

**84th Annual Report  
of the  
Irish Council of Churches  
for the year ending 2006**



**SUBMITTED TO THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE COUNCIL**

**MARCH 2007**

## CONSTITUENT COMMUNIONS

at 31 January 2007

| Church  | Date of Joining ICC | Website   |
|---|---------------------|---|
| Antiochian Orthodox Church .....                    | 2005                | <a href="http://www.belfast.antiochian.org.uk">www.belfast.antiochian.org.uk</a>      |
| Church of Ireland .....                             | 1923                | <a href="http://www.ireland.anglican.org">www.ireland.anglican.org</a>                |
| Coptic Orthodox Church.....                         | 1999                | No website at present   |
| Greek Orthodox Church in<br>Britain & Ireland ..... | 1997                | No website at present   |
| LifeLink Network of Churches .....                  | 1998                | <a href="http://www.cfc-net.org/lifelink.htm">http://www.cfc-net.org/lifelink.htm</a> |
| Lutheran Church in Ireland .....                    | 1972                | <a href="http://www.lutheranireland.org">www.lutheranireland.org</a>                  |
| Methodist Church in Ireland .....                   | 1923                | <a href="http://www.irishmethodist.org">www.irishmethodist.org</a>                    |
| Moravian Church, Irish District.....                | 1923                | <a href="http://www.moravian.org.uk">www.moravian.org.uk</a>                          |
| Presbyterian Church in Ireland .....                | 1923                | <a href="http://www.presbyterianireland.org">www.presbyterianireland.org</a>          |
| Non-Subscribing Presbyterian Church                 | 1923                | <a href="http://www.nspresbyterian.org">www.nspresbyterian.org</a>                    |
| Religious Society of Friends .....                  | 1923                | <a href="http://www.quakers-in-ireland.org">www.quakers-in-ireland.org</a>            |
| Rock of Ages Cherubim & Seraphim ..                 | 2001                | <a href="http://www.rockofageschurchcs.org">www.rockofageschurchcs.org</a>            |
| Romanian Orthodox Church .....                      | 2004                | No website at present   |
| Russian Orthodox Church in Ireland ...              | 2003                | <a href="http://www.stpeterstpaul.net">www.stpeterstpaul.net</a>                      |
| Salvation Army (Ireland Division) .....             | 1965                | <a href="http://www.salvationarmy.org">www.salvationarmy.org</a>                      |

### OFFICERS OF THE COUNCIL AT 31 JANUARY 2006

|                          |  |
|--------------------------|--|
| President                | Ms Gillian Kingston ( <i>Methodist Church</i> )  |
| Vice President           | Rev Tony Davidson ( <i>Presbyterian Church</i> ) |
| Honorary Treasurer       | Mr Hilton Henry, JP, FCA                         |
| Immediate Past President | Vacant   |
| General Secretary        | Mr Michael Earle                                 |

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# ANNUAL REPORT OF THE IRISH COUNCIL OF CHURCHES

**Submitted to the Annual Meeting of the Council, March 2007**

## **THE HISTORICAL MANDATE**

The Irish Council of Churches is constituted by “Christian Communion in Ireland willing to join in united efforts to promote the spiritual, physical, moral and social welfare of the people and the extension of the rule of Christ among all nations and over every region of human life” (1971 constitution as amended in 1995).

This mandate was extracted word for word from the original constitution that established the United Council of Christian Churches and Religious Communities in Ireland in 1922 (John Barkley, 1983: **The Irish Council of Churches 1923-1983**). There were seven founding member churches at the Council’s first meeting in January 1923 (Church of Ireland, Presbyterian Church, Non-Subscribing Presbyterian Church, Methodist Church, Moravian Church, Congregational Union, and the Religious Society of Friends/Quakers).

## **SIGNIFICANCE**

This historical background is significant as it indicates that the Council’s ecumenical beginnings were shaped by the aftermath of World War 1 and the period when partition and the border had just been created on this island.

Few will appreciate that this Council was also one of the earliest pioneers of National Councils of Churches throughout the world and that six of its seven founding churches continue in its membership today. Membership of the Council has now more than doubled to fifteen churches.

The original Council started in the context of momentous changes in both jurisdictions in Ireland. It served at the cutting edge for those churches wanting to express their Christian witness in working together for the benefit of all peoples, both locally and overseas. Its mandate covered the whole island and continues to reflect the All-Ireland focus of most of its member churches.

The question facing us today is how relevant is this mandate to our member churches in 2007? Is our work still at the cutting edge?

## **PRESIDENT'S REPORT 2006**

It is with some trepidation that I write the President's Report for 2006. Circumstances beyond the control of any of us precipitated me into the role of President without the advantage of having served time as Vice-President. So, firstly, I want to express my deep gratitude to all those who have made the task less difficult than it might have been and who have unstintingly shared their wisdom. I am truly grateful and trust that you know who you are.

Then I want to pay tribute, on behalf of all the member churches of the Irish Council of Churches, to Michael Earle, Rob Fairmichael and Karen Kelly for their work on our behalf. It often seems incredible to me that so much is done for so many by so few!

The year has seen the passing of three stalwarts of the ecumenical movement in Ireland. Canon Bill Arlow served as ICC General Secretary from 1974-9; Canon Robin Richey served as ICC Secretary, Treasurer and on numerous Council committees over 34 years between 1965-99; and Rev Harold Sloan served as ICC Chairman between 1977-9. They were open and creative in their respective approaches to those of other church traditions at a time when it was less than easy to be so. Their commitment to God and to fellow Christians was both pioneering and inspiring. We thank God as we remember them and we continue to keep their families in our thoughts and prayers.

We have said 'farewell' to Pastor Fritz-Gert Mayer (Lutheran Church) as he and Marianne and their family return to Germany. Fritz-Gert was a faithful attendee at ICC meetings and, indeed, at all ecumenical gatherings. He could see us in a way in which we were unable sometimes to see ourselves - we will miss his perceptive comments. In his stead we have great pleasure in welcoming Pastors Dr Joachim and Corinna Diestelkamp and hope that they and their family will soon feel at home among us.

We welcome also on to the ICC Executive Robert Cochran of the Methodist Church in Ireland.

The year has seen much activity...

The Annual General Meeting in Lucan in March was one of the best attended for a long time. This was most encouraging and those who planned the programme are to be congratulated.

The Executive of the Conference of European Churches met in Derry at the end of May. This provided an opportunity to present some specifically Irish concerns to a wider audience and to see ourselves as part of that wider European scene.

A new initiative was two Pentecost receptions, one in Belfast and one in Dublin. We are most grateful to the Irish School of Ecumenics for providing the venues and for thus enabling us to meet and to thank those many people who contribute so much at so many levels towards the unity of the Body of Christ in this land.

The Middle East continues to occupy a central place in our thoughts and prayers – two public meetings organised by the Board of Overseas Affairs have had this focus, while a third reflected on issues related to peace building.

More recently, the Irish Inter-Church Meeting took place on the wonderful new-look Emmaus Retreat Centre outside Dublin. Worship, plenary input and workshops focussed on the Sibiu European Ecumenical Assembly theme, *The Light of Christ Shines upon All*. It was encouraging to note representatives of so many member churches present. Particularly, it was good to see so many younger people – this, I think, gave a real ‘buzz’ to the proceedings.

A major achievement in the Republic this year has been the new Parish-based Integration Programme. Much work has gone into the planning and implementation of this programme and now it is finally underway, with Adrian Cristea in position as from January. He is based in Dublin and we wish him every blessing in the work and we express thanks and appreciation to Robert Cochran who has spearheaded this initiative.

The Executive has spent considerable time this year in reflection and discussion of the core objectives and priorities for the Council over the next few years. There has been much heart-searching – priorities need to be established and this is often a painful process. But we have got there and now we are ready to move forward in a focussed and fruitful way.

I urge you to reflect on these core objectives and priorities – they constitute our mission on this island. Let me draw your particular attention to the final clause, which refers to:

*the common Christian witness of member churches in promoting the common good on this island, based on the Christian values of peace, justice, reconciliation, resource-sharing and the vision of an inclusive society for all.*

We live in an increasingly diverse society; our social interaction brings us into daily encounter with peoples of other faiths and of none; in a world which seems to have little time for faith, we are being called to give ‘a reason for the hope that is in us’ as rarely before. We need to face these challenges together. The task of the Irish Council of Churches is to enable us to do just that – let’s get on with it!

Every blessing,  
**Ms Gillian Kingston, ICC President (2006-08)**

## **GENERAL SECRETARY’S REPORT**

**‘You are no longer strangers and aliens ...but members of the household of God, built ... with Christ Jesus as the cornerstone.’**  
(Ephesians 2, verses 19-20)

This is the 84th annual report submitted to the member churches of the Irish Council of Churches, which was formally reconstituted forty years ago (1966).

### **(1) Introduction**

As I look back on 2006, there is so much for which to thank God. God’s grace has been generously guiding and encouraging God’s people to work more closely together in an increasingly secular context on this island. Member churches have been helped to discover more about the treasures to be found within their rich diversity. They have worked both on their own and together to serve the wider community in Jesus’ name.

‘The churches are present in every community ... (they) are still by far the largest institutions of civil society .... Northern Ireland has one of the highest levels of religious identification and observance in Western Europe, with 58% of the population attending a church service more than once a month and the 2001 census demonstrating that 86% identify themselves with a religious denomination.’(quoted and referenced by Maria Power ‘*From Ecumenism to Community Relations*’, 2007, page 1). While weekly Mass

attendance in the Republic has dwindled in recent years, it still involves about half the population (*Catholic World News*, 1st June 2006).

The Irish churches have worked together for many years on this island yet the two national ecumenical instruments (Irish Council of Churches and the Irish Inter-Church Meeting) created to pray, work and act together, remain separate. In spite of this historical fragmentation, spaces continue to be created for personal relationships to deepen, for stories to be shared, new gifts discovered, new possibilities explored and new risks taken together.

Irish ecumenism has undoubtedly been nudged further ahead in these past 12 months. Many have experienced moments when they have known 'what could be' and seen a foretaste of God's Kingdom on earth. Visible signs of God's Love, Hope and Unity can be found in many places around this island. These sustain all that the Irish ecumenical movement (of which ICC is only a part) attempts to do. They fuel the motivation, passion and commitment of those witnessing to this Gospel ministry.

*Purpose:* The purpose of all ecumenical work in this land is to bring glory and honour to Christ, who is our 'cornerstone'. In doing so, Christ's followers are called to acknowledge the brokenness in their relationships with God, with their neighbours and with God's creation. We are called to seek forgiveness, work for reconciliation in all areas of life, and be open to receiving God's gifts of unity, justice, truth and restoration of shalom/right relationships.

The search for visible Christian unity amongst our historically divided churches and newer community fellowships continues as attempts are made to address obstacles and cross boundaries that stand in the way of having full communion with each other. We are called to renew and transform our relationships and structures, to build a common fellowship, to break any codes of silence, to be open to difficult conversations, and to be a credible witness pointing to another way (the Gospel way) of being in community together. '*God in your grace, transform the world*' – the theme from the 9th WCC Assembly in Brazil in February 2006 describes this hopeful prayer.

Too often we fail to see this big picture and get stuck in the details and the daily pressures of maintaining our own traditions and ways of being church in the differing contexts of our local communities.

Churches have always had different understandings about the aims of ecumenism. Yet Christ gently and constantly calls the church communities to build this household of God together, to move from seeing ecumenism as



‘an extra’, to an ecumenism that is ‘a dimension of all that we do’ in serving Christ and sharing God’s resources with our neighbours.

The phrase that ‘we are stronger together than we can ever be alone’ is central. We pray to discover that strength that comes from unity (Psalm 133) and use it to further the will of God. For it is Christ that we are all serving as brothers and sisters within God’s family.

## **(2) Thanks**

*Office bearers and Committees:* I’d like to express my sincere thanks to Gillian Kingston for the gifts, wisdom and graceful humour that she has brought to the Presidency since she was invited to pick this office up a year earlier than she had expected. Her ecumenical experience and skilful style of facilitating has brought new life, energy and clarity to our meetings, while her liturgical gifts have also been widely appreciated in our worship together.

In thanking all those who have served this past year on the Executive, its Board of Overseas Affairs and the many groups that ICC is partnered with, I’d like to particularly thank Hilton Henry for taking on the role of Treasurer this year with oversight of 11 different bank accounts. I admire his infectious enthusiasm for accounts and his willingness to share his experience, financial expertise and wisdom with the Council.

*Staffing:* Given the turnover in ICC’s staffing and those holding office over the past few years, I’m pleased to report that the small staff team in Belfast is working very well, efficiently and always willing to put in those extra hours as needed. Karen Kelly (full-time Administrator since August 2005) and Rob Fairmichael (part-time Associate Secretary since 1993) are treasures that transform usual work routines. Given the wide range of jobs needing to be done, we all have to multi-task and are able to feed off each other’s ideas and giftings.

Dr. Scott Boldt (Project Worker, All-Ireland Churches Consultative Meeting on Racism/AICCMR) was another special asset to the team. He initiated many new ideas and regional networks through his inter-cultural work with parishes, stimulating them to become more sensitive to the needs of the ‘new Irish’ in their local parish community. On completion of the 12 month’s funding for this project, he was appointed as Reconciliation Officer at Edgehill Theological College (Belfast) and we are delighted that this has enabled him to continue on some parts of his anti-racism work with the churches.

### **(3) Changing contexts**

There has been little to add to the comments I wrote in last year's report. The economies in both jurisdictions continue to grow with increasing wealth attracting more new migrants, higher property prices and a diverse multi-cultural environment. Some 140 languages are now being spoken around the island, according to one source. Yet the abundant life is spread unevenly.

*The Six Counties/Northern Ireland:* Political progress inches towards power-sharing but deep divisions remain on fundamental issues including policing, education and housing. Any prospect of local devolution after the election in March 2007 will need enormous patience, trust and positive energy to secure outcomes that will lead to a shared future for all sections of the community and be less dependent on external funding.

It is a reality that 95% of the Housing Executive's public housing estates remain segregated in Northern Ireland as neighbours choose to live amongst their own tradition, thereby creating zones of geographic apartheid across the Province. It remains a deeply divided community in spite of many positive signs of a hopeful future. Whatever political outcomes take place during 2007, the churches will continue to have an important contribution to make in dealing with diversity, dealing with the past, building bridges in local communities, offering signs of hope, and working for the common good and a shared future.

*The South/Republic:* This has been described as the fourth most globalised country in the world after Singapore, Switzerland and USA (*Foreign Policy* magazine, October 2006), the most expensive country in the Euro-zone, and claims to have 30,000 Irish millionaires (*Sunday Independent* 26/11/06). There remain key questions about justice, equality, transparency and sustainability. With over 400,000 foreign nationals now living in the Republic, new churches are opening up, as well as new mosques and worship centres of other faiths. There are now an estimated 70 independent African Pentecostal churches in the Dublin area alone. Many ICC churches are also growing and responding to the changes in their local neighbourhoods. There is much to learn and share about best practice.

### **(4) Church membership**

The fifteen *member churches* relate to each other in many different ways at local, regional and national levels, though none as yet has given financial priority to appoint denominational staff specifically to advance the ecumenical mandate. Efforts continue to be made to increase participation

in the Council's work among some of the smaller churches. Denominational initiatives such as the Church of Ireland's Hard Gospel project and the Presbyterian Church's Peacemaking programme are treasures to share with other churches, while the work undertaken by inter-church partnerships continues to grow through groups identified later in this report.

*Non-member churches:* Various levels of contact have been made during the year with a number of contemporary churches, including the Vineyard Church, General Foundation Apostolic Church of Christ, Redeemed Christian Church of God, Trinity Church Network, and Victory Outreach Church. Many younger Christians are being attracted to community churches around the country that are offering more informal and congregational styles of worship. However at present, ICC staff do not have the capacity to build further bridges with these new churches.

## **(5) Governance**

*AGM 2006:* The Council was most grateful to St. Andrew's Parish in Lucan (Co. Dublin) for hosting the last AGM which was held on 23 March 2006 with 82 delegates and guests in attendance, the highest in many years.

Its theme was **'Stronger together – Weaker apart?'** It included a session with local clergy sharing their experiences of local ecumenical activities amongst their churches in west Dublin; a Bible study led by Rev Scott Peoples; afternoon speakers talking about Churches Together in Britain and Ireland and the plans for the third European Ecumenical Assembly in 2007. There was also a lively presentation from Chris Boucher, ICC's youth delegate at the World Council of Churches 9th Assembly in Port Alegre (Brazil). The day concluded with the formal AGM and a motion inviting member churches to 'nominate future delegations that were gender-balanced and included a younger profile under the age of 30'.

*AGM 2007:* This will be hosted on March 22 by the member churches in Armagh with keynote speakers from both jurisdictions addressing the theme **'Future directions for the churches in Ireland: Post-Nationalism, Post-Christendom, Post-Modernity'**. In the afternoon, the leaders of the four largest churches have been invited to answer questions posed by delegates.

*Executive:* The ICC Executive met 5 times during the year (mostly in Dundalk) and held two additional planning day retreats (Armagh and Swords). Much business has to be packed into these three-hour meetings. A roster of two churches each sharing for 15 minutes has started to help deepen the churches' understanding of each other's ministries, ecumenical

priorities and needs. The hope is that this small step will help in building our common life as a Body in Christ and open up new ground between members. However, there is a lack of widespread clarity about the ways in which Executive members communicate back to and are held accountable as ICC representatives to their church membership.

Amongst many issues discussed during the year, the Executive decided not to give priority to apply for associate membership of the World Council of Churches. However, the most important outcome of the year was discerning what God was calling them to do together on this island and start some strategic planning together. After a series of prayerful planning days, the Executive identified an ecumenical agenda with the following core ecumenical objectives for their work over the next three years until September 2009:

### **ICC's Core Objectives 2006-2009**

- (1) To be an ecumenical instrument facilitating its member churches to pray, witness and act together on this island by:
  - deepening the fellowship and common life in Christ among member churches at local, regional, national and international levels
  - encouraging bilateral and multilateral ecumenical actions among member churches
  - seeking to stimulate ways of more effective witness
  - relating to other Christian communities throughout Ireland
- (2) To be a resource for all member churches, and particularly for the smaller ones, to facilitate dialogue with:
  - non-member churches throughout the island of Ireland
  - Churches Together in Britain and Ireland (CTBI)
  - Conference of European Churches (CEC), World Council of Churches and other international ecumenical structures
  - civil society in general, including with other faiths

- (3) To identify and encourage local ecumenical, inter-church and other Christian networks
- (4) To provide safe spaces for dialogue and encounter on difficult and/or contentious issues within and between member churches
- (5) To address those matters that cannot be accommodated in the structures of the Irish Inter-Church Meeting (IICM):
  - ICC is a registered charity with its own AGM, is a legal employer, an associate member of CTBI & CEC, has oversight of a Board of Overseas Affairs, manages the Inter-Church Centre and appoints ICC representatives to various bodies.
  - IICM is an ecumenical forum which meets every 12-18 months, has a Committee that meets quarterly to oversee its responsibility for ICCSI (social issues including racism), the Department for Theological Questions, and whatever issues its members wish to raise.
- (6) To focus the common Christian witness of member churches in promoting the common good on this island, based on the Christian values of peace, justice, reconciliation, resource sharing and the vision of an inclusive society for all.

## **(6) Statistics**

During 2006, ICC staff serviced 40 ecumenical committee meetings around this island (administration and minutes); organised 15 ecumenical and public meetings (both regional and all-Ireland) attended by 475 people; provided an ecumenical presence/networking at 56 conferences/seminars/events (including 38 ecumenical and 4 overseas); attended 16 CTBI meetings around Britain; addressed 4 church/ecumenical groups; assisted in 5 research projects; compiled 3 editions of *Irish Ecumenical News*; issued 7 press releases.

## **(7) New initiatives taken**

*Pentecost receptions:* Ninety ecumenical friends and colleagues responded to invitations from the Irish churches to come to two receptions held during Pentecost in Belfast and Dublin at premises generously made available by the Irish School of Ecumenics. Ecumenical and worship space was provided for people to meet and mingle informally over lunch, share information and encourage each other at a less busy time of year.

*Orthodox churches:* Four of the five member Orthodox churches (Antiochian, Coptic, Romanian, Russian) accepted the offer to appoint one permanent Orthodox representative between them on the Irish Inter-Church Committee. For the first time, the historic Churches from the East and West are breathing through their two lungs in this Irish inter-church structure. Rev Fr Godfrey O'Donnell (Romanian Orthodox) has been an effective voice for the Orthodox as their numbers grow in the new Ireland. He coordinated a useful workshop at the recent Inter Church Meeting (ICM) that provided space to listen to the experiences of these Orthodox churches. He also brought the Dublin churches together to celebrate the Inaugural Week of Prayer for Christian Unity service for the first time in the Romanian Orthodox Church in Leeson Park.

*First ICC staff appointment in the Republic:* Funding has been obtained from the Department of Justice to start a new 3-year project managed by the Inter-Church Committee on Social Issues in the Republic. ICC has had to register as an employer in the Republic for the first time in its 40-year history. Adrian Cristea was appointed in January 2007 as a Dublin-based project officer. He will be a catalyst in stimulating parish-based projects that address the needs of their new Irish neighbours, share best practice and help to deepen integration within parish communities. Further details can be found on the new website [www.iccsi.ie](http://www.iccsi.ie) and under the ICCSI report (page 20).

*Research into Churches Peace Education:* The trustees of this programme (half of whom are nominated by ICC) commissioned a research report during the year and its findings were presented to a public meeting in Belfast. Evidence was produced of the need to develop a new programme in Northern Ireland, for which funding is being sought. Further details in a later section of this report.

## **(8) Communication**

*Irish Ecumenical News:* During the year, three editions (Pentecost, September, Advent) were collated, edited and distributed. The email database continues to expand and now includes over 1,000 people located all over the island and elsewhere. It serves as a useful communications tool between the 16 member churches of the Irish Inter-Church Meeting and with the 3,250 faith communities that they represent. However, the newsletter needs further professional development. Forty-one earlier editions backdated to 1982 have now been extracted from the archives and assembled together. No one has come forward with knowledge about the empty gaps during some years, so we assume the collection is now complete.

*Press releases:* Seven media releases were distributed during the year to member churches and the secular press. Few were picked up. The Church of Ireland Gazette has again proved to be the most effective church channel for ICC's ecumenical news. The strategy of using the combined professional expertise available from the Catholic and Church of Ireland Communications staff for the Irish Inter-Church Meeting added only minimal publicity. It is disappointing that other member churches do not give any editorial priority to regular ecumenical stories which their representatives on ICC could convey to their readers.

*ICC website:* This has been neglected for another year due to other priorities and urgently needs attention by those with time and expertise to convert it into the main communication medium of Irish Ecumenical News in 2007.

### **(9) Board of Overseas Affairs**

*Background:* The Board of Overseas Affairs has its origins in ICC's Standing Committee on World Mission, which first met in January 1974. Developments in China at that time were an important factor in bringing representatives of the member churches of ICC together. In its early years there was a consistent attempt to educate the Irish churches about developments there. The sharing of resources, joint action overseas, the hosting of overseas church leaders and the education of young people were constant items on the agenda of the committee.

*Purpose:* When the work of the ICC was reorganised in 2001, a Board of Overseas Affairs was established with a World Mission Committee continuing as one of its constituent parts.

The Board was given responsibility for:

- (a) bringing a Christian judgement to bear on international affairs
- (b) helping in the education process in Ireland regarding international affairs
- (c) co-ordinating concern and action for World Mission
- (d) stimulating and maintaining contact with churches outside Great Britain and Ireland
- (e) working with agencies involved in overseas development, especially Christian Aid

**Current work:** The Board meets three times each year. Currently it carries out its work under three headings:

**(a) Overseas Aid and Development.** Christian Aid reports on its work and the member churches share information about the work of their denomination in this area. This is usually an information sharing exercise, although occasionally there may be a decision to make a public statement or encourage some church-wide action.

**(b) World Mission and Evangelism Committee.** This Committee brings together Overseas Mission secretaries from the member denominations. It is largely an information sharing committee. It organises, in cooperation with the Irish Missionary Union, an annual study day. Recent topics have included *“New ways of sending, new ways of receiving in mission”*; *“Inter-faith dialogue and encounter – How do Christians dialogue and work with others?”*

**(c) International Affairs and Relations.** Bringing a Christian comment to bear on international affairs has been a focus of the Board. This has been largely carried out by having representatives attend various groups meeting under the auspices of the Churches Together in Britain & Ireland (CTBI). There has been a particular interest in the Near and Middle East, Sudan, and Sri Lanka but members are free to raise concern about any international issue. Reports are tabled at each meeting on the situation regarding refugees and asylum seekers in Ireland for information purposes only.

During 2006 the Board organised public meetings for Bishop Riah (Anglican Bishop in Jerusalem), Prof. Piet Meiring from Johannesburg (South Africa Truth and Reconciliation Commission) and Paul Riordan from Lisburn, who had taken part in the Ecumenical Accompaniment Programme in Palestine and Israel. Lesley Weaver who is facilitating Post-Tsunami work in Sri Lanka was invited to address the Board during the year.

Written support was given to a campaign on dis-investment by the Irish Government’s National Pension Reserve Fund from companies involved with the Government of Sudan.

The Board actively seeks to respond quickly to situations falling within its remit. It is opportunistic in terms of seeking to offer significant Church leaders visiting Ireland a platform to engage with Irish Christians.

**Membership of the Board:** The Board consists of 15 representatives of member churches, up to eight co-opted specialist staff from member



churches and up to four consultants who have no voting rights. The Moderator (Rev Dr Jim Campbell) and Deputy Moderator (Rev Colin McClure) are appointed for a period of three years, with the possibility of reappointment for a further three-year period.

### **(10) Women's Link**

The Committee met in Belfast during the year due to the change of personnel in Lutherhaus, Dublin. Over 65 attended our Fellowship Day at Edgehill College in March. Speakers Bishop Ken Clarke and his wife Helen took as their theme ***"Travelling Light"*** taking a fresh look at Psalm 23 – finding a balance in life and ministry. Michael Earle, (ICC General Secretary) spoke about the role of ICC, and two members of a team from Finaghy Methodist Church spoke of a working visit to Tanzania.

Our Chairperson Roberta Thompson and the Secretary Joyce Bond were invited to the PWA Annual Meeting, Presbyterian Assembly Hall, Belfast. Roberta was also invited to attend the Mothers' Union General Meeting at the National Concert Hall, Dublin.

It was the turn of Women's Link to host the 2006 Four Nations Women's Concerns Meeting held at Drumalis Retreat House, Larne. Issues discussed were trafficking, treatment of immigrants, projects and concerns in Ireland, Scotland, England and Wales. The importance of networking was stressed and the nurturing of the faith in women's organisations. It was emphasised that our role is to raise awareness, initiate research, and address social justice issues

Philip McKinley (Hard Gospel Project Officer ROI) presented a PowerPoint presentation on the changing social conditions in Ireland leading to fresh challenges in society and churches. Delegates visited a Family Centre in Larne and Corrymeela. Each nation led morning and evening worship.

The Pauline Webb Fund exists to make small grants available to younger women attending ecumenical events for the first time.

We would like to encourage ICC member churches and affiliated members to send a women's representative to Women's Link meetings even though they may not have a women's organisation.

### (11) Irish Inter Church Meeting (IICM)

The 21st meeting of this forum reunited the Irish (Catholic) Bishops' Conference and the 15 member churches of the Irish Council of Churches. The meeting was held from 10-11 November at the Emmaus Centre, Swords, Co. Dublin. The theme of this gathering was '***The Light of Christ shines on all***' (John 8:12) and focused attention on the churches' preparations for the Third European Ecumenical Assembly (EEA3) which will be held in Sibiu, Romania in September 2007. Further details on the website: [www.eea3.org](http://www.eea3.org)

This forum was planned by a small group from the member churches and included Fr Padraig Murphy who had also attended the first stage of EEA3 in Rome. It was well attended with a new generation of younger delegates amongst the 85 present.

Mgr. Noel Treanor (Secretary-General of the Brussels-based Commission of Episcopates of the European Community, COMECE) gave the keynote address on '*European challenges to the Christian Churches on the island of Ireland.*' Canon Bob Fyffe (General Secretary, Churches Together in Britain and Ireland) spoke on the EEA3 process, while Canon Ian Ellis (Church of Ireland) and Rev Dr Tom Norris (St. Patrick's College, Maynooth) spoke on '*The Charta Oecumenica and its message for the Irish churches today.*' (The Charta refers to guidelines for the growing cooperation amongst the churches in Europe that had been agreed by the European churches in 2001).

Workshops focused on critical issues on this island: Immigration (facilitated by Sr. Joan Roddy & Denise Wright), Suicide (Peter Hanlon), Care of the Environment (members of Eco-Congregation Ireland), Secularisation (Tom O'Gorman), the experience of the Orthodox churches in Ireland (three Orthodox clergy), opportunities for sharing Ecumenical journeys (Rev Dr. Johnston McMaster).

These Meetings originated in the Ballymascanlon talks in 1973. They continue to be held every 18 months or so with representation, funding and organisation at all levels being undertaken on a 50-50 basis. It's quite a unique model that respects Irish church realities. This year's programme was beautifully woven together in worship led by the co-chaplains (Gillian Kingston and Fr Des Hayden) supported by a cantor and harpist.

A candle bearing the EEA3 logo and theme ('*The Light of Christ shines on us all*') was the focus of worship. It bears a map of Europe and was specially created by the Benedictine monks in Rostrevor as a reminder of the links between the Irish and European churches. Any member church or inter-

church group/conference can book this candle for their ecumenical witness over the next six months before it is taken by the 33 Irish delegates attending the EEA3 conference in Sibiu in September 2007.

The candle continues to travel around the country. It has been lit on 18 separate ecumenical occasions since November, shared with over 2000 people coming together from our member churches in Armagh, Ballybay, Belfast, Holywood, Drogheda, Dublin, Dundalk and Lough Derg. All bookings until August 2007 can continue to be made through the office at the Inter Church Centre in Belfast.

### **(12) Irish Inter-Church Committee (IICC)**

Set up in 1984, this group continues the ecumenical dialogue of the partners (primarily senior church leaders, bishops and archbishops) between the Meetings. This Committee is co-chaired by the ICC President and the Catholic Primate of All-Ireland (Archbishop Sean Brady).

During 2006, it met four times in Dundalk. During these three-hour meetings, members have shared the resources from their churches in Dealing with the Past; discussed the NI Shared Future policy with staff from the Office of First Minister/Deputy First Minister; the proposed Private Day of Reflection (21 June 2007) with a sub group from the Healing Through Remembering project; and the Charta Oecumenica that was rooted in a former European Ecumenical Assembly.

The Committee receives reports from the Irish Inter-Church Committee on Social Issues, the Department on Theological Questions, the Churches Peace Education Programme, Churches Together in Britain and Ireland and other matters referred to it by the Executive Secretary (Michael Earle). The agenda is determined by the Joint Secretaries from ICC (Rev Tony Davidson) and the Catholic Church (Rev Tom Norris).

The focus tends to be more on dialogue rather than bringing recommendations to the member churches or to the Inter Church Meeting. It may be helpful to review the Committee's aims and purpose in the near future. Plans are in hand to hold a study day in 2007 to explore the international progress being made in theological ecumenism, particularly those involving the Irish churches.

### **(13) Inter-Church Committee on Social Issues (ICCSI)**

*Purpose:* This Committee was established by the IICC in July 2005 with the following mandate:

- (a) to advise and support IICC, ICC and its member churches on matters within the general area of church and society (including social, economic and public policy issues in either/both jurisdictions in Ireland or internationally affecting Ireland), seeking to promote a common Christian response to such matters
- (b) to maximize shared working and joint responses to relevant issues by the member churches and to progress towards the pooling of resources by member churches to further its objectives

ICCSI continues to evolve as it seeks to fulfil its mandate more effectively. In particular, it is continuing to develop an approach whereby it acts as the oversight committee for a number of ecumenical projects, which address specific social issues.

The first of these commenced in 2005. The **Eco-Congregation Ireland (ECI)** initiative continues to operate successfully in promoting a greater awareness of environmental issues within the churches and a greater integration of a theology of creation and environment within the life of the member churches. ECI has its own website at [www.ecocongregationireland.org](http://www.ecocongregationireland.org)

During 2006, ICCSI applied for and was successful in being awarded a grant from the Reception and Integration Agency of the Department in Justice in Dublin. This grant will cover the costs of a project worker based in Dublin to undertake a three year **Parish-based Integration Project**. This project commenced on 1 January 2007 and seeks to promote better support and integration activities for new immigrants at local parish level. Representatives from the AICCMR committee will act as a specific support team for this project worker. Contact Adrian Cristea at 00353 (0)1 2690951

Considerable attention was also given by ICCSI during the year to the issue of **Socially Responsible Investment**. It is hoped that this will lead on to some specific information and other activities in the coming year.

The Committee also continues its pattern of having a specific focus at each meeting on the structures and emphases within a particular member church, in rotation, on how they deal with social issues. In addition, ICCSI acts as a useful 'clearing house' of information on ongoing activities and publications on social issues within the churches, including child protection.



**Members of the ICC Executive Committee**

(L- R): Rt Rev Colin Campbell (NSPCI), Rev Daniel Nuzum (CofI), Rev Dr Jim Campbell (PCI), Mr Derick Woods (Moravian), Rev Dr Donald Watts (PCI), Rev Winston Graham (MCI), Canon Trevor Williams (CofI), Dr David Poole (RSF), Michael Earle (ICC), Rev Lorraine Kennedy-Ritchie (PCI), Rev Fr Irenaeus du Plessis (Antiochian Orthodox), Pastor Corinna Diestelkamp (Lutheran), Rev John Brackenridge (PCI), Ms Gillian Kingston (MCI), Dr Joachim Diestelkamp (Lutheran).

Missing from photo: Rev Tony Davidson (PCI), Rev Raymond Fox (CofI), Rt Rev Michael Jackson (CofI), Mr Robert Cochran (MCI), Mrs Denise Wright (LifeLink), Mrs Agnes Aderanti (Rock of Ages), Deacon Tom Carroll (Gk Orthodox), Rev Fr Athanasius George (Coptic Orthodox), Rev Fr George Zavershinsky (Russian Orthodox), Mrs Roberta McKelvey (Co-opted), Mr Hilton Henry (Hon Treas).



**Members of the Irish Inter-Church Committee (IICC) at the Ballymascannon Hotel Dundalk.**

(L- R): Rev Fr Godfrey O'Donnell (Romanian Orthodox), Rev Tony Davidson (PCI), Most Rev Dr Tony Farquhar (RC), Rev Elizabeth Hewitt (MCI), Most Rev Dr Gerry Clifford (RC), Most Rev Dr Sean Brady (RC), Rev Dr Tom Norris (RC), Mr Robert Cochran (MCI), Prof Brendan Leahy (RC), Canon Ian Ellis (CofI), Most Rev Dr Diarmuid Martin (RC), Ms Gillian Kingston (MCI), Rev Winston Graham (MCI), Mr Derick Woods (Moravian), Rev Dr Donald Watts (PCI), Mr Michael Earle (Exec Sec).

Missing from photo: Most Rev John McAreavey (RC), Rt Rev Michael Jackson (CofI)

## AICCMR

### All-Ireland Churches' Consultative Meeting on Racism (AICCMR)

Perhaps emulating a former radio advertisement for a cattle drench – “a quare name but great stuff” – AICCMR has always, since it was formed, been in a period of transition. In early summer, Scott Boldt's year as project worker for AICCMR came to an end with a significant amount achieved; a major conference on racism for the churches in late 2005, various regional gatherings North and South, and a variety of resources being put together. Moving on to become Reconciliation Officer at the Methodist Edgehill College in Belfast, Scott has been able to continue doing most of the servicing of the AICCMR committee.

With the development of the *Parish-based Integration Project* (PIP), which also comes under the aegis of the Inter-Church Committee on Social Issues (ICCSI), and the existence of *EMBRACE* in the North (as a cross-community Christian body dealing with immigration and asylum) the question is what is the role of AICCMR? The tentative answer to this question is that it continues as an all-Ireland churches' anti-racism body, to pick up issues and concerns which are not being addressed, and the group relates closely to others working in the field.

In November there was an amazing event organised by AICCMR, and particularly Scott Boldt, in Christ Church Cathedral, Dublin: *Taste and See*, a major worship event reflecting a variety of Christian worship styles new to the island of Ireland. It is planned that this event will be replicated in Belfast on May 19th and perhaps elsewhere in future. Other concerns include the training of seminarians/theological college students. Significantly, a booklet of reflections, *“Inter-Cultural insights – Christian reflections on racism, hospitality and identity from the island of Ireland”* has been launched as thoughts which can be used in a variety of different contexts within the churches; it is available on different websites (including [www.iccsi.ie](http://www.iccsi.ie)) and from the Inter-Church Centre.

### (14) Churches Together in Britain and Ireland (CTBI)

*Purpose:* With reduced funding from its 36 member churches, CTBI has had to restructure and reduce its staffing by 40% over the last three years. It now has a new constitution and has become incorporated as a company limited by guarantee. Its new mission is to be the ecumenical agency that helps to resource the work of the churches in the four nations of Wales, Ireland, Scotland and England. Further clarification is still needed about

these terms and the extent of its commitment beyond being just a British/UK-focused agency.

*Work areas:* Under the leadership of its new General Secretary (Canon Bob Fyffe), CTBI offers the resources of 13.5 full time equivalent staff (many carrying shared work areas) and 5 Networks, otherwise known as Church and Society, Racial Justice, Inter-Faith Relations, International Students and Global Mission, with additional portfolios in International Affairs and Study (Church Life).

CTBI resources used by Irish churches this year included materials produced for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity and Racial Justice Sunday. The Building Bridges of Hope project finished during 2006. As new priorities emerge, CTBI's ability and availability to deliver resources to both jurisdictions in Ireland is still to be tested. Plans are in hand for key CTBI staff to come across the Irish Sea, start building relationships with our member churches and see how they can best respond in adding capacity to our local context. Plans are also in hand for a four nation's meeting with senior church representatives (May 2007) and church leaders (January 2008). Further details on the website: [www.ctbi.org.uk](http://www.ctbi.org.uk)

*Associate status:* The Irish churches made the decision last year only to be involved as an associate member of CTBI through ICC. However, I can report that ICC is playing a full part in four nation's meetings at both trustee and management levels. Gillian Kingston chairs the CTBI Human Resources Committee and Hilton Henry sits on the Finance committee. ICC staff attended 16 CTBI meetings (23 days) last year. Most meetings are in Britain but one included a memorable conference in Prague for all the 50 ecumenical staff employed by the four national ecumenical instruments (ACTS, CTE, CYTUN, ICC) plus CTBI. It was their first ever meeting and opportunity to understand the work undertaken by each nation.

*CTBI governance:* ICC has appointed three 'trustee observers' as non-voting Irish representatives on the CTBI Trust. Gillian Kingston, Hilton Henry and Bishop Michael Jackson have been appointed to serve on a rotational basis. The Trustees met 4 times last year (all in England) under the leadership of Margaret Swinson (Moderator). The Trust and the Trustees will be formally constituted at the first AGM to be held in May 2007 in Birmingham.

*CTBI membership:* The Church of Ireland and Methodist Church in Ireland are full-members of CTBI, while the Catholic Church in Ireland is an associate member. Seven other ICC member churches have indirect membership though their churches in Britain (Antiochian Orthodox,



Cherubim and Seraphim, Coptic Orthodox, Greek Orthodox, Moravian, Russian Orthodox, Salvation Army). All member churches of ICC will shortly be invited to register their church as a member of this new CTBI Company and appoint an official representative.

### **(15) Reports from those representing ICC on Boards of other Irish ecumenical partners**

#### **15.1 Audience Council of RTE** (Radio Telefís Éireann) - *Rev Dr Alan McCormack* (Church of Ireland)

The RTE Audience Council has met a number of times in the past year to progress and discuss a number of key issues in public service broadcasting relevant to the viewer and listener. Dr McCormack has served a number of years as ICC's representative and as Chairman for one year (2006), but he has recently resigned to take up a new parish appointment in London. No replacement has yet been made. Interested parties can view the Council's Report at [www.rte.ie](http://www.rte.ie)

#### **15.2 Christian Aid Ireland** - *Mrs Roberta McKelvey* (Church of Ireland)

The Christian Aid report for 2005 made reference to the setting up of Irish Boards in response to new legal and fiscal structures in Ireland. The new boards would be registered as Charities in Northern Ireland and the Republic respectively but would work as one. A Nomination Committee composed of the Very Revd D. Harman, the Revd D. Watts and the Revd. N. Davies was tasked with selecting members from nominations made by the member churches, the ICC and Christian Aid UK / Ireland and bring names to the AGM.

After much discussion and negotiations by the Irish National Committee and the Board of Christian Aid UK / Ireland, the shadow Boards met in September and the proposed membership was accepted by the member churches at the AGM held in Balbriggan in October 2006. By early 2007, all legal requirements should be complete and the full Irish Boards established.

Much of the last year has been spent considering the role and responsibilities of the directors of the Irish Boards and their relationship with Christian Aid. Duties, compliance, prudence, care and training - all part of the remit of any board, are a special challenge when working in two states.

Christian Aid Ireland is now licensed to use the marks, name and logo of Christian Aid and the Irish Boards have representatives from Christian Aid Board (UK) and members nominated by Christian Aid (UK).





*Members of the Steering Group handing over their research report to several trustees from the Churches' Peace Education Programme.*



*(L-R): Canon Bob Fyffe (CTBI), Rev Jan Mullin (Moravian), Rev Padraig Murphy (RC), Ms Gillian Kingston (ICC), Rev Winston Graham (MCI), Mr Hilton Henry (ICC) at the last CTBI Church Representative Meeting in Coventry.*



*Irish delegates attending 9th Assembly of the World Council of Churches in Brazil. (L-R) Chris Boucher (ICC youth delegate), Rev Daniel Nuzum (C of I), Rev Dr Heather Morris (MCI), Ms Yvonne Naylor (C of I) and Michael Earle (ICC).*



*Meeting of trustees of Churches' Peace Education Programme. (L-R): Rev Tony Davidson, Most Rev Donal McKeown (chair), Ms Gillian Kingston, Rev Tim Bartlett, Canon Trevor Williams and Mr Jim Fitzpatrick.*



*General Secretaries of National Council of Churches in Europe meeting with H.E. Metropolitan Laurentiu in Sibiu, Romania.*

During 2006, Christian Aid's 60th Anniversary was celebrated in Ireland with a service in St. Patrick's Cathedral, Dublin and a concert in the Waterfront Hall in Belfast. Both the Dublin and Belfast offices changed premises in recent years, to provide for the growing staff team and volunteer network and a full time permanent post of South West co-coordinator was created in Cork.

Income in the last financial year was £5.3 million, including donations to the Tsunami Appeal and some 28% of the total was provided by Irish Aid. Donations to Christian Aid Week 2006 were up on 2005. By September 2006 £701,153 had been received and was above target.

The challenges for Christian Aid Ireland for 2006/07 include governance and restructuring of Christian Aid Ireland to strengthen the organisation and to comply with legal and fiscal obligations in the two jurisdictions in Ireland. There is a need to develop income and increase the profile of the work of Christian Aid, especially in the Republic of Ireland, whilst maximising opportunities in Northern Ireland.

The new Multi-Annual Programme Funding from Irish Aid consisting of a five year contract worth €17 million also provides a new management challenge.

Despite the rather confusing period leading up to the establishment of Christian Aid Ireland and an initial fear by the member Churches that they would become estranged from the management of Christian Aid Ireland, the balance of the new boards continues to reflect the interest and support of the seven sponsoring churches. It is hoped that the new way of working will result not only in good governance and increased funding but in the continuing strong partnership with the member churches.

### **15.3 Churches Peace Education Programme (CPEP) –**

*ICC reps: Canon Trevor Williams (C of I), Rev Tony Davidson (Presbyterian), Gillian Kingston (Methodist), Hilton Henry (ICC Treasurer)*

Significant progress was made this year in finding a new direction for this inter-church programme that has a history dating back to 1978. A small but committed group of trustees under the capable leadership of Bishop Donal McKeown, decided to spend over £14,000 to commission a research report from the two Teacher Training Colleges in Belfast (St Mary's University College and Stranmillis University College). The research was undertaken

by Dr. Gerard McCann and Dr. Ciara Davey, who consulted with 35 individuals from a broad spectrum of organisations from Northern Ireland and the Republic.

The project's joint steering group concluded that:

- (i) there is an obligation for the churches to be involved in peacemaking and educating for peace
- (ii) the churches are uniquely positioned to facilitate the development of a culture of peace
- (iii) the success and experience of CPEP remains a precedent for peace building in action through education
- (iv) the work undertaken by CPEP gives it a unique position in the education system in NI and the border counties

The research report entitled '*The Irish Churches and Peace Education: Overview and Evaluation of the Scope and Quality of Peace Education in Northern Ireland and the Border Counties*' was subsequently launched at a well attended public meeting in September in Belfast. Copies are available from ICC's office in Belfast.

Based on this evidence, the two sponsoring bodies (ICC Executive and the Irish Episcopal Conference Commission on Justice Social Affairs) approved a fresh mandate for the trustees. They agreed a detailed programme proposal that involved:

- a new name (called CREATE or 'Citizenship, Religious Education And Transforming Education')
- a clear set of new objectives
- an informal partnership with the two University Colleges involved in the research project
- a new staff team to drive it forwards

At the time of writing, a three-year funding application made to the Department of Education (NI) has been unsuccessful, so the trustees will have to discern what viable alternatives remain open to them to further the outcomes of the research report.

#### **15.4 Embrace NI – Denise Wright (*LifeLink Network of Churches*)**

This group sees its main role as one of encouraging church communities to make Northern Ireland more welcoming for all people from minority ethnic backgrounds.

It provides information through its website (refer [www.embraceni.org](http://www.embraceni.org)), quarterly Newsletters, an Annual Information Update, fact sheets, a newly produced CD of stories, and speaking engagements. Links between the churches and NICEM (NI Council for Ethnic Minorities) are facilitated to provide practical help and channel volunteers. An emergency fund can provide for basic urgent needs.

At the AGM in May, Anna Lo of the Chinese Welfare Association and Dr. Neil Jarman spoke on migration and its implications. As response to the increasing problem of destitution for some migrant workers, a pilot project began in Belfast where churches provide basic packs of essential items for distribution by existing voluntary agencies working on the streets and in hostels.

*Navigating the Migration Maze*, an information and training morning with Buster Cox (Law Centre) and Margaret McNulty (EMBRACE) was held in November. A multi-cultural Christmas Craft Fair and a party for NICRAS (NI Council for Refugees and Asylum Seekers) were held in December.

Funding is at present from membership fees and financial support from churches, for which we are very grateful. Due to the expanding nature of our work, we do require increased financial resources and this area is a priority for 2007 if we are to continue to encourage the Church to reflect gospel values.

#### **15.5 Irish Ecumenical Church Loan Fund (ECLOF)**

This Loan fund continued at a very low level during 2006. It is part of a multinational operation operating out of Geneva which mainly makes micro-credit loans at reasonable rates in the poor world. One new loan was made in 2006, to Shankill Stress and Trauma Group, Belfast, for £25,000, and there are three other outstanding loans. The Fund committee is continuing to discern whether demand for its loans will pick up in the future or whether it should close and return the capital for use elsewhere. When interest rates were high, it was very heavily used by church and community groups.

## 15.6 Inter-Church Reconciliation Fund for Ireland (ICRFI)

### *“Inter-Church Reconciliation Fund for Ireland hangs up its boots”*

After operating for a third of a century (33 years), the Inter-Church Reconciliation Fund for Ireland (previously Inter-Church Emergency Fund for Ireland) closed at the end of 2006. It acted as a conduit for mainland European church and church agency money (with smaller sums from Britain) to support peace, reconciliation and community development in Northern Ireland. With a cross-community committee meeting to disburse grants, the servicing of the committee was done by the Inter-Church Secretariat with Rob Fairmichael acting as projects officer for the last 14 years.

We are very grateful to those churches and agencies which gave the money enabling us to support a broad swathe of youth and community groups and projects, including some with a church or religious background. The need is still there within Northern Ireland where sourcing funding is becoming tougher. However it became untenable to look for money from abroad at this stage in the peace process, especially with more European church funding going to Eastern Europe and further afield. Since the money for servicing the Fund came from inter-church funds, all donations coming in to the Fund were distributed for the good of the Northern Ireland community including much for youth work and general community development purposes and many cross-community ventures.

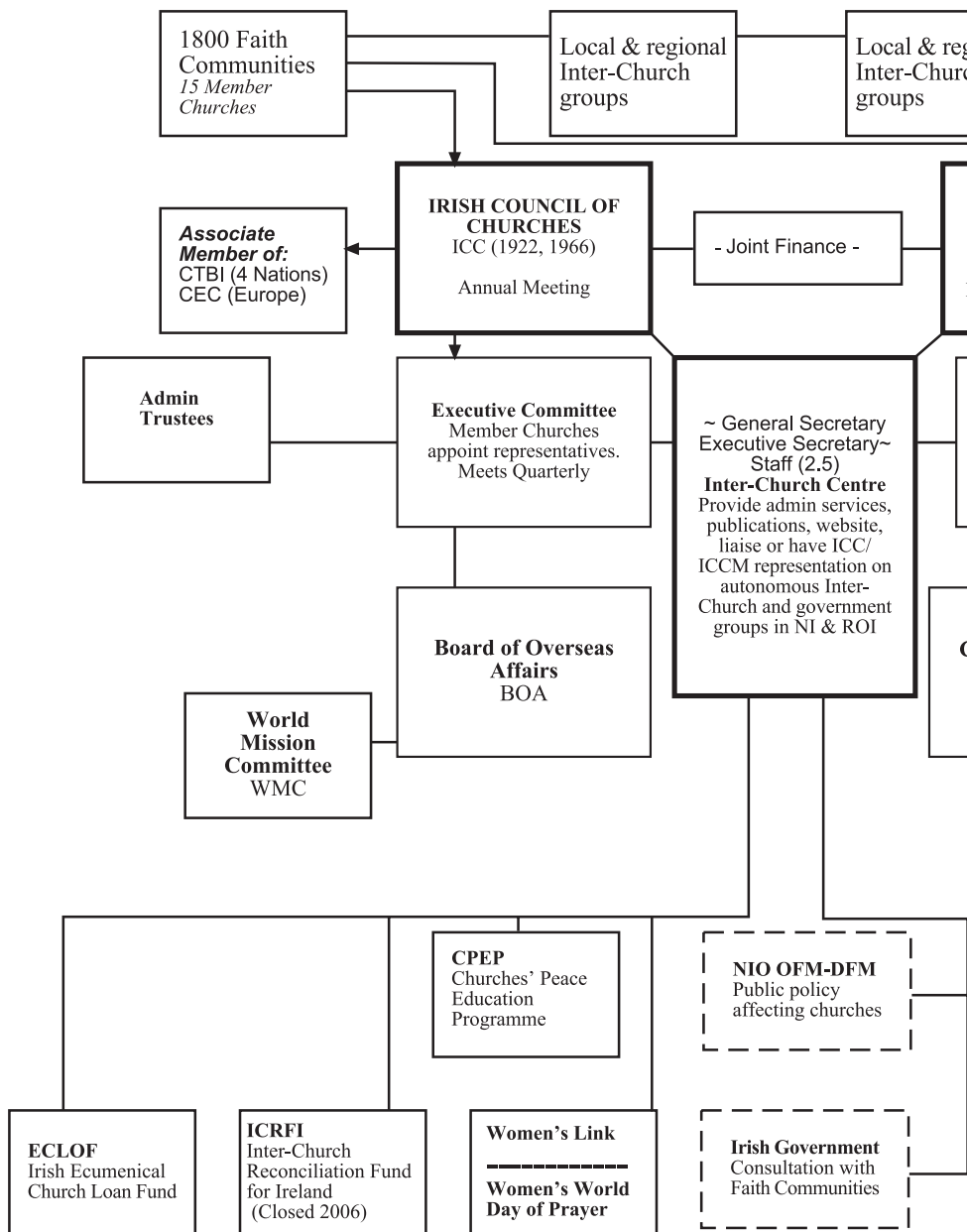
A report will be produced to mark the existence the Fund, which distributed a substantial amount of money, and to acknowledge both the donors and the work of those who received the money, often relatively small groups and organisations achieving a huge amount with very little in the way of resources. It was an important but quiet church witness for the building up of a healthy and vibrant society in the North.

In 2006, the last year of operation, the Fund gave the following grants:

1. John Paul II Youth Club, Ardoyne, Belfast .....£800  
- for their summer scheme
2. Ballywalter Youth Club, Co Down .....£600  
- for their summer scheme
3. Clonard Monastery Youth Centre, Falls Road, Belfast .....£700  
- for their summer scheme

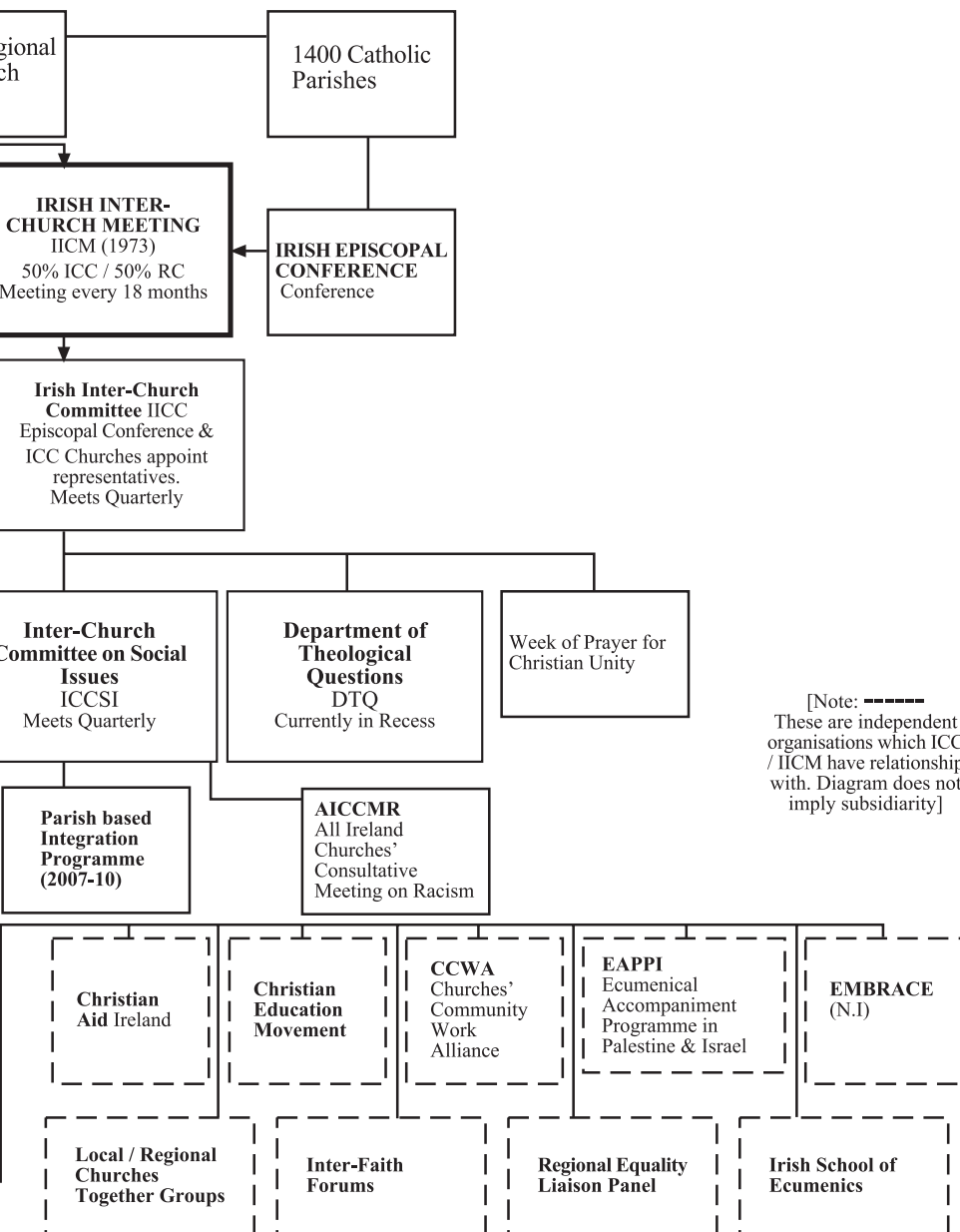
# IRISH ECUMENICAL STRUCTURES ACTIVE ACROSS

## Covering 16 Churches with their 3,250 F



# IRISH COUNCIL OF CHURCHES IN NORTHERN IRELAND & REPUBLIC OF IRELAND

## Faith Communities – As of January 2007



4. Corpus Christi Youth Centre, Ballymurphy, Belfast .....£750  
- for their summer scheme
5. Conway Youth Centre, Shankill Road, Belfast .....£800  
- for their summer scheme
6. Holy Family Youth Centre, Limestone Road, Belfast .....£800  
- for their summer scheme
7. Ballynafeigh Community Development Association, Belfast .....£800  
- for their summer scheme
8. Ardoyne Youth Club, Belfast .....£800  
- for their summer scheme
9. Ballysillan Youth for Christ, Belfast .....£750  
- for their summer scheme
10. Saints Youth Centre, Twinbrook.....£800  
- for their summer scheme
11. Goal Line Youth Centre, Portadown .....£600  
- for their summer scheme
12. Lisanelly Youth Project, Omagh .....£700  
- for their summer scheme
13. St Mary's Youth Centre, Portadown.....£800  
- for their summer scheme
14. Vale Sports Committee, Greysteel, Co Derry.....£600  
- for their summer scheme
15. Cross-Community Schools Project, L'Derry.....£800  
- for their summer scheme
16. Zero-8-Teen, Brownlow, Craigavon.....£800  
- for their summer scheme
17. Omagh Boys and Girls Club, Omagh.....£800  
- for their summer scheme
- 18 St John Vianney Youth Centre, Ormeau Road, Belfast .....£650  
- for their summer scheme



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- |   |        |
|---|--------|
| 19. Beragh Youth Centre, Beragh, Co Tyrone.....                               | £600   |
| - for their summer scheme   |        |
| 20. St Teresa's Youth Club, Glen Road, Belfast .....                          | £650   |
| - for their summer scheme   |        |
| 21. Keady and District Youth Steering Group, Keady, Co Armagh.....            | £1,000 |
| - £800 for their summer scheme and an additional £200 as a seeding grant      |        |
| 22. Emmanuel, Beersbridge Road, Belfast .....                                 | £1,000 |
| - for their involvement in Streetreach  |        |
| 23. Resound, Dunmurry, Belfast.....   | £1,500 |
| - as a seeding grant for their drop-in café project                           |        |
| 24. Rosemount Area Women's Group, Derry .....                                 | £1,500 |
| - towards an educational project  |        |
| 25. TIDES Training.....   | £1,375 |
| - towards the cost of training materials for groups who could not afford them |        |
| 26. Kilkeel Parish Bridge Association .....                                   | £1,000 |
| - towards equipment   |        |
| 27. Kairos Centre, Newcastle, Co Down .....                                   | £2,000 |
| - towards running costs, equipment and as a seeding grant                     |        |
| 28. Presbyterian Peacemaking Programme.....                                   | £2,000 |
| - towards materials for local use   |        |
| 29. Forthspring Inter-Community group, Springfield Road, Belfast ....         | £2,000 |
| - towards the costs of their nonviolence programme                            |        |
| 30. Northern Light Review .....   | £1,000 |
| - towards programme costs   |        |
| 31. Tuesday Group, Larne.....   | £1,000 |
| - towards programme costs   |        |
| 32. Cornerstone Community, Springfield Road, Belfast.....                     | £2,000 |
| - towards cross-community churches work                                       |        |

33. Sailortown Regeneration Groups, Belfast..... £1,481  
- for their community development work
34. Rectory Residents' Association, Ballymena ..... £1,040  
- towards programme costs
35. Streetreach (Summer Madness), Belfast..... £1,005  
- for cross-community programme

### **(16) Property (48 Elmwood Avenue, Belfast)**

ICC has owned this building since it was gifted by the German churches in 1977. We share space with (i) staff from TIDES, a training and consultancy agency specializing in conflict management, community relations and mediation training, (ii) offices are being kept for CPEP until the outcomes of funding applications are known. Staff from the Churches Community Work Alliance sadly left at Christmas after 12 years with us. They outgrew the facilities available to them once they received new funding to appoint more staff. Small agencies with a compatible ecumenical focus that might be interested in having a base at this office should contact the General Secretary.

During the year, a building survey was completed outlining a programme for maintenance and repairs of the property. Administrative Trustees carry responsibility for the property and are in the process of clarifying a number of outstanding issues, one of which will be brought to the AGM for approval.

### **(17) Highlights of 2006**

In addition to ecumenical gatherings identified above and in the President's report, I'd like to share other highlights from this ecumenical ministry undertaken this year:

- an ecumenical reception with Pope Benedict and other EEA3 delegates in Rome (January)
- worship in the multi-coloured tent at the 9th Assembly of the World Council of Churches held in Brazil with delegates from 348 member churches from 120 countries (February);
- joining ecumenical colleagues for worship and dialogue in an Orthodox monastery in Sibiu (May) and in a Baptist seminary in Prague (September).

- organizing a Mayor's reception and Irish evening with European and Irish church leaders in Derry/Londonderry (May)
- an all-night worship celebration at The Point in Dublin with 6,000 Africans led by the Redeemed Christian Church of God (July)
- 25th anniversary celebrations of the Clonard (Monastery)-Fitzroy (Presbyterian) Fellowship that has been courageously building bridges of understanding over the years in west Belfast (September)
- listening to an after-dinner speaker describing the impact of the Celtic Tiger in the Republic to a four nations' women's group (October)
- a celebration organised by AICCMR in Christ Church Cathedral Dublin to express different African and European worship styles (November)

Having completed my two year contract in July 2006, I'm grateful to ICC Executive for offering me a new and open-ended contract and look forward to continue to serve and animate the Irish churches until we return to our family in New Zealand.

### **(18) ICC's priorities in 2007**

The ICC Executive has agreed to give priority this coming year to the following:

- collating a directory identifying ecumenical activity taking place all over the island
- expanding ICC's presence in the Republic with a new staff appointment based in Dublin
- planning open ecumenical events in both jurisdictions
- establishing a joint Management Group to prioritise ICC/IICM tasks
- developing a Communications strategy
- clarifying church membership criteria
- clarifying policy on ICC representation on other organisations

Progress will be reviewed at the end of 2007.



*Staff of the Inter-Church Centre: Michael Earle, Karen Kelly and Rob Fairmichael.*



*Brother Paschal from the Benedictine community in Rostrevor presenting the Irish churches with the EEA3 candle he created.*



*Bishop Riah (Anglican Bishop in Jerusalem) with Ruth and Jim Campbell (Moderator of Board of Overseas Affairs) after a public meeting in Belfast.*



*Gillian Kingston with members of the Rock of Ages Cherubim & Seraphim Church in Artane.*

Additional planning ideas are also underway in the following locations

### **All-Ireland**

- to organise a programme for a brief spring-time visit to both parts of Ireland by Rev Dr. Sam Kobia (General Secretary, World Council of Churches)
- to hold a study day on theological ecumenism through the Irish Inter Church Committee
- to attend annual meetings of member churches; Irish School of Ecumenics Trust Council
- to have an ecumenical presence at meetings, seminars and conferences around both parts of Ireland;
- to service quarterly meetings of the ICC Executive and its three Committees; the Irish Inter Church Committee and its three Committees; Churches Peace Education Programme; All Ireland Churches Consultative Meeting on Racism; Irish Ecumenical Church Loan Fund; attend Churches Community Work Alliance Reference Group
- to hold a study day on Christian Zionism (Board of Overseas Affairs)
- to publish further (4?) editions of *Irish Ecumenical News*
- to develop the inter-church/ICC website

### **Northern Ireland**

- to develop a new Churches Peace Education Programme with new staffing (subject to successful public funding)
- to ensure compliance with impending changes in Charity law including exploration of ICC seeking Council approval to become a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO)
- to undertake a green audit of the office at 48 Elmwood Avenue, Belfast (ICCSI)
- to increase tenancy and oversight of maintenance of the property at 48 Elmwood Avenue
- to continue with routine office and financial administration

**Republic of Ireland**

- to develop the Parish-based Integration Programme in the Republic through ICCSI
- to participate in Church-State dialogues organised through the Taoiseach's Office

**Britain and Ireland**

- to contribute to the four nations' ecumenical priorities; attend quarterly meetings of the Churches Together in Britain and Ireland (Trustees and General Secretaries groups);
- to increase the capacity of Irish ecumenism through CTBI staff delivering a wider range of appropriate resources through their networks

**Europe and beyond**

- to sponsor an ICC representation of three delegates (Mrs. Karen Kelly, Rt. Rev Colin Campbell and Rev Fr Godfrey O'Donnell) to attend the third European Ecumenical Assembly being held in Sibiu (Romania) in September
- to make occasional visits to ecumenical events in Europe (e.g. CEC Church and Society Commission, CEC General Secretaries annual meeting)
- to develop further an idea from the Board of Overseas Affairs to organise a churches' visit to the Middle East

Those with oversight for agreeing ecumenical priorities in the short and long-term will need to ensure that ICC continues to live not only within its financial means but also within the capacity of their staff team to deliver.

## **(19) Conclusion**

Implicit in all this planning is the prayer :

- (i) to be the ecumenical instrument that serves the member churches of ICC in their shared witness to pray, witness and act together on this island we love so much;
- (ii) to be signs of Light, Hope and Unity in all that we do together in our Irish context;
- (iii) and most importantly, to be ‘members of the household of God, built ....with Christ Jesus as the corner stone’.

May our actions be faithful and obedient in deepening this common life together in Christ during 2007.

**Michael Earle**  
**General Secretary ICC**  
**Executive Secretary IICM**  
**31 January 2007**



*General Secretaries of CTBI and the four nations. (L-R): Rev Aled Edwards (CYTUN), Canon Bob Fyffe (CTBI), Rev Kevin Franz (ACTS), Rev Bill Snelson (CTE), Michael Earle (ICC).*

## Prayer for Peace

Lead me from death to life,  
from falsehood to truth.  
Lead me from despair to hope,  
from fear to trust.  
Lead me from hate to love,  
from war to peace.  
Let peace fill our hearts,  
our world, our universe,  
Peace, Peace, Peace.

*This prayer was launched by Mother Teresa in London in July 1981. The words are adapted by Satish Kumar from the Upanishads.*



*Leaders of the Redeemed Christian Church of God meeting with Archbishop Robin Eames and ICC.*



*Irish Inter-Church Meeting (L-R): Canon Bob Fyffe (CTBI), Archbishop Sean Brady, Ms Gillian Kingston (co-chairs) and Mgr Noel Treanor.*

## Paidir Síochána

Ó Bhás go beatha,  
Ó bhréag go firinne,  
Treoraigh mé.

Ó éadóchas go dóchas,  
Ó eagla go munín,  
Treoraigh mé.

Ó fhuath go grá,  
Ó chogaíocht go síocháin,  
Treoraigh mé.

Go líona ár gcoíthe,  
ár ndomhan,  
Ár gcruinne le síocháin.  
Síocháin, Síocháin, Síocháin.

*Irish Words © 1986 ICC/ ICJP  
Peace Education Programme*



*Delegates attending the Irish Inter-Church Meeting at the Emmaus Centre*



## **HONORARY TREASURER'S REPORT**

### **1. GENERAL**

I must first express my appreciation for the encouragement and help of Michael Earle and Karen Kelly in connection with my role as Honorary Treasurer. Such activity brings me great delight in exercising the gift the Lord has given me in this area and particularly in relation to liaison with many churches.

### **2. FINANCE**

At the time of writing this I am limited again in that the Accounts for 2006 have not been completed but I will present these at the AGM in Armagh on 22 March 2007 with the hope that such presentation will lead to pertinent questions, which will create vision for the future direction of the Lord's work.

I highlight some areas considered during the year 2006:

#### **Budgeting**

During the year budgeting ahead was considered a useful tool. At the November meeting of the ICC Executive, a budget for 2007 was considered. This showed a deficit of £7410, which was compared with a deficit of £2987 in 2005. This tool should help in considering costs and income in the years 2007 & 2008 and particularly members' contributions and staff costs.

#### **Insurance**

Insurance cover was reviewed during the year and certain changes were effected as recommended by the brokers.

#### **Property**

Consideration of property use and title at 48 Elmwood Ave Belfast was commenced during the year. Although finance is not necessarily priority in this area, the Joint Finance Committee will be involved regarding the financial impact of any decision.

**Staff salaries**

From 1 April 2006 salaries were increased by 3% & Employers Pension Contribution increased from 7% to 10%. The General Secretary's 2 year contract of employment expired in July 2006. The Executive Committee agreed that this position held Mr Michael Earle be made permanent and Michael accepted this offer.

**Accounts 2006**

a) The accounts for the year ending 31 December 2006 will be prepared by me for audit by the end January 2007. I plan to present these in the same format as last year. Charity legislation is imminent and improvement to comply with more complex annual accounts may be necessary.

b) I attach table of Member Church Contributions to General Funds for year to 31 December 06 and comparison with 2005.

**Hilton Henry**  
**31 January 07**

**AUDITED ACCOUNTS** for the year ending 31 December 2006 will be presented to the Annual Meeting and be available on request from the ICC office.

**Member Churches' Contributions to ICC at 31 December 2005  
and at 31 December 2006**

|   | <b>General<br/>Fund<br/>2006<br/>(£)</b> | <b>General<br/>Fund<br/>2005<br/>(£)</b> | <b>Travel<br/>Fund<br/>2006<br/>(£)</b> | <b>Travel<br/>Fund<br/>2005<br/>(£)</b> |
|---|--|--|---|---|
| Church of Ireland                                     | 16,236                                   | 16,236                                   | 164                                     | 164                                     |
| Presbyterian Church in Ireland                        | 16,236                                   | 16,236                                   | 164                                     | 164                                     |
| Methodist Church in Ireland                           | 4,950                                    | 4,059                                    | 50                                      | 50                                      |
| Religious Society of Friends                          | 640                                      | 640                                      | 6                                       | 6                                       |
| The Non Subscribing<br>Presbyterian Church of Ireland | 640                                      | 640                                      | 6                                       | 6                                       |
| LifeLink Network of Churches                          | 297                                      | 297                                      | 3                                       | 3                                       |
| The Salvation Army                                    | 228                                      | 228                                      | 2                                       | 2                                       |
| Lutheran Church in Ireland                            | 183                                      | 183                                      | 2                                       | 2                                       |
| Moravian Church Irish District                        | 183                                      | 183                                      | 2                                       | 2                                       |
| The Greek Orthodox Church<br>in Britain & Ireland     | 183                                      | 183                                      | 2                                       | 2                                       |
| The Romanian Orthodox<br>Church in Ireland            | 183                                      | 183                                      | 2                                       | 2                                       |
| The Coptic Orthodox Church<br>in Ireland              | 45                                       | 45                                       | 1                                       | 1                                       |
| The Russian Orthodox Church<br>in Ireland             | 45                                       | 45                                       | 1                                       | 1                                       |
| The Rock of Ages Cherubim<br>and Seraphim Church      | 45                                       | 45                                       | 1                                       | 1                                       |
| The Antiochian Orthodox<br>Church in Ireland          | 49                                       | 49                                       | 1                                       | 1                                       |
| <b>Total</b>  | <b>40,143</b>                            | <b>40,143</b>                            | <b>407</b>                              | <b>407</b>                              |

## PUBLICATIONS AND RESOURCES

available from the Inter-Church Centre

### THE IRISH COUNCIL OF CHURCHES

£

#### The Irish Council of Churches: 1923 – 1983

by Rev. Prof. J.M. Barkley.....0.80

*(This booklet was produced to celebrate the 60th Anniversary of the Council. It gives a concise account of its origins and work.)*

#### Conflict, Controversy and Co-operation: ‘The Irish Council of Churches and the Troubles’ 1968-1972 by Rev Dr N Taggart (Columba Press, 2004)

*Available only from Columba Press and bookshops .....6.99*

**ICC Annual Report** - available at cost of postage

**A Briefing Paper on Ireland** .....1.00

*Includes information on the Churches in Ireland*

### THE IRISH INTER-CHURCH MEETING

#### The Irish Inter-Church Meeting:

**Background and Developments (1998)** .....2.00

**Ministering to Inter-church Couples: Help for Clergy (1999)** .....2.00

#### Inter-Cultural Insights (2006)

*Christian Reflections on Racism, Hospitality and Identity from the Island of Ireland* - available at cost of postage

#### The Department of Social Issues

*Recommendations of the Report of the Working Party on*

*Sectarianism (1993)* .....0.80

#### Roots of Sectarianism in Ireland (1993)

*Background paper by Dr. J. Liechty*.....1.95

**Young People and the Church (1990)** .....1.50

**The Challenge of the City (1990)** .....1.50

**The Dearest Freshness Deep Down Things (2005)** .....5.00

**THE DEPARTMENT OF THEOLOGICAL QUESTIONS:**

|  |      |
|--|------|
| <b>Salvation and Grace (1993)</b> .....                | 1.95 |
| <b>Intercommunion: A Background Paper (1998)</b> ..... | 0.50 |

**THE CHURCHES' PEACE EDUCATION PROGRAMME**

|  |      |
|--|------|
| <b>A Celebration of the Churches' Peace Education Programme</b> .....          | 2.00 |
| <i>(1978 – 2005) by Elaine Hall</i>  |      |
| <b>Reflections &amp; Practice Emotional Literacy in the KS1 Classroom</b> .... | 7.50 |
| <i>(2005) compiled by Elaine Hall</i>  |      |

**The Irish Churches and Peace Education (2006):**

*Overview and Evaluation of the Scope and Quality of Peace Education in Northern Ireland and the Border Counties.* - available at cost of postage

**BIBLE STUDY MATERIAL****Titles in the 'What the Bible Says About...' Series:**

|  |      |
|--|------|
| What the Bible says about Peace.....           | 0.50 |
| What the Bible says about Violence.....        | 0.50 |
| <i>(Out of print but can be photocopied)</i>   |      |
| What the Bible says about Justice.....         | 0.50 |
| <i>(Out of print but can be photocopied)</i>   |      |
| What the Bible says about Reconciliation ..... | 0.50 |
| What the Bible says about Poverty .....        | 0.50 |
| What the Bible says about the Stranger .....   | 2.50 |

**BELFAST CHURCHES URBAN DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE****Developing Church Buildings for Community Use (1996).....1.00****Protestant Churches in Areas of Disadvantage: A Series of Case****Studies in Belfast (2000) .....5.00****Churches and Community Involvement:****The Theological Issues (2000) .....5.00****THE FAITH & POLITICS GROUP****Time to Heal: Perspectives on Reconciliation (2002) .....2.50****Transitions (2001).....2.50****Boasting; Self-righteous Collective Superiority as a****Cause of Conflict (1999) .....2.50**

## **MEMBERSHIP & REPRESENTATION**

**(As at January 2007)**

### **MEMBERS APPOINTED BY THE CONSTITUENT COMMUNIONS**

#### **Ex-Officio Members of Council**

Church of Ireland  
Presbyterian Church in Ireland  
Methodist Church in Ireland  
Moravian Church (Irish District)  
Non-Subscribing Church in Ireland  
Religious Society of Friends  
Salvation Army

Most Rev Dr A E T Harper  
Rt Rev D Clarke  
Rev I McElhinney  
Mr D Woods  
Rt Rev C Campbell  
Ms R Bewley-Bateman  
Major D Jackson

#### **Antiochian Orthodox Church**

Rev Fr I du Plessis

Sub Deacon M Murray  
Sub Deacon D Lonergan

#### **Church of Ireland**

Most Rev R L Clarke  
Rev Canon R Fox  
Rev S Hales  
Rt Rev M G Jackson  
Rev Canon J C D Mayes  
Mrs R McKelvey  
Mr W T Morrow  
Rev D R Nuzum  
Rev Canon T R Williams

Rev Canon Dr I M Ellis  
Rev S Gyles  
Mr S R Harper  
Rev S F Jones  
Mr J McGaffin  
Dr K Milne  
Most Rev Dr J R W Neill  
Rev Canon W D Sinnamon  
Mr H W Young

#### **Coptic Orthodox Church in Ireland**

Rev Fr A Gawargayous  
Deacon S Gayed

Mrs M Gawargayous

#### **Greek Orthodox Church in Britain and Ireland**

Deacon T Carroll

#### **LifeLink Network of Churches**

Pastor P Reid

Mrs D Wright

**Lutheran Church in Ireland**

Pastor C Diestelkamp

Dr J Diestelkamp

**Methodist Church in Ireland**

Ms E Crawford

Rev A J Dougherty

Rev G H Gracie

Rev W Graham

Rev M E Hewitt

Mrs G M Kingston

Rev T M Kingston

Miss F Moffitt

Rev J Unsworth

Mr T G Wilson

**Moravian Church Irish District**

Mrs R Thompson

Mr D Woods

Mrs M Woods

**Non-Subscribing Presbyterian Church**

Rt Rev C Campbell

Mrs K Campbell

Rev N Hutton

Mrs D Hutton

**Presbyterian Church in Ireland**

Mr J Bell

Rev J Brackenridge

Rev Dr S J Campbell

Mr L C Conway

Rev A D Davidson

Rev G A J Farquhar

Rev T W A Greer

Rev Dr S Hutchinson

Mrs M Irwin

Rev L Kennedy-Ritchie

Rev R C Kerr

Rev C McClure

Mrs G McCormick

Ms R Mitchell

Rev M Neilly

Rev D Nesbitt

Mr J Patterson

Ms V Steele

Ms R Strong

Rev Dr D J Watts

**Religious Society of Friends**

Ms E McElnea

Dr D B R Poole

**Rock of Ages Cherubim & Seraphim Church**

Mother A Aderanti

Ms E D Onasanwo

Mr M S Sholanke

**Romanian Orthodox Church in Ireland**

Rev Fr G O'Donnell



**Russian Orthodox Church in Ireland**

Deacon N Evseev

Mr V Yemets

Rev Fr G Zavershinsky

**Salvation Army (Irish District)**

Major M Fozzard

Major D Jackson

Major M Mylechreest

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE 2006**

**President**

Ms Gillian Kingston

**Vice- President**

Rev Tony Davidson

**Hon Treasurer**

Mr Hilton Henry

**Executive Secretary**

Mr Michael Earle

**Antiochian Orthodox Church**

Rev Fr Irenaeus du Plessis

**Church of Ireland**

Rev Canon Raymond Fox

Rt Rev Michael Jackson

Rev Daniel Nuzum

Rev Canon Trevor Williams

**Coptic Orthodox Church in Ireland**

Rev Fr Athanasius Gawargayous

**Greek Orthodox Church in Britain & Ireland**

Deacon Thomas Carroll

**LifeLink Network of Churches**

Mrs Denise Wright

**Lutheran Church in Ireland**

Pastor Corinna Diestelkamp

**Methodist Church in Ireland**

Rev Winston Graham

Mr Robert Cochran

*(since March 06)*

**Moravian Church Irish District**

Mr Derick Woods

**Non-Subscribing Presbyterian Church**

Rt Rev Colin Campbell

**Presbyterian Church in Ireland**

Rev John Brackenridge

Rev Lorraine Kennedy-Ritchie

Rev Dr Donald Watts

**Religious Society of Friends**

Dr David B R Poole

**Rock of Ages Cherubim and Seraphim Church**

Mother Agnes Aderanti

**Romanian Orthodox Church in Ireland**

Rev Fr Godfrey O'Donnell

**Russian Orthodox Church in Ireland**

Rev Fr George Zavershinsky

**Salvation Army (Irish District)**

Major David Jackson

**Co-opted**

Mrs Joan Kirk (Women's Link)  
(resigned Nov 06)

Mrs Roberta McKelvey  
(Co-opted to AGM 07)

**Ex Officio** (Moderator of Board of Overseas Affairs BOA)

Rev Dr S Jim Campbell (PCI)

**JOINT FINANCE COMMITTEE****Roman Catholic Church**

Mr Al Connolly

Mr Eamonn Fleming KCSG

(IICM Hon Treasurer)

Very Rev Colm McGrady

Rev Dr Tom Norris

**Irish Council of Churches**

Ms Gillian Kingston

Mr Hilton Henry (*ICC Hon Treasurer*)

Rev Tony Davidson

Mr Michael Earle

**BOARD OF OVERSEAS AFFAIRS (BOA)**

**Church of Ireland**

Rev S Jones

Rev Canon J Mayes

Dr K Milne

Rev I Knox

Mrs R McKelvey

**Coptic Orthodox Church**

Deacon S Gayed

**Lutheran Church**

Pastor C Diestelkamp

**Methodist Church**

Ms E Crawford

Rev Dr N Taggart

Miss F Moffitt

**Non-Subscribing Presbyterian Church**

Rt Rev C Campbell

Rev N Hutton

**Presbyterian Church**

Rev S J Campbell (Moderator)

Rev B Cobain

Rev Dr G Gray

Rev C McClure (Deputy Moderator)

Ms V Steele

Mrs E P Crossley

Mrs M Irwin

Mr J Patterson

Rev Dr D Watts

**Co-opted**

Rev U Marrs

Rev Canon C Wilson

Rev R Russell

Rev T McMullan

**Secretariat**

Mr R Fairmichael

**IRISH INTER-CHURCH COMMITTEE****Office-bearers**

Most Rev Dr Sean Brady

*(Co-President)*

Rev Dr Tom Norris

*(Joint Secretary)*

Mr Eamonn Fleming KCSG

Ms Gillian Kingston

*(Co-President)*

Rev Tony Davidson

*(Joint Secretary)*

**Roman Catholic**

Most Rev Dr Diarmuid Martin

Most Rev Dr Anthony Farquhar

Prof Brendan Leahy, SJ

Most Rev Dr Gerard Clifford

Most Rev John McAreavey

**Church of Ireland**

Rev Canon Ian Ellis

Rt Rev Michael Jackson

**Methodist Church**

Rev Winston Graham

Rev Elizabeth Hewitt

**Presbyterian Church**

Rev Dr Donald Watts

Rev Gabrielle Farquhar

*(Since Nov 06)*

**Moravian Church Irish District**

Mr Derick Woods

*(Representing smaller churches since Jan 06)*

**Romanian Orthodox Church**

Rev Fr Godfrey O'Donnell

*(Representing 4 Orthodox churches since Jan 06)*

**Inter Church Committee on Social Issues**

Mr Robert Cochran

*(Convenor since 2002)*

**Executive Secretary**

Mr Michael Earle

---

**INTER-CHURCH COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL ISSUES (ICCSI)****Roman Catholic**

Ms S Barry

Ms M Burns

Rev E McDevitt

Mrs M Harold

Mr P O'Reilly

Rev T Bartlett

Very Rev J Carroll

Mr P Durkan

Sr. C Muldoon

Sr. J Roddy

**Church of Ireland**

Miss V Darling

Mr I Slaine

Mr W T Morrow

**Methodist Church**Mr R Cochran (*Convenor*)

Rev D Clements

**Presbyterian Church**

Mr L Conway

Rev A Russell

Mrs P Crossley

**Salvation Army (Irish District)**

Major D Jackson

**ICC Staff**Mr A Cristea (*Parish Integration Programme*)

Mr R Fairmichael

**ALL-IRELAND CHURCHES' CONSULTATIVE MEETING ON  
RACISM (AICCMR)****Roman Catholic**

Fr Donal Bennett

Sr. Brighde Vallely

Sr. Joan Roddy

**Church of Ireland**Rt Rev Michael Jackson (*Chair*)

Mr Philip McKinley

**Methodist Church**

Mr Robert Cochran

**Presbyterian Church**

Rev Alan Martin  
Rev Richard Kerr

Rev Katherine Meyer

**Religious Society of Friends**

Anne Bennett

**Hope & Glory Christian Ministries**

Pastor Anthony Joseph

**ICC Staff**

Mr Rob Fairmichael  
Dr Scott Boldt (*until May 06*)

**NAMES OF BOARD MEMBERS OF CHRISTIAN AID IRELAND  
(for information)**

- \* Is also a Trustee of the UK/Ireland Board

***The Republic of Ireland registered Company:***

- \* Rev Dr Roger Purce (Presbyterian Church in Ireland)
- \* Ms Gillian Kingston (Methodist Church in Ireland)  
Rt Rev Michael A. J. Burrows (Church of Ireland)  
Rev Dr. Sahr Yambasu (Methodist Church in Ireland)  
Rev Ian Poulton (Church of Ireland)
- \* Rev Graham Sparkes (Baptist Union of Great Britain)  
Rev Matthew Reed (Church & Community Director of Christian Aid UK/Ireland)  
Mr. Martin Birch (Finance Director of Christian Aid UK/Ireland)

***The Northern Ireland registered Company:***

- \* Rev Dr Roger Purce (Presbyterian Church in Ireland)
- \* Lady Christine Eames (Church of Ireland)  
Rev Norman Hutton (Non-Subscribing Presbyterian Church of Ireland)  
Mrs. Roberta McKelvey (**Irish Council of Churches**)  
Mrs. Fiona Watts (Presbyterian Church in Ireland)  
Rev Dr Mark Gray (Presbyterian Church in Ireland)
- \* Rev Graham Sparkes (Baptist Union of Great Britain)  
Rev Matthew Reed (Church & Community Director of Christian Aid UK/Ireland)  
Mr. Martin Birch (Finance Director of Christian Aid UK/Ireland)

**IRISH ECUMENICAL CHURCH LOAN FUND (ECLOF)**

Mr A Connolly  
Mr R Fairmichael  
Miss H McMillan

Mr M Earle  
Mrs L Hopley (Chair)  
Mr I Pearson

**INTER- CHURCH RECONCILIATION FUND FOR IRELAND (ICFRI)**

Fr Patrick Crilly  
Ms Lynda Gibson  
Mr Eddie McDowell  
Mr John McVey  
Mr Ian Slaine

Mrs Norma Dodds  
Mr Aidan Hart  
Mr Pat McKee  
Ms Mary Montague

Mr Rob Fairmichael (*ICC Staff*)

Mr M Earle (*ICC Staff*)

**ICC SECRETARIAT**

General Secretary  
Associate Secretary  
Administrator

Mr Michael Earle  
Mr Rob Fairmichael  
Mrs Karen Kelly

**COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES**

(to be reviewed after AGM 2007)

**Bill of Rights Forum (NI)**  
**Christian Aid Ireland (NI Board)**

Rev Dr S Hutchinson (*PCI*)  
Mrs R McKelvey (*CofI*)  
(2006 -

**Conference of European Churches**  
**Church & Society Commission**

Mr R Cochran (*MCI*)  
(2006 -10)

**Christian Education Movement**

Mr D Woods (*Moravian*)  
(since Nov 1993)

**Churches Together in Britain & Ireland**  
**(CTBI) Trustee Observers**

Mr H Henry  
Rt Rev M Jackson (*Resigned Feb 07*)  
Mrs G Kingston

|   |  |
|---|--|
| <b>CTBI International Affairs’<br/>Liaison Committee</b>                          | Rev Dr J Campbell ( <i>PCI</i> )<br>(since May 03)   |
| <b>CTBI Churches’ Commission on<br/>Inter-Faith Relations</b>                     | Rev Canon D Sinnamon ( <i>Cofl</i> )<br>(since May 97)   |
| <b>CTBI Churches’ Commission on<br/>Racial Justice</b>                            | Mrs D Wright ( <i>LifeLink</i> )<br>(Jan 2006-08)  |
| <b>CTBI Global Mission Network</b>  | Mrs M Irwin ( <i>PCI</i> )<br>(May 98 - 07)  |
| <b>CTBI Middle East Forum</b>   | Rev Dr R J G Gray ( <i>PCI</i> )<br>(May 98-06)  |
| <b>Irish Churches’ Council for TV<br/>and Radio Affairs (Republic of Ireland)</b> | Mrs M King ( <i>RSF</i> )<br>(since 2001)  |
| <b>RTE Audience Council</b>   | Vacant   |
| <b>NI Dept of Health Regional<br/>Equality Liaison Panel (RELP)</b>               | Rev Dr W Blair ( <i>MCI</i> )<br>(since 2005)  |
| <b>EMBRACE (NI) (Christians Working<br/>with Asylum Seekers, Refugees)</b>        | Mrs Denise Wright ( <i>LifeLink</i> )<br>(since 2004)  |
| <b>OFMDFM Race Equality Forum</b>   | Mrs Denise Wright ( <i>LifeLink</i> )<br>(since 2006)  |
| <b>Week of Prayer for Christian Unity<br/>(CTBI Four Nations Editorial Group)</b> | Rev S Pragnell ( <i>Cofl</i> )<br>(since 2005)<br>Fr A Eastwood CM ( <i>RC</i> )<br>(since 2007) |



## **GLOSSARY OF ACRONYMS AND OTHER ABBREVIATIONS USED IN THE COUNCIL'S WORK**

|              |   |
|--------------|---|
| ACTS.....    | Action of Churches Together in Scotland             |
| AICCMR ..... | All-Ireland Churches Consultative Meeting on Racism |
| BOA .....    | Board of Overseas Affairs (ICC)                     |
| C of I ..... | Church of Ireland                                   |
| CEC.....     | Conference of European Churches                     |
| CPEP .....   | Churches' Peace Education Programme                 |
| CRM.....     | Church Representatives Meeting (CTBI)               |
| CTE.....     | Churches Together in England                        |
| CTBI .....   | Churches Together in Britain and Ireland            |
| Cytûn.....   | Churches Together in Wales                          |
| DTQ .....    | Department of Theological Questions (IICM)          |
| EEA3.....    | Third European Ecumenical Assembly                  |
| ECI .....    | Eco-Congregation Ireland                            |
| ECLOF .....  | Irish Ecumenical Church Loan Fund                   |
| ICC.....     | Irish Council of Churches                           |
| ICCSI .....  | Inter Church Committee on Social Issues (IICM)      |
| ICRFI .....  | Inter-Church Reconciliation Fund for Ireland        |
| IES.....     | Irish Episcopal/Bishops' Conference (RC)            |

|              |  |
|--------------|--|
| IICC.....    | Irish Inter-Church Committee                           |
| IICM.....    | Irish Inter-Church Meeting                             |
| IEN .....    | Irish Ecumenical News (ICC)                            |
| ISE.....     | Irish School of Ecumenics                              |
| NIO .....    | Northern Ireland Office                                |
| OFMDFM ..... | Office of the First Minister and Deputy First Minister |
| PCI .....    | Presbyterian Church in Ireland                         |
| PIP.....     | Parish-based Integration Programme                     |
| PWA .....    | Presbyterian Women's Association                       |
| RC .....     | Roman Catholic Church in Ireland                       |
| ROI.....     | Republic of Ireland                                    |
| WCC.....     | World Council of Churches                              |
| WMC.....     | World Mission Committee (ICC/BOA)                      |



