents and commends the Scoping Study which is circulated separately to members of the Synod.** The Study provides the essential ground-work for designing and putting in place a coherent programme. It also provides an essential resource for any prospective Programme and we offer below a suggested timetable for reception and reflection.

It is the view of the Project Committee that there should be a formal Reception of the Scoping Study itself, followed by a period of Reflection in the wider church. The result of the Reception Process and the period of reflection will better enable the design and delivery of a programme available and adaptable at diocesan and parochial levels. The Reflection Process is a necessary precursor to the specification of such a programme and therefore such specification must await the conclusion of the Reflection Process.

Standing Committee – Report 2003

We therefore propose that the Scoping Study be considered by the Standing Committee and subsequently referred for preliminary debate at General Synod 2003. It is the hope of the Project Committee that the General Synod will receive and welcome the Scoping Study. We also recommend that General Synod direct the consideration of the Scoping Study by Diocesan Synods in whatever fashion each Diocesan Synod may determine.

The process of Reflection will begin with consideration of the Scoping Study at General Synod, be continued at Diocesan Synods and further facilitated in the church at large through the ongoing work of the Project Committee.

It is proposed that the Committee should present further conclusions based upon the Reflection Process for consideration by the Standing Committee in January, 2004.

Furthermore, the Project Committee requests that its future working should be based upon the consolidation of the two groups identified by the Standing Committee in the original resolution into a single Committee. At the end of the Reflection Process, it will be necessary to return to Standing Committee with proposals for Committee reformation as the work moves into its next phase.

The Project Committee recommends that funds be made available to provide for the Scoping Study to be published in a high quality format, as befits both the quality of the Scoping Study itself and the importance for the Church of Ireland of the issues identified therein.

One of the important findings of the Scoping Study is the widespread lack of awareness among members of the Church of Ireland of the diversity and quality of the educational materials currently in print. We have become aware that, in fact, the educational resource base is extremely extensive and, in order qualitatively to assess its relevance for the Church of Ireland, we request permission to engage with Partners in Transformation in ongoing consideration of appropriate materials. In this respect, we are also fortunate in being able to call upon the experience and expertise of one of our members, Rev Charles Leeke, whose familiarity with the material is very considerable.

January 2003

Standing Committee – Report 2003

SECTARIANISM EDUCATION PROJECT COMMITTEE

RECEIPTS AND DISBURSEMENTS ACCOUNT

1 November 2001 to 12 February 2003

	£
RECEIPTS	
International Fund for Ireland	32,840
Community Relations Council	5,000
Church of Ireland Priorities Fund	20,000
Interest to 31 December 2002	653

	58,493

DISBURSEMENTS	
Dr G Higgins – Scoping Study	54,651
Secretarial assistance	402
Purchase of Books	44
Office Supplies	38

	55,135

Excess of receipts over disbursements	3,358
Balance 1 November 2001 brought forward from the Sectarianism Sub-Committee	12,168

Balance 12 February 2003	15,526
	=====

Please note that the account covers the period of the project, not the accounting year.

Euro transactions are translated at the rate ruling at 31 December 2002, € = £0.6505.