**Worship as a Conduit for Identity and the Question of Christian Education.**

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**ABSTRACT**

The Church of Ireland understands its worship, in all its „rich variety of forms,‟ to be „central to the life of the Church.‟1 In keeping with Anglican tradition and theology, that worship, in part, bears public witness to the centrality of the Church‟s doctrinal identity in its „subscription to the creeds of the early Church.‟2 That reality, and the Church of Ireland‟s sense of self-understanding and ecclesial identity, made evident through the liturgy of *The Book of Common Prayer* and public through the Church‟s corporate acts of worship, seeks „to unify the worship of God‟s people while allowing scope for diversity within the essential unity of the Church‟s prayer.‟3

Through the worship of the local Church, this research seeks to evaluate the intellectual assent to those doctrinal claims. It begins with an evaluation of the need for, the impetus for, and the methodological parameters of this study. It then offers, in synopsis, a review of the nature, intent, and understanding of Christian worship at congregational level. It also considers how that worship, through the structure and doctrinal tenets of *The Book of Common Prayer*, confers a specific identity upon the membership of the Church of Ireland. This research then presents an evaluation of the key markers of Anglican doctrinal identity, and offers alternative interpretations of what may comprise a sense of identity for the members of the Church.

Ultimately, given the analysis of the interview research data it contains, it is to be hoped that this project will inspire the Church of Ireland to reassess its educational policies in regard to its members‟ understanding of its corporate worship’s function and intent, and of how that worship confers an Anglican identity upon them.