

DIocese OF CONNOR

THE FINANCIAL SCHEME 2018

This scheme is set up with the intention of showing good governance of the Diocese of Connor. Its aim is to be missional in purpose, to empower ministry to be engaging with culture and effecting change.

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DEFINITIONS

For the purposes of this document the following words and phrases shall have the following meanings:

"RCB" – The Representative Church Body.

"CIT" – Church of Ireland Trustees.

"Parish" –includes a group or union of parishes.

GENERAL REGULATIONS

1. This financial scheme, which may be cited as "The Financial Scheme 2018", shall take effect as from 1st July 2019, whereupon all

previous financial schemes and supplemental schemes, including resolutions amending the same, are hereby rescinded.

2. The Diocesan Council shall submit annually to the Diocesan Synod a report and a statement of accounts audited by auditors who shall have been appointed by the Diocesan Council.
3. In cases not provided for by this scheme, or in which its application may appear to be doubtful, the Diocesan Council shall decide, but subject to the approval of the Diocesan Synod at its next meeting.
4. (a) Each parish shall be assessed annually for such amounts (known as "Fair Share") as may be decided by the Diocesan Synod, so that there are sufficient funds to pay:
 - 1) All charges on the Diocesan Clergy Fund.
 - 2) All charges on the Diocesan General Fund.
 - 3) All charges on the Diocesan Mission & Ministry Resources Fund.
 - 4) All levies, as approved by General Synod and collected through the RCB.
- (b) Payment of Fair Share will be by direct debit of twelve monthly instalments collected no earlier than the twenty fifth of the month and no later than the last banking day in any month.
- (c) Financial Return Forms, or any equivalent, must be returned to the Diocesan Office within 21 days of the Easter Vestry having been held. Failure to do so will result in estimates being used for calculation of Fair Share and a parish's Fair Share may incur a surcharge of 0.5% above Fair Share set at the next Diocesan Synod.
5. (a) On the last banking day in each month the select vestry of each parish shall pay by Electronic Transfer or by cheque to its incumbent, vicar, curate(s) assistant or any such clerical office approved by the Bishop, such stipend and expenses allowances as may from time to time be determined by the Diocesan Council; provided that in default of such monthly payments and on the request of the incumbent that their stipend and expenses allowance be paid monthly through the RCB, the Diocesan Council shall take all steps necessary to comply with such requests and the Diocesan Council shall assess the parish for such sum which is required to pay the said stipend and allowance.

CHAPTER I

MISSION AND MINISTRY RESOURCES FUND

- (b) All sums assessed on a parish under this section shall be payable at such times as determined by the Diocesan Council and an administration charge may be made on such payments at the rate of 5% per annum. Interest at the rate of 3% plus Bank of England base rate per annum may be charged on any arrears incurred.
 - (c) All assessments under this Section shall be paid to the bank accounts furnished by the Diocesan Office by direct debit.
6. A triennial review of parochial finances shall be undertaken by the Diocesan Council in the year after triennial elections, to take account of any changes in relative parochial income and to allow for movement of parishes from grade to grade as appropriate during a vacancy.
7. Any parish which fails to pay its Fair Share in full on the due date for six out of any twelve-month period may:
- 1) be the subject of an application under section 20 of Chapter II of the Constitution of the Church of Ireland, brought in the name of the Diocesan Council, to have synod members from the parish excluded from meetings of the Diocesan Synod whilst the parish's Fair Share payments remain outstanding.”
 - 2) not have a board of nomination called when it becomes vacant,
 - 3) be suspended from applying for any Diocesan Funding under this Financial Scheme or any other funding schemes managed by the Diocesan Council or requiring Diocesan Council approval.
 - 4) be reclassified as a light duties' parish.
- pending re-organisation by the Diocesan Synod. In the case of a parish which is vacant, it will be reclassified by the Diocesan Council as appropriate with immediate effect, pending a decision regarding its future by the Diocesan Synod. In some instances, the Diocesan Council may request the Diocesan Synod to postpone such reorganisation and to undertake the reorganisation in the context of a wider review within the Diocese.
8. No grants shall be made by the Diocese to any parish which has failed to pay its annual Fair Share to the Diocese without sufficient reason.

1. The capital shall consist of:
- (a) (i) Capital moneys held by the RCB for the Belfast Additional Clergy Fund.
 - (ii) Capital moneys held by the RCB and CIT for the Diocesan Parish Support Fund.
 - (iii) Capital moneys held by the RCB and CIT for the Diocesan Endowment Fund.
 - (iv) Capital moneys held by the RCB or CIT of any bequests, contributions, donations and grants which were previously designated for the Diocesan Church Extension Fund.
 - (v) Capital moneys held by the RCB and CIT of any bequests, contributions, donations, collections, grants or transfers which were designated for the Diocesan Ordination Fund.
 - (vi) Capital moneys held by the RCB and CIT of any bequests, contributions, donations, collections, grants or transfers which were designated for the Vision Strategy Fund.
- (b) Any bequests, contributions or donations which may be designated for the capital of the fund, or the individual funds named in sub-clauses 1(a)(i)-(vi) above, or which, not being impressed with specific trusts, may be allocated thereto by the Diocesan Council.
- (c) Any surplus on the revenue account which the Diocesan Council may from time to time add to capital.
2. The revenue shall consist of:
- (a) The revenue of the funds held at 30th June 2019 for the Diocesan Endowment Fund, the Belfast Additional Clergy Fund, the Diocesan Parish Support Fund and the Glebes Repair Fund in the Financial Scheme 1990, together with the Diocesan Church Extension Fund, the Diocesan Ordination Fund, the Vision Strategy Fund, the Diocesan Ministry Fund and Bishop's Ministry Fund.
 - (b) Interest/dividends on the capital.

- (c) Interest from Special Trusts.
 - (d) The interest from the Dunseath Bequest.
 - (e) Any grant from the General Synod or the RCB for the purposes of this fund.
 - (f) Such sums as may from time to time be allocated to this fund by the Diocesan Council from other funds at its disposal.
3. Payments may be made by the Diocesan Council for the following purposes:
- (a) The payment of such grants to promote the mission of the Church of Ireland within the Diocese as the Diocesan Council may decide.
 - (b) Payments made with the approval of the Diocesan Council for the purpose of promoting Christian mission.
 - (c) Any cost associated with:
 - (i) The training and expenses of ordinands.
 - (ii) Bringing before the people of the Diocese the vocation and the recruitment of the clergy.
 - (iii) Post-Ordination training.
 - (iv) The training of Lay Readers.
 - (v) Making available to the Bishop funds to be used by the Bishop for in-service training of clergy and Readers
 - (d) Payments from the fund may be made to assist with the financing of the promotion of Church extension.
 - (e) The revenue shall be available for the payment to parishes of such grants as the Diocesan Council may decide, that meet the purposes of the fund.
4. The Diocesan Council may use the capital of the fund as collateral security for any loan obtained from the RCB, to the extent that the trusts permit it, for:
- (a) Erecting, altering, or reconstructing churches or parochial buildings, or the acquisition of sites thereof, or
 - (b) Any other Diocesan purpose approved by the Diocesan Synod.

CHAPTER II

DIOCESAN CLERGY FUND

1. The capital shall consist of:
 - (a) (i) Capital moneys held by the RCB and CIT for the Diocesan Stipend Fund.
 - (ii) Capital moneys held by the RCB and CIT for the Diocesan Superannuation Fund.
 - (iii) The capital of the Rev J H Smythe Bequest and Rev Canon J A Stewart Bequest held by the RCB.
 - (iv) Capital moneys held by the RCB and CIT for the Clerical Income Augmentation Fund.
 - (b) Any bequests, contributions or donations which may be designated for the capital of the fund, or which, not being impressed with specific trusts, may be allocated thereto by the Diocesan Council.
 - (c) Any surplus on the revenue account which the Diocesan Council may from time to time add to capital.
2. The income shall consist of:
 - (a) The revenue of the funds held at 30th June 2019 of the Diocesan Stipend Fund and the Diocesan Superannuation Fund of the Financial Scheme 1990.
 - (b) Interest/Dividends on the capital.
 - (c) Such transfers from other Diocesan funds as are authorised by the Diocesan Council.
 - (d) Contributions collected from parishes for the Church of Ireland Clergy Pensions Fund in accordance with the provisions under Chapter XIV of the Constitution.
 - (e) The income received from Rev J H Smythe Bequest and the Rev Canon J A Stewart Bequest.

3. The income of the fund shall be liable for charges in the order following:
- (a) Payment of contributions to the Church of Ireland Clergy Pensions Fund in accordance with Chapter XIV of the Constitution.
 - (b) Towards stipends and other expenses of Diocesan Curates.
 - (c) Annual grants as agreed by the Diocesan Council to the Dean of Belfast the Dean of Connor and to any or all of the Archdeacons of Connor, Belfast and Dalriada and the Canon representing the Diocese in St. Patrick's Cathedral, Dublin.
 - (d) Long Service Annuities awarded under Chapter I(f) of the Diocesan Financial Scheme 1967 will continue to be paid during the lifetime of the recipients.
 - (e) Payment of duly authorised levies which may be required towards financing of the Episcopacy under the provisions of Chapter VI of the Constitution.
 - (f) Any balance on the income of the Fund, after the foregoing charges have been met may be applied by the Diocesan Council:
 - (i) In augmentation of stipends.
 - (ii) Pastoral aid cases of illness or incapacity, on the recommendation of the Bishop.
 - (iii) Grants in special circumstances to clergy/retired clergy or their spouses.
 - (iv) Paying approved fees and expenses of clergy performing sick duty.
 - (v) Refund of out-of-pocket expenses incurred by lay readers performing duty in cases of illness.
 - (g) In increasing the capital of the fund.
 - (h) For any other Diocesan purpose, full particulars of which shall be specially reported to the next Diocesan Synod.
4. The Diocesan Council may request the RCB to make motor loans to serving clergy of the Diocese, and the limit of such loans shall be in accordance with those set down by the RCB and revised by it from time to time as to the amount

and term of loans. As the Diocesan Council guarantees the repayment of such loans, loans shall be subject to the following conditions: -

- (a) that the monthly repayment shall be made by direct debit to the Diocese.
 - (b) that in the event of a member of the clergy in receipt of a motor loan leaving the Diocese or retiring, the motor loan shall be repaid in full within thirty days of the happening of such event.
 - (c) that all regulations contained in the agreement signed with the RCB on obtaining the loan be adhered to.
5. If any parish shall fail to provide the whole or any part of the stipend and expenses allowance due to its incumbent, the incumbent shall be paid from the Diocesan Clergy Fund the stipend and expenses allowance to which the incumbent is entitled.

The parish shall be assessed for such sum, or for such lesser amount as may be determined by the Diocesan Council.

Any arrears of such assessment shall be brought forward each year with interest as provided in subsection 5(b) of the General Regulations of this Financial Scheme.

When such incumbency becomes vacant, the Diocesan Council shall not make the report required by section 13 of Chapter IV of the Constitution until the arrears of assessment have been paid and it is satisfied that adequate provision has been made for the payment of stipend and expenses allowances and the provision of a free residence in the future.

CHAPTER III

DIOCESAN EPISCOPAL FUND

1. The capital shall consist of:
- (a) capital moneys held by the RCB for the Diocesan Episcopal Fund.

- (b) capital moneys held by CIT in relation to the Episcopal See Maintenance Fund
- 2. The interest/dividends on the capital shall be used to defray the cost of the episcopate in the Diocese.

CHAPTER IV

DIOCESAN GENERAL FUND

1. The capital shall consist of:
 - (a) (i) Capital moneys held by the RCB and CIT for the Diocesan Expenses Fund.
 - (ii) Capital moneys held by the RCB and CIT for the Diocesan General Fund.
 - (b) Any bequests, contributions or donations which may be designated for the capital of the fund or the individual funds named in sub-clauses 1(a)(i) – (ii) above, or which, not being impressed with specific trusts, may be allocated thereto by the Diocesan Council.
 - (c) Any surplus on the revenue account which the Diocesan Council may from time to time add to capital.
2. The revenue shall consist of:
 - (a) The revenue held at 30th June 2019 of the Diocesan Expenses Fund and the Diocesan General Fund.
 - (b) Interest/Dividends on the capital.
 - (c) The Fair Share as determined by the Diocesan Council for each parish in the Diocese.
 - (d) Payment from organisations for the use of the Diocesan facilities and for the services of the Diocesan Staff.

- (e) Donations made to the Diocese on behalf of any project currently being pursued.

3. The revenue of the Fund shall be liable for the following charges:
 - (a) The proportion for which the Diocese may be liable of Church of Ireland House (or any other property jointly owned with the Diocese of Down & Dromore) expenses incurred jointly with the Diocese of Down and Dromore and payable to the Joint Committee (or its representative).
 - (b) Such other Diocesan expenses as may be required to ensure the good governance and administration of the Diocese.
 - (c) The payment to the General Synod Priorities Fund of such contributions as the Diocesan Council may from time to time determine.

CHAPTER V

DIOCESAN LIBRARY FUND

1. The capital shall consist of:
 - (a) The bequests of the late Rev H.R Taylor and the late Miss M.J McManus, which are held respectively by the RCB and CIT, so far as the said bequests or any part thereof may be allocated to the Diocese by order of any Court, Commissioners, Ministry, or other body or person having jurisdiction to make such an order.
 - (b) Any bequests, contributions or donations which may be designated for the capital of the Fund, or which, not being impressed with specific trusts, may be allocated thereto by the Diocesan Council.
2. Subject to the terms of any special trusts, the income shall be at the disposal of the Diocesan Council for the general purpose of the Library.
3. A statement of the accounts shall be furnished to the RCB each year.