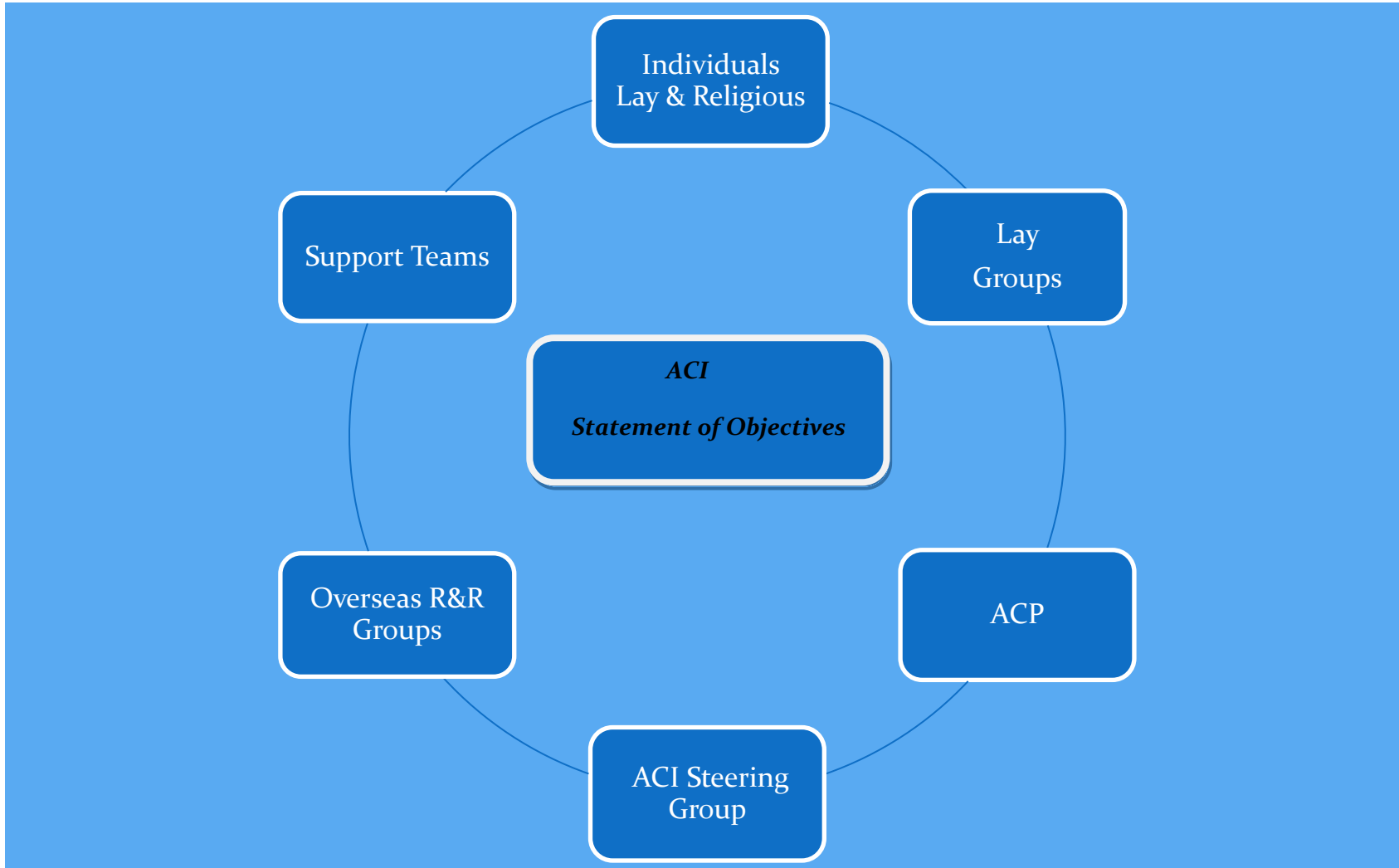


## Association of Catholics in Ireland [ACI]



## Explanatory Notes.

- **The Association of Catholics in Ireland [ACI].** The ACI is an organisation working from within the Roman Catholic Church in Ireland promoting a Reform and Renewal Agenda.
- **Membership.** Membership of the ACI is open to all [over 18 years] who support the Statement of Objectives.
- **‘Statement of Objectives’.** The ‘Statement of Objectives’ is the agreed expression of the shared views of the membership of the ACI - Lay Groups, Lay individuals and Member of Religious Orders. The ACI promotes inclusivity and supports and welcomes the diversity of membership which is a characteristic and strength of the Association.
- **Steering Group [SG].** The members of the SG are elected at the AGM – see ACI Election Procedures. The SG is elected to work on behalf of and serve the members of the ACI as directed by the membership. The SG should ideally consist of 8-10 members. Every effort will be made through the candidate selection and election process to achieve the desired balance in terms of gender, age and geographic representation. The SG, once elected, will be empowered to consider how best to address any imbalances in the composition of the SG which it is deemed will hinder the effective workings of the SG. The responsibilities and roles of the SG members are assigned and rotated by agreement amongst the SG members with the objective of providing the most effective service to the members of the ACI .
- **Lay Groups.** Lay Groups which subscribe to the ACI ‘Statement of Objectives’ may align with the ACI.
- **Individuals – Lay, Priests & Religious.** Individuals (lay, priest and religious) who choose not to affiliate to a Reform and Renewal Group may opt to join the ACI as a ‘non-aligned’ member. Members of Reform and Renewal Groups may also join the ACI as individual members.
- **Association of Catholic Priests ACP.** Many elements of the ACI’s Reform and Renewal agenda are shared by the ACP. There is a very close relationship between the two organisations. The ACI-ACP Leadership Group is a forum created to facilitate formal discussions between the two associations on matters of mutual interest. Reports of such discussions are reported on both organisations’ websites.

- **Overseas Groups.** The ACI maintains and encourages contact with international groups seeking Reform and Renewal in the Catholic Church through the regular exchanges of correspondence, reports on meetings and developments of interest in the various countries, particularly via the websites of the various organisations.
- **Support Teams.** The SG may establish Support Teams to contribute to the development of the ACI and to meet the on-going needs of the members or needs related to particular events or circumstances arising from time to time. The number and composition of the Support Teams is a matter for decision by the SG. It is envisaged, however, that there will be a number of ‘Standing Support Teams’ as follows:
  - **Finance Team:** Managing the finances of the ACI and presenting annual accounts to the ACI AGM. The Finance Team will include Joint Treasurers (2) and at least three other members.
  - **Website Support Team:** Managing the ACI website on a ‘day to day’ basis.
  - **Media Relations, PR & Communications:** Providing advice on matters relating to PR, media & Communications.