

**PENSIONS BOARD REPORT 2004  
SECONDED BY MR DAVID HANNON**

**EMBARGOED UNTIL DELIVERY**

You Grace,

In rising to second the acceptance of the report of the Pensions Board, I hope to make some general and some particular comments.

The Church of Ireland has certain remarkable gifts – including its ability to elect or appoint a multitude of lay people to its multifarious Boards, Committees, Councils, Commissions and other bodies.

These people vary in their qualifications. Sometimes they appear to be what some might choose to call polymaths – you know, a rather fancy name for people who seem to know about many things (usually very little) but are unafraid to express their views on any subject with an unabashed certainty which their superficial knowledge does little to justify! However that's more than enough about me!

No, by far the more common situation in all these various committees is that the right person has been found and has then been prepared to give unselfishly of his or her time and expertise to the service of the Church.

Although there is no mention of it in the report under consideration, such a person is Hilary Morrison who has given years of support to the Pensions Board and also to the RCB and to its Executive Committee.

Sadly, Hilary has decided that the time has come for him to resign from all these positions. I feel very strongly, Your Grace, that Hilary's departure should not be allowed to pass un-noticed and I would ask the Synod to show its appreciation of his contributions (by applause or by a written notification from the Secretaries)

Your Grace, I have pleasure in seconding the adoption of the report of the Pensions Board.