

# **Diocese of Connor Code of Conduct**

This code sets out the relevant standards and commitments expected of trustees and committee members, of The Diocese of Connor, Church of Ireland.

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## **Preamble**

Through our shared Faith in Jesus Christ; we seek to be faithful to God and committed to journeying together.

We are aware of our diversity and while recognising the presence of Christ in each other we seek to understand the fulness of God's revelation for our Diocese.

Witnessing to God's kingdom of justice, peace and reconciliation through word and action, so that our common discipleship is evident in the way we live and work together.

We are courageous in our vision and mission having the strength together to fulfil our commitment to the Diocese.

## **CODE OF CONDUCT**

### **GENERAL**

- I will act within the governing document of the Diocese of Connor and the law, abiding by the policies and procedures of the organisation. This includes having a knowledge of the contents of The Church of Ireland Constitution and the current Diocesan Regulations along with any relevant policies and procedures.
- I will support the objects and mission of the Diocese, championing it, using any skills or knowledge I have to further that mission and seeking expert advice where appropriate.
- I will be an active trustee, making my skills, experience and knowledge available to the Diocese and seeking to do what additional work I can outside trustee meetings, including sitting on sub-committees.
- I will respect organisational, council, committee and individual confidentiality, while never using confidentiality as an excuse not to disclose matters that should be transparent and open.
- I will develop and maintain a sound and up-to-date knowledge of the Diocese of Connor. This will include an understanding of how the Diocese operates and the social, political and economic environments in which it conducts its affairs, along with the nature and extent of its work.

- I will use the Diocesan resources responsibly, and when claiming expenses will do so in line with the Diocesan procedures.
- I will seek to be accountable for my actions as a trustee of the Diocese and will submit myself to whatever scrutiny is appropriate.
- I accept my responsibility to ensure that the Diocese is well run and will raise issues and questions in an appropriate and sensitive way to ensure that this is the case.

## **MANAGING INTERESTS**

- I will not gain materially or financially from my involvement with the Diocese unless specifically authorised to do so.
- I will act in the best interests of the Diocese as a whole, and not as a representative of any group – considering what is best for the Diocese and its present and future beneficiaries and avoiding bringing the Diocese into disrepute.
- Unless authorised, I will not put myself in a position where my personal interests conflict with my duty to act in the interests of the organisation. Where there is a conflict of interest I will ensure that this is managed effectively in line with the Diocesan conflict of interest policy. I understand that a failure to declare a conflict of interest may be considered to be a breach of this code.

## **MEETINGS**

- I will attend all appropriate meetings and other appointments of the Diocese of Connor or give apologies. If I cannot regularly attend meetings I will consider whether there are other ways I can engage with the Diocese.
- I will prepare fully for all meetings and work for the organisation. This will include reading papers, querying anything I do not understand, thinking through issues before meetings and completing any tasks assigned to me in the agreed time.
- I will actively engage in discussion, debate and voting in meetings; contributing in a considered and constructive way, listening carefully, challenging sensitively and avoiding conflict.
- I will participate in collective decision making, accept a majority decision of the Diocesan Council and will not act individually unless specifically authorised to do so.

## **GOVERNANCE**

- I will actively contribute towards improving the governance of the Diocese of Connor, participating in sharing ideas for improvement with the Diocesan Council.
- I will help to identify good candidates for trusteeship at the Diocese and, with my fellow trustees, will appoint new trustees in accordance with agreed selection criteria.

## **RELATIONS WITH OTHERS**

- I will endeavour to work considerately and respectfully with all those I encounter at the Diocese of Connor. I will respect diversity, different roles and boundaries, and avoid giving offence.
- I recognise that the roles of trustees, volunteers and staff of the Diocese are different, and I will seek to understand and respect the difference between these roles.
- Where I also volunteer with the organisation I will maintain the separation of my role as a trustee and as a volunteer.
- I will seek to support and encourage all those I encounter at the Diocesan Office. I recognise my responsibility to support the Chair and the senior office bearers.
- I will not make public comments about the organisation unless authorised to do so. Any public comments I make about the Diocese of Connor will be considered and in line with organisational policy, whether I make them as an individual or as a trustee.

## **LEAVING THE COUNCIL**

- I understand that substantial breach of any part of this code may result in procedures being put in motion that may result in me being asked to resign from the Diocesan Council.
- Should this happen I will be given the opportunity to be heard. If I am asked to resign from the Diocesan Council I will accept the majority decision of the Diocesan Council in this matter and resign at the earliest opportunity.
- If I wish to cease being a trustee of the Diocese of Connor at any time, I will inform the chair in advance in writing, stating my reasons for leaving.