

## ABSTRACT

Recognising the dissonance between the rapid change in Western culture and the prevailing Modernity-Christendom mindset within the church, this dissertation seeks to reclaim and reimagine the church's missionary identity for the contemporary context. It will be argued that this identity is formed through affective corporate worship and personal spiritual practices, and most effectively expressed in contextually appropriate means of meeting contextually specific needs.

Conscious of the diversity of churchmanships within the Church of Ireland, this dissertation engages with missiologists and Christian formation writers from a variety of traditions and applies these findings through the lens of the lived experience of seven ministry practitioners. From this, a missionary spirituality emerges which is expressed through a "*formissional*" framework for the local parish – a paradigm for mission that is more concerned with the deep formation of a missionary community than with the development of fresh missiological innovations.

The four elements to the *formissional* paradigm, which provide both spiritual tributaries and outlets, are the *Incarnational*, *Intercessory*, *Cruciform*, and *Charismatic*. These four elements arise from the synthesis of a number of key models and observations and are explored in their own dedicated chapters.

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