

**BILL NO 1**

**Explanatory Memorandum**

In 2008, the General Synod approved, by the requisite majorities, a resolution granting leave for the introduction of this Bill and accompanying Schedule in 2009.

The Bill provides for the amendment of the *Book of Common Prayer*, by including in all future printings thereof, the *Declaration*, as set out in the accompanying Schedule, immediately preceding the *Articles of Religion*.

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VERY REV PW ROOKE  
MR DB O'CALLAGHAN

**BILL**

**(at the request of the General Synod)**

**To carry into effect a Resolution of the General Synod 2008 to amend the *Book of Common Prayer* by including therein the *Declaration* as set out in the accompanying Schedule.**

WHEREAS it is desirable that the *Declaration*, as set out in the accompanying Schedule, be included in the *Book of Common Prayer*, immediately preceding the *Articles of Religion*;

AND WHEREAS it is expedient to include the *Declaration*, which was adopted by a Resolution of the General Synod of 1999, with regard to its understanding of the historic formularies of the Church of Ireland, in the *Book of Common Prayer*;

BE IT ENACTED by the Archbishops and Bishops and the Clergy and Laity of the Church of Ireland in General Synod assembled in Galway in the year 2008, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1. In all future printings of the *Book of Common Prayer* there shall be included the *Declaration*, as set out in the accompanying Schedule, immediately preceding the *Articles of Religion*.

## SCHEDULE

### **Declaration**

The Church of Ireland is part of the one, holy, catholic, and apostolic Church, worshipping the one true God - Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. It professes the faith uniquely revealed in the Holy Scriptures and set forth in the catholic creeds: which faith the Church is called upon to proclaim afresh in each generation. Led by the Holy Spirit, it has borne witness to Christian truth in its historic formularies - the Thirty-nine Articles of Religion, the Book of Common Prayer, the Ordering of Bishops, Priests and Deacons and the Declaration prefixed to the Statutes of the Church of Ireland (1870).

These historic formularies are a definition of the faith as proclaimed by the Church of Ireland, and thus form an important part of the inheritance through which this Church has been formed in its faith and witness to this day. The formularies that have been passed on are part of a living tradition that today must face new challenges and grasp fresh opportunities.

Historic documents often stem from periods of deep separation between Christian Churches. Whilst, in spite of a real degree of convergence, distinct differences remain, negative statements towards other Christians should not be seen as representing the spirit of this Church today.

The Church of Ireland affirms all in its tradition that witnesses to the truth of the Gospel. It regrets that words written in another age and in a different context should be used in a manner hurtful to or antagonistic towards other Christians.

The Church of Ireland seeks the visible unity of the Church. In working towards that goal this Church is committed to reaching out towards other Churches in a spirit of humility and love, that together all Christians may grow towards unity in life and mission to the glory of God.