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*Conversions and Transformations:  
Missiological Approaches to Religious Change*

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*Abstract*

**Bonding Motives within an Migrant Community.**

Access Paths of Anglicans and non-Anglicans  
to the International Anglican Congregation Christ Church in Vienna

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Christ Church Vienna is an international community. Although originally founded as a church for British residents<sup>1</sup> in Austria it is today diverse with members from all over the world. Consequently migration and mobility are important aspects for the community. Some of the members grew up as Anglicans, but a large group of people of non-Anglican origin joined the congregation in the past. Interviews I conducted within the congregation revealed that there was always a conscious decision for the interviewees to join Christ Church Vienna.

While asking for a contemporary understanding and practise of mission for Christ Church in the context of migration one part of my doctoral project asks for reasons to join the congregation. Some people came because they wanted to continue their Anglican/English tradition they grew up

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<sup>1</sup> Barbara Brash, *By His Grace: The History and Life of Christ Church Vienna 1887 - 1977* (Christ Church Vienna, n.d.).

with. Therefore the English language plays an important role. The impression that Christ Church is a *British church*<sup>2</sup> you can find among insiders and outsiders, although only half of the congregation are native English speakers. Another important aspect to join Christ Church is to find support in a migrant peer group during difficult processes of acculturation.<sup>3</sup> Maybe the often mentioned idea of *home*<sup>4</sup> is also connected to tough migration experiences. Beyond that one can recognize decisions of faith as well. The ecumenical openness of the Anglican ecclesiology<sup>5</sup> was mentioned sometimes as an important motive. The concept of reconciliation or the restoration of community as the *Mission of God* can be quite helpful concerning the situation of Christ Church Vienna.<sup>6</sup>

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2 Michael Doe, *Saving Power - The Mission of God and the Anglican Communion* (Spck, 2011).

3 Andreas Zick, *Psychologie Der Akkulturation: Neufassung Eines Forschungsbereiches*, 2010th ed. (VS Verlag für Sozialwissenschaften, 2009).

4 Hans-Joachim Höhn, *Fremde Heimat Kirche: Glauben in der Welt von heute*, 1st ed. (Freiburg: Verlag Herder, 2012).

5 Paul D. L. Avis, *The Identity of Anglicanism: Essentials of Anglican Ecclesiology* (London; New York: T & T Clark, 2007).

6 Phil Groves, *Living Reconciliation* (London: Spck, 2014); Titus Leonard Presler, *Going Global With God: Reconciling Mission in a World of Difference*, 1st ed. (Morehouse Publishing, 2010).