

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. As disciples of Jesus Christ 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 the INTERNATIONAL MOVEMENT WE ARE CHURCH 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.
- 4.4.1. 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.
- 4.4.2. 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 Secretary issues a call for nominations for election as a member of the Core Group.
- 5.5. 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 the Secretary at least 21 days before the General Meeting.

- 5.6. 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.
- 5.7. 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.)
- 5.8. 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.
- 5.9. 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.
- 5.10. 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 Secretary of a request stating the issue to be discussed and signed by at least fifteen members.

**Note: Special Circumstances in 2013 and 2014 in order to ensure continuity**

At the AGM in 2013 a Core Group will be elected. At the AGM in 2014 three members will resign. They may offer themselves for re-election if they wish.

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

- 6.1. The Core Group is responsible for the Regulation of Financial Affairs, and the accounts must be reviewed by a suitably-qualified individual 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.

## 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, 27 Castlepark Road, Dalkey, Co. Dublin.

**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, 27 Castlepark Road, Dalkey, Co. Dublin