

the Board of Education and the like. In addition there were significant debates on the topics of abortion and the withdrawal of artificial feeding and hydration, with the Synod displaying a marked disagreement with the views expressed in an Appendix to the Role of the Church Committee report. The Synod also debated, as part of its Standing Committee report, a proposal for a reduction in its own size and a re-arrangement of the system of representation. A motion which included provisional guidelines of the legislation was passed after a lively debate. It remains to be seen whether the spirit of self-sacrifice which was evident in this vote will be carried over to the debate and voting on the legislation.

THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE CHURCH IN WALES

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Although as Senior Diocesan Bishop the Right Reverend (as he then was) Dr Rowan Williams had presided over the meeting of the Governing Body in September 1999, the meeting on 26th and 27th April 2000 was the first over which the now Most Reverend Dr Rowan Williams had presided since his election and enthronement as Archbishop of Wales. The formal, constitutionally obligatory, notification of these events was read by the Senior Diocesan Bishop, the Right Reverend Dr Barry Morgan, Bishop of Llandaff, and was acknowledged warmly by the assembled company.

The meeting marked the launch of the Provincial Jubilee Fund, established to mark the year 2000 and to promote the principles of jubilee, namely release from all forms of slavery, the fair distribution of wealth, and care for creation, following the call of the 1998 Lambeth Conference. The Fund is intended to assist projects across the world which fulfil these principles, particularly in countries where there is suffering as a result of poverty, injustice and oppression. The Provincial Jubilee Fund in the first instance will support projects in Palestine, and in particular a mobile dental clinic in Gaza, in partnership with the Near East Council of Churches and Christian Aid, the Rawdat El Zuhur School in East Jerusalem and the Tamar Institute for Community Development in Ramallah on the West Bank.

Other presentations, not unrelated in concept but with application nearer to home, focused on the work of Wales Christian Aid and on the development of the Province's own Credit Union project, under which a contribution is being made for the five year period starting in April 1999 to support the work of the Credit Union Development Officer with the Wales Cooperative Centre in fostering the establishment and development of credit unions throughout the Province. This presentation was made by Lesley Bird, the Development Officer herself, in conjunction with the Reverend Brian Pippen, Rector of Pontypool and closely involved with credit union work personally, and also Mrs Valerie Martin, the Board of Mission's Provincial Social Responsibility Officer.

The April meeting is the time when the annual reports of the Board of Mission and of St Michael's College, Llandaff are presented. The Board of Mission report was introduced by the Reverend Enid Morgan, presenting her sixth and final report as Provincial Director of Mission before taking up her new appointment as Chaplain at Trinity College Carmarthen in the autumn. This presented an opportunity which was warmly welcomed by the Governing Body to acknowledge her work during her tenure of office and to wish her well for the future.

The report of St Michael's College was presented by its Principal, the Reverend Dr John Holdsworth, who was able to report an encouraging year for the College.

Another report presented was an interim report on a proposal to establish an ecumenical Bishop in Wales. The purpose of this office would be lead existing ecumenical work, to assist with the development of new ecumenical work and further to promote the cause of Christian unity. It is a concept not without its difficulties but which has been the subject of much consideration by Enfyys, the Commission of the Covenanted Churches in Wales, and a report on progress was given by the Reverend Marion Dowsett and Mr Gethin Jones.

The Anglican Consultative Council had met in September 1999 at the same time as the last meeting of the Governing Body, thus leading to the absence from that meeting of the Archdeacon of Wrexham, the Venerable Brian Williams, and Miss Sylvia Scarf, who accordingly presented a report on the proceedings at this meeting. ACC meetings undertake a heavy agenda and it was clear from the report that this last meeting had been no exception.

Two important measures received final approval, the first of these being a bill to implement the Reuilly Agreement which seeks to promote co-operation between the Church in Wales and the Church of the Augsburg Confession of Alsace and Lorraine, the Evangelical Lutheran Church of France, the Reformed Church of Alsace and Lorraine, the Reformed Church of France, the Church of England, the Church of Ireland and the Scottish Episcopal Church. This was the first bill to be promoted under the new bill procedure which was referred to in the report of the Governing Body's meeting in September 1999, which dispensed with the formal first reading and allowed for subsequent stages to be taken together, subject to certain safeguards to ensure that a potentially controversial bill is debated fully. This bill, deemed non-controversial by the Select Committee set up under the new arrangements to scrutinise it, was not challenged when presented to the Governing Body and was therefore passed and promulgated as a new canon at the same meeting.

In addition to passing the bill, the Governing Body considered and approved a proposal by the Bench of Bishops to authorise the continued use of a number of alternative orders of service on the basis of the Bench's indication that by the end of 2006 the full revision of all the orders concerned would have been completed, and that accordingly it would be possible to put forward definitive proposals by that time.

THE GENERAL SYNOD OF THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND

BRIAN HANSON

Registrar and Legal Services Director

At the February 2000 Group of Sessions of the General Synod two Amending Canons were promulgated, namely No 22, which gives power to the bishop to permit a parish for a limited period to use forms of service which are no longer approved for use in the Church (see 5 Ecc LJ 209), and No 23, which permits authorised services to be used in languages other than English and in British Sign Language for the deaf (see 5 Ecc LJ 210).

Final approval was given to Amending Canon No 25, which gives *ex officio* membership of the Upper House of Convocation (and thereby to the General Synod House of Bishops) to the Bishop of Dover. It is expected that the Canon will be promulgated at the July Sessions in time to take effect before the elections to Convocation.