



**THE CONSTITUTION OF THE CHURCH OF IRELAND
AND PRE-2025 STATUTES OF GENERAL SYNOD
PERTAINING TO**

THE CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF THE HOLY TRINITY

COMMONLY CALLED

CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL, DUBLIN

*Consolidated by
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**EXTRACTS FROM THE CONSOLIDATED CONSTITUTION OF THE
CHURCH OF IRELAND
RELEVANT TO THE CONSTITUTION OF
THE CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF THE HOLY TRINITY
COMMONLY CALLED CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL, DUBLIN**

CONSTITUTION OF THE CHURCH OF IRELAND

CHAPTER 3

PARISHES AND PAROCHIAL ORGANISATIONS

PART III

GENERAL PROVISIONS

- 37** None of the provisions of this Chapter shall apply to or affect... the Cathedral of the Holy Trinity, commonly called Christ Church, Dublin... insofar as they conflict with the prerogatives, rights, privileges, or constitution of any or either of them.

CHAPTER VI

ARCHBISHOPS AND BISHOPS

PART II

- 23** If and so often as a vacancy shall occur in the archbishopric of Dublin, the guardianship of the spiritualities of the united dioceses of Dublin and Glendalough shall, so far as no other provision has been made therefor by the Constitution, devolve upon the dean and chapter of the cathedral of the Holy Trinity (commonly called Christ Church), Dublin, who shall forthwith proceed to elect an official administrator to carry out and executive the duties of the office.

CHAPTER 7

PART I

CATHEDRALS

...

Appointment to, and tenure of, deanery

- 2 When a vacancy shall occur in any deanery (...other than the deaneries of ... the Cathedral of the Holy Trinity (commonly called Christ Church), Dublin... in respect of which... the rights of appointment are expressly provided for in the several statutes referred to in the schedule to this Chapter) the right of appointment shall vest in the bishop of the diocese who shall make choice from among the beneficed or licensed clergy of the diocese. The appointment may be retained until the person so appointed has ceased to be beneficed or licensed in the diocese or shall have been granted a pension under the provisions of Chapter XIV.
- 3 The deanery of Christ Church Cathedral, Dublin, and the deanery of St Patrick's Cathedral, Dublin, shall not be held by the same person.

...

Exceptions

- 18 None of the foregoing provisions in this Chapter contained shall apply to or affect ... the Cathedral of the Holy Trinity

(commonly called Christ Church) Dublin... or the prerogatives, rights, privileges, or constitution of any of them...

General Provisions

- 19** It shall be lawful for the diocesan synod to make regulations for any case not herein provided for, and to make further regulations for any cathedral in the diocese or united diocese: Provided that the same be not inconsistent with the provisions of this Chapter.

FIRST SCHEDULE

Statutes affecting the Cathedrals of Armagh; Christ Church, Dublin; Down; and St Anne, Belfast

(2) **Christ Church Cathedral, Dublin**

2025, Cap IV

This statute repealed the previous provisions for the regulation of Christ Church Cathedral, Dublin and replaces it with a "*Constitution of Christ Church Cathedral, Dublin*" for the regulation of same. Under the Constitution of Christ Church Cathedral, Dublin, the Archbishop of Dublin is the Ordinary and has the right of appointing the Dean, and also has the right of appointing to the Dignities and Canonries with the exception of (a) the Canon chosen in accordance with the Schedule to Chapter IX of 1971, and (b) the Precentor, Dean's Vicar, Chapter Clerk and the Honorary Clerical Vicars appointed by the Dean and Chapter. The Constitution of Christ Church Cathedral, Dublin retains the prior provisions for the Chapter of Christ Church Cathedral

including provisions for Ecumenical Canons and Honorary Law Canons. The Constitution also provides for the composition and powers of the Board of Christ Church Cathedral and for the Board of “*Christ Church Cathedral, Dublin Company Limited by Guarantee*”. It also outlines the relationship between the Chapter, the Board and the Company, and the relationship and division of responsibilities between the three. The Constitution of Christ Church Cathedral, Dublin may only be amended by a statute of the General Synod.

...¹

¹ Excluded as not relevant (Down Cathedral and St. Anne’s Cathedral, Belfast) and Declaration for Subscription of Ecumenical Canons of St Patrick’s Cathedral Dublin. The consolidated version of Chapter VII of the 2025 Constitution of the Church of Ireland erroneously includes in its Schedules the Declaration for Subscription of Ecumenical Canons of Christ Church Cathedral, Dublin, which is a Schedule to the Statute of 1902 and not to Chapter VII of the Constitution. Sections 5(2) and 7(1) of 2025, Chapter IV repeal the Schedule to the Statute of 1902. Further, Section 7(2) of 2025, Chapter IV clarifies that the Schedules to the Constitution of Christ Church Cathedral annexed to 2025, Chapter IV form no part of the Constitution of the Church of Ireland.

**CONSOLIDATED STATUTES OF THE GENERAL SYNOD
OF THE CHURCH OF IRELAND
RELEVANT TO THE CONSTITUTION OF
THE CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF THE HOLY TRINITY
COMMONLY CALLED CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL, DUBLIN**

CONSOLIDATED

STATUTES OF GENERAL SYNOD

1935

CHAPTER V

STATUTE TO ENABLE THE DEAN AND CHAPTER OF THE CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF ST. PATRICK, ARMAGH, AND THE DEAN AND CHAPTER OF THE CATHEDRAL OF THE HOLY TRINITY, COMMONLY CALLED CHRIST CHURCH, DUBLIN, FROM TIME TO TIME TO ALTER THE AMOUNT OF CERTAIN FEES PAYABLE TO THEM

16th MAY 1935

WHEREAS it is expedient to enable the Dean and Chapter of the Cathedral Church of St. Patrick, Armagh; and the Dean and Chapter of the Cathedral of the Holy Trinity, commonly called Christ Church, Dublin, from time to time to alter the amount of certain Fees payable to them:

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 1935, and by the authority of the same, as follows:-

“The fees payable in connexion with the consecration, enthronement, installation, admission, or induction of any Archbishop, Bishop, Dean, Dignitary, Canon, Prebendary, Minor Canon, Clerical Vicar, Vicar Choral, or Registrar, or with marriages or interments, or the erection or affixing of any window, monument, mural tablet, or brass in the Cathedral Church of St. Patrick, Armagh, or in the Cathedral of the Holy Trinity, commonly called Christ Church, Dublin, shall be in accordance with a Scale from time to time appointed by the Chapter of the said Cathedral in which the act shall be done, and approved by the Board thereof.”

1971

CHAPTER IX

TO PROVIDE FOR THE GROUPING OR UNION OF CERTAIN PARISHES IN THE CITY AND DIOCESE OF DUBLIN WITH THE CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF THE HOLY TRINITY (COMMONLY CALLED CHRIST CHURCH), DUBLIN.

WHEREAS under the provisions of the Statutes of the General Synod, Chapter II of 1948 as amended 1949, 1954 and 1963 the City and Town Parishes Commission was entrusted with the power of grouping and uniting city and town parishes in order that the most effective use might be made of the manpower and resources of the Church of Ireland.

AND WHEREAS it is expedient that the several parishes named in the scheme set out in the Schedule hereto should be prospectively grouped or united together with the Cathedral Church of the Holy Trinity (commonly called Christ Church) Dublin;

AND WHEREAS Section 3 of Statute VII of 1963 provides that no scheme to be made pursuant to the provisions of the said Statute shall affect the ancient prerogatives, rights and privileges of the said Cathedral Church save with the consent of the Dean, Chapter and Cathedral Board and with the approval of a resolution of the General Synod;

AND WHEREAS the provisions of the scheme set out in the Schedule attached hereto in no way affect the ancient prerogatives, rights and privileges of the said Cathedral Church;

AND WHEREAS it is necessary to amend Statute of the General Synod Chapter I of 1902 as amended by Statutes of the General

Synod of 1920, 1920 (Special Session) and 1935 which make provision for the regulation and management of the said Cathedral Church in order that the provisions of the said scheme shall be made effectual by a statute of the General Synod in manner hereafter appearing:

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 1971, and by the authority of the same as follows:-

- (1) Nothing contained in this Statute shall in any wise diminish or derogate from the position of the Cathedral Church of the Holy Trinity (commonly called Christ Church) Dublin as the Cathedral of the Dioceses of Dublin and Glendalough or the rights and privileges of the Dean, Dignitaries or other Clergymen, or the Officials, of the said Cathedral, existing at the passing of this Act.
- (2) Upon the passing of this Act the scheme set out in the Schedule hereto shall come into effect operating prospectively in accordance with the provisions of the Statute of the General Synod No. II of 1948, as amended by Statute of the General Synod of 1949, 1954 and 1963, and in the manner set out in the said schedule with nevertheless the amendment to the said Statute I of 1902.

SCHEDULE

Scheme

- (1) This Scheme relates to parishes situated within the diocese of Dublin, and references in it to “the Archbishop”, “the

Diocesan Council” and “the Diocesan Committee of Patronage” shall be construed accordingly.

(2) The parishes comprised in and affected by this scheme are those of –

- (a) St. Andrew
- (b) St. Werburgh
- (c) All Saints, Grangegorman
- (d) St. Michan, St. Paul and St. Mary

and this Scheme shall come into effect in the manner hereinafter described.

(3) The Archbishop shall arrange for the care of the parish of St. Andrew either

- (a) by placing the parish in the care of the Dean of Christ Church Cathedral, with his consent, or
- (b) by placing the parish in the care of an incumbent of one of the other parishes comprised in the scheme or
- (c) by making such other temporary provision for the spiritual duties in the parish as in the circumstances he may think fit.

The Select Vestry of the parish shall continue its existence and functions.

(4) When first a vacancy shall occur in one of the other parishes comprised in the scheme, the Archbishop, in consultation with the Dean of Christ Church and with such others as he may in his discretion wish to consult, shall decide as to

how the spiritual duties in this vacant cure, together with that of St. Andrew's, may best be discharged due regard being had to the amount of pastoral and institutional work involved. This arrangement shall be of a temporary nature pending the formation of the union or a grouping of parishes provided for in the next paragraph of this scheme. In the meantime the Select Vestry of the parish becoming vacant shall continue its existence and functions. The Diocesan Council shall determine the stipend to be paid to the clergyman or clergymen doing the duty of the said parish.

(5) When, in addition to the Parish of St. Andrew, two of the other said parishes shall have become vacant, there shall be summoned by the Archbishop a Special Board of Patronage over which the Archbishop shall preside. The Special Board of Patronage for the prospective union of the four parishes shall consist of the Archbishop whose powers shall be as defined in Section 8 of Chapter 4 of the Constitution, the Dean of Christ Church Cathedral whose consent and approval shall be necessary for the ratification of any nomination made by the special Board of Patronage, one lay and two clerical members of the Diocesan Committee of Patronage, summoned in the order of their election, one layman elected by the registered vestrymen of the Cathedral, and four parochial representatives to be elected by the general vestries of the four parishes, each vestry electing one representative at the next Easter Vestry after the passing of this Act. Provided that if the Dean of Christ Church shall be a member of the Diocesan Committee of Patronage, the clergyman whose name stands next highest on the list shall also be summoned.

(6) This Board, with the approval of the said Dean, shall select a Clergyman in priests orders and, upon his election the three vacant parishes shall forthwith be united with one Select Vestry, the Diocesan Council making arrangements for each of the three said parishes to have due representation on it. The union of parishes so formed shall be grouped with the Cathedral

Church of the Holy Trinity (commonly called Christ Church) Dublin, the Dean becoming the incumbent of the Group for all constitutional purposes. The clergyman so elected by the said Board shall have responsibility for the three said parishes as Vicar of the same. He shall become a Canon designate of the said Cathedral succeeding to the next of the eight Dublin canonries falling vacant after his election. He shall take an oath of obedience to the Dean but his primary duty (apart from taking his turn of residence as a Canon) shall be the pastoral day-to-day work of the said united parishes. He shall receive an Incumbent's stipend and allowances and be entitled to a free residence and the provisions of Chapter 4, Section 9 of the Constitution shall apply to him. If he resigns he shall, by such resignation, be deemed to have resigned his canonry to which his successor shall succeed on appointment.

(7) When the fourth of the said parishes shall become vacant it shall forthwith be united with the other three parishes. The Archbishop then, in consultation with the Dean of Christ Church and with such others as he may in his discretion wish to consult, shall decide in the light of the then-existing circumstances as to what additional staff (if any) will be required for the efficient discharge of the spiritual duties of the said united parishes. The Diocesan Council shall make arrangements for fair representation of the fourth parish so falling vacant on the united Select Vestry of the four parishes. The allocation of the stipends to be paid to the clergymen discharging the spiritual duties of the four united parishes shall be decided by the Archbishop and the said Dean in consultation with the Diocesan Council.

(8) In case of the resignation, retirement or death of the first, or any subsequent Canon and Vicar, whose primary duty is the pastoral day-to-day work of the united parishes, his successor shall be appointed by a Special Board of Patronage similar to that to be summoned under Section 4 of this Scheme save that the four parochial representatives shall have been elected by the general vestrymen of the union of parishes so

formed. Where, however, only three parishes² shall have been united at the time of the vacancy, the general vestry of the three united parishes shall elect three representatives, and the general vestry of the parish not yet included in the union shall elect the fourth.

(9) ...³

² *Sic.*

³ Repealed by Section 5(5) of 2025, Chapter 4.