



**As approved at our AGM on 16 June 2018**

## **WE ARE CHURCH IRELAND**

### **PRINCIPLES OF ORGANISATION**

#### **PREAMBLE**

We Are Church Ireland is a movement within the Roman Catholic Church with links to the International Movement We Are Church. We seek to be disciples of Jesus Christ and we are committed to pray and work for the renewal and transformation of the Church, discerning the signs of the times under the guidance of the Holy Spirit. Our motto is that of the prophet Micah: “Act justly, love tenderly and walk humbly with our God.”(Micah 6:8)

#### **1. Introduction**

- 1.1. The name of the organisation is WE ARE CHURCH IRELAND (WAC-IRL)
- 1.2. It is an autonomous body with links to WE ARE CHURCH INTERNATIONAL which shares the five aims stated in **2** below.

#### **2. Aims**

WE ARE CHURCH IRELAND seeks to achieve the following five aims (‘the Aims’) in the Roman Catholic Church:

- 2.1. Equality of all the baptised, where decision making is actively shared by all, with appropriate structures for this.
- 2.2. Full participation of women in all aspects of church life, including priesthood.
- 2.3. Recognition of the primacy of conscience.
- 2.4. Promotion of a positive attitude towards sexuality and the removal of the obligation of clerical celibacy.

2.5. An inclusive church, open and welcoming to all, which does not marginalise people because of their sexual orientation, marital situation or for any other reason.

### **3. Membership**

3.1. Membership is open to all individuals over 18 years of age who support the Aims and pay the annual subscription by June 30<sup>th</sup>.

3.2. From **the 1<sup>st</sup> January 2013** the membership annual subscription will be

(a) €5 per annum for those aged over 65 and those who are unwaged.

(b) €10 per annum for all others.

3.3. Individuals register their wish to become members and to support the Aims by completing the Application Form, sending it either online or by post, and by paying the annual subscription.

### **4. Organisation**

4.1. WAC-IRL is a democratic organisation, with its members determining how it shall be organised and structured by a simple majority vote (i.e. more than 50% of the valid votes cast.) Each member is entitled to one vote which is cast either in person or by post.

4.2. The **General Membership** of WAC-IRL meets annually for an Annual General Meeting (AGM) at which the **Core Group** presents an Annual Report and Annual Audited Accounts for the previous calendar year for the approval of the members. The AGM is held not later than 30<sup>th</sup> June each year.

4.3. WAC-IRL strives to reach consensual decisions.

4.4. All members of the **Core Group** are unpaid volunteers. They may be reimbursed certain expenses incurred on behalf of WAC- IRL subject to the approval of the Core Group.

4.5. All members of the Core Group will be registered as Trustees of WAC-IRL with the Charities Regulator.

4.6. The role of the Core Group is to:

1. Represent WAC-IRL.

2. Implement decisions of the AGMs and EGMs of WAC-IRL.

3. Develop and implement activities to achieve the Aims.

4. Encourage and support the setting up of Regional Groups to promote the Aims.

5. Build and maintain links with all who support the Aims.

6. Undertake media and PR work in support of the Aims.

### **5. Election of the Core Group**

5.1. The Core Group is gender balanced so that in the six positions there are three female and three male members.

5.2. The six members of the Core Group are elected by secret ballot of all members at an AGM for which members have received due notice.

5.3. Notice of General Meetings and of elections is issued by the Secretary, at the direction of the Core Group, to all members either online or by post, at least five weeks in advance of the proposed date.

- 5.4. At least 35 days prior to the relevant AGM/EGM, and at the direction of the Core Group, the Core Group issues a call for nominations for election as a member of the Core Group. Nominations are proposed and seconded by two members of WAC-IRL and signed by the nominee (who must be a member of WAC-IRL) to confirm her/his agreement to be nominated. Nominations need to be received by a member of the Core Group at least 21 days before the General Meeting. If the number of nominations received does not match, in number and gender, the number of vacancies, then a secret ballot of all members shall be held at the AGM/EGM.
- 5.5. If an election fails to produce the required gender balance the relevant vacancy is kept open until a suitable candidate can be co-opted. A co-opted member of the Core Group must be ratified at the next AGM or EGM. Time served by co-opted members prior to ratification is not counted towards their maximum term (3x2 years.)
- 5.6. Each member of the Core Group is elected for a two year term. Members may offer themselves for re-election for a further two consecutive terms. Thus the maximum continuous term for anyone on the Core Group is six years.
- 5.7. Retiring members of the Core Group are eligible for re-election after two years and may not be co-opted to the Core Group within that time.
- 5.8. Officers in the Core Group are elected by the Core Group members. Officer positions are:
  - A. Two co-ordinators (gender balanced)
  - B. Treasurer
- 5.9. The Core Group meets at least six times every year. The quorum for a meeting is four members either present or in communication with the meeting.
- 5.10. An Extraordinary General Meeting must be called by the Core Group within 28 days of receipt by the Core Group of a request stating the issue to be discussed and signed by at least fifteen members.

## **6. Finance and Financial Control**

- 6.1. The Core Group is responsible for the Regulation of Financial Affairs, including the appointment of a suitably qualified auditor who cannot be a member of the Core Group.
- 6.2. The Treasurer is responsible for the maintenance of a satisfactory system of accounting and preparation of Annual Accounts.
- 6.3. The Core Group has no authority to enter into any borrowings or loans without the approval of a General Meeting.

## **7. Changes to the WAC-IRL Principles of Organisation**

Changes to the Principles of Organisation are made by a secret ballot of all members at a General Meeting. Members unable to attend a General Meeting may vote by post.

## **8. Income and Property**

The income and property of the organisation shall be applied solely towards the promotion of main object(s) as set forth in this Principle of Organisation. No portion of the organisation's income and property shall be paid or transferred directly or indirectly by way of dividend, bonus or otherwise howsoever by way of profit to members of the organisation. No charity trustee shall be appointed to any office of the organisation paid by salary or fees, or receive any remuneration or other benefit in money or money's worth from the body. However, nothing shall prevent any payment in good faith by the organisation of:

- a) reasonable and proper remuneration to any member or servant of the organisation (not being a charity trustee) for any services rendered to the organisation;
- b) interest at a rate not exceeding 1% above the Euro Interbank Offered Rate (Euribor) per annum on money lent by charity trustees or other members of the organisation to the organisation;
- c) reasonable and proper rent for premises demised and let by any member of the organisation (including any charity trustee) to the organisation;
- d) reasonable and proper out-of-pocket expenses incurred by any charity trustee in connection with their attendance to any matter affecting the organisation;
- e) fees, remuneration or other benefit in money or money's worth to any Company of which a charity trustee may be a member holding not more than one hundredth part of the issued capital of such Company;
- f) Nothing shall prevent any payment by the body to a person pursuant to an agreement entered into in compliance with section 89 of the Charities Act, 2009 (as for the time being amended, extended or replaced).

## **9. Additions, alterations or amendments**

The organisation must ensure that the Charities Regulator has a copy of its most recent governing instrument. If it is proposed to make an amendment to the Governing Instrument of the organisation which requires the prior approval of the Charities Regulator, advance notice in writing of the proposed changes must be given to the Charities Regulator for approval, and the amendment shall not take effect until such approval is received.

## **10. Winding-up**

If upon the winding up or dissolution of the organisation there remains, after satisfaction of all debts and liabilities, any property whatsoever, it shall not be paid to or distributed among the members of the organisation. Instead, such property shall be given or transferred to some other charitable institution or institutions having main objects similar to the main objects of the organisation. The institution or institutions to which the property is to be given or transferred shall prohibit the distribution of their income and property among their members to an extent at least as great as is imposed on the organisation under or by virtue of Clause 10 hereof. Members of the organisation shall select the relevant institution or institutions at or before the time of dissolution, and if and so far as effect cannot be given to such provisions, then the property shall be given or transferred to some charitable object with the agreement of the Charities Regulator. Final accounts will be prepared and submitted that will include a section that identifies and values any assets transferred along with the details of the recipients and the terms of the transfer.

## APPENDIX 1

### WE ARE CHURCH IRELAND MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM

WE ARE CHURCH IRELAND seeks to achieve the following five aims in the Roman Catholic Church:

1. Equality of all the baptised where decision making is actively shared by all, with appropriate structures for this.
2. Full participation of women in all aspects of church life, including priesthood.
3. Recognition of the primacy of conscience.
4. Promotion of a positive attitude towards sexuality and removal of the obligation of clerical celibacy.
5. An inclusive church, open and welcoming to all, which does not marginalise people because of their sexual orientation, marital status or for any other reason.

Surname: \_\_\_\_\_

First Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Mobile: \_\_\_\_\_

I wish to become a member of WAC-IRL and agree to support the five aims above.  
I am over 18 years of age.

Annual Subscription: €5 / €10 (Please tick)    Donation: €.....

Payment: Paid online/ cheque or money order enclosed (Please tick).

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Please send your completed form to WAC-IRL, Saint Francois, 26 Avoca Avenue, Blackrock A94 Y1X3, Co. Dublin

**APPENDIX 2**

**NOMINATION FORM**  
**FOR THE CORE GROUP**  
**OF WE ARE CHURCH IRELAND**

We the undersigned, being members of WAC-IRL, nominate the following WAC-IRL member

\_\_\_\_\_

as a member of the Core Group.

Proposer Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Seconder Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Proposer Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Seconder Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

I, \_\_\_\_\_, being a member of WAC-IRL,  
accept the above nomination. I am female/male (Please tick as appropriate)

Nominee Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Nominee Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Please send your completed form to WAC-IRL, Saint Francois, 26 Avoca Avenue, Blackrock A94 Y1X3,  
Co. Dublin