

**GENERAL CONVENTION OF THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH 2009  
ARCHIVES' RESEARCH REPORT**

**RESOLUTION NO.:** 2009-C029  
**TITLE:** Choice of Lectionary  
**PROPOSER:** Diocese of New York  
**COMMITTEE:** Prayer Book, Liturgy & Church Music

---

---

**Directly Related:** (attached)

2006-A077 Use the Revised Common Lectionary as the Lectionary of this Church  
2003-A013 On the Topic of Biomedical Ethics  
2000-A063 Continue Trial Use of The Revised Common Lectionary  
1997-A072 Authorize Continued Trial Use of The Revised Common Lectionary  
1994-A072 Authorize Trial Use of The Revised Common Lectionary

**Indirectly Related:**

2006-A077 Use the Revised Common Lectionary as the Lectionary of this Church  
2003-A103 Authorize Use of the Revised Common Lectionary  
2000-A063 Continue Trial Use of The Revised Common Lectionary  
1997-A072 Authorize Continued Trial Use of The Revised Common Lectionary  
1979-A121 Declare Guidelines for Worship From the 1928 Prayer Book

*In preparing this report, the Archives researched the resolutions of General Convention for the period 1976 through 2006, selecting "direct" resolutions that have a substantive bearing on the proposed legislation. Committee members who are interested in obtaining copies of "indirectly related" resolutions, legislative history before 1976, or who require other research assistance should contact the Archives at 800-525-9329 before Convention or at Convention in the General Convention Secretariat.*



**Resolution Number:** 2006-A077  
**Title:** Use the Revised Common Lectionary as the Lectionary of this Church  
**Legislative Action Taken:** Concurred as Amended  
**Final Text:**

***Resolved, That the 75th General Convention direct that the Revised Common Lectionary shall be the Lectionary of this Church, amending the Lectionary on pp. 889-921 of The Book of Common Prayer, effective the First Sunday of Advent, 2007; with the provision for continued use of the previous Lectionary for purposes of orderly transition, with the permission of the Ecclesiastical Authority, until the First Sunday of Advent 2010.***

**Citation:** General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Columbus, 2006* (New York: General Convention, 2007), p. 466.



**Resolution Number:** 2003-A103  
**Title:** Authorize Use of the Revised Common Lectionary  
**Legislative Action Taken:** Concurred as Substituted  
**Final Text:**

*Resolved, That the 74th General Convention authorize the permissive use of the Revised Common Lectionary under the direction of the Bishop or Ecclesiastical authority of the Diocese.*

**Citation:** General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Minneapolis, 2003* (New York: General Convention, 2004), p. 354.



**Resolution Number:** 2000-A063  
**Title:** Continue Trial Use of The Revised Common Lectionary  
**Legislative Action Taken:** Concurred as Substituted  
**Final Text:**

*Resolved, That the readings and psalms of **The Revised Common Lectionary**, as distinct from the rubrics, be authorized for continued trial use during the 2001-2003 triennium; and be it further Resolved, That, for purposes of trial use, **The Revised Common Lectionary** be adapted in the following ways:*

1. **III Advent Year B**  
Add Canticle 3 or 15 as an alternative to the psalm appointed.  
**III Advent Year C**  
Add Canticle 9 as an alternative to the psalm appointed.
2. **First Sunday after Christmas Day**  
Substitute readings from the lectionary in the Book of Common Prayer.
3. **Second Sunday after Christmas**  
Substitute readings from the lectionary in the Book of Common Prayer.
4. **Ash Wednesday**  
Substitute Psalm 103 or 103:8-14. (Psalm 51 is used as part of the liturgy for Ash Wednesday in the BCP.)
5. **II Lent Year A**  
Omit the option of Matthew 17:1-9.  
**II Lent Year B**  
Omit the option of Mark 9:2-9.  
**II Lent Year C**  
Omit the option of Luke 9:28-36. (These RCL options are stories of the Transfiguration, which would not be appropriate to use in II Lent after we have celebrated the Transfiguration on last Epiphany.)
6. **III Lent Year C**  
Substitute Exodus 3:1-15. (Isaiah 55:1-9 is used at the Easter Vigil.)
7. **Weekdays in Easter Week**  
Insert lections for Weekdays in Easter from the Book of Common Prayer.
8. **Vigil of Pentecost**  
Insert lections from the Book of Common Prayer.
9. **Trinity Sunday**  
Add Canticle 2 or 13 as an alternative to the psalm appointed.
10. **The Annunciation**  
Add Canticle 3 or 15 as an alternative to the psalm appointed.
11. **Holy Cross Day**  
Substitute lections from the lectionary in the Book of Common Prayer.

**12. Proper 8, Year B**

**Add verses 21 and 22 to the reading from Lamentations. (*The Revised Common Lectionary* begins at verse 23, which is in middle of a sentence and is out of context.); and be it further**

***Resolved*, That Bishops be encouraged to designate several congregations in their dioceses to use the Sunday readings in Cycle C (Advent 2000-Advent 2001) contained in *The Revised Common Lectionary* in order to enhance the effectiveness of trial use; and be further**

***Resolved*, That the Standing Commission on Liturgy and Music develop a simple form to enable dioceses to make available to the Standing Commission the results of this trial use, and that these results be reported to the 74th General Convention.**

**Citation:** General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Denver, 2000* (New York: General Convention, 2001), p. 655f.



**Resolution Number:** 1997-A072  
**Title:** Authorize Continued Trial Use of The Revised Common Lectionary  
**Legislative Action Taken:** Concurred As Amended  
**Final Text:**

***Resolved, That the reading and psalms of *The Revised Common Lectionary* be authorized by this 72nd General Convention for continued trial use for study and evaluation during the triennium, beginning with the First Sunday of Advent 1997, as authorized by the Ordinary; and be it further***

***Resolved, That the Standing Liturgical Commission be directed to invite comments from those who have engaged in study, evaluation, and trial use of *The Revised Common Lectionary*, and to report to the 73rd General Convention such amendments as may be deemed appropriate in the light of such comments; and be it further***

***Resolved, That an additional sum of \$1,000 be appropriated for the 1997-2000 triennium, to cover consultant expenses in this work; and be it further***

***Resolved, That the Standing Liturgical Commission be directed to propose to the 73rd General Convention an amendment to the Lectionary of *The Book of Common Prayer*, to take effect from the first day of Advent in the year 2003, adopting *The Revised Common Lectionary*, with such amendments as are developed as a result of further study.***

**Citation:** General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Philadelphia, 1997* (New York: General Convention, 1998), pp. 721-722.



**Resolution Number:** 1994-A072  
**Title:** Authorize Trial Use of The Revised Common Lectionary  
**Legislative Action Taken:** Concurred As Submitted  
**Final Text:**

*Resolved*, the House of Deputies concurring, **That the readings and psalms of *The Revised Common Lectionary* be authorized by this 71st General Convention for trial use for study and evaluation during the triennium, beginning with the First Sunday of Advent 1994, as authorized by the Ordinary.**

**Citation:** General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Indianapolis, 1994* (New York: General Convention, 1995), p. 683.

**13 - Prayer Book, Liturgy and Music: HB**

C029

TOPIC/TITLE: Liturgy: Choice of Lectionary

PROPOSER: Diocese of New York

C&C PAGE:

BB PAGE:

---

1 *Resolved*, the House of \_\_\_\_\_ concurring, That the 76th General Convention direct the  
2 Standing Commission on Liturgy and Music to authorize a study of the Ecclesiastical  
3 Authority of the dioceses of the Episcopal Church to grant permission for the use of the  
4 Lectionary found in the 1979 Book of Common Prayer beyond the First Sunday of  
5 Advent 2010, indefinitely, or until further action of General Convention; that the  
6 Lectionary found in the 1979 Book of Common Prayer and the Revised Common  
7 Lectionary continue as equal choices for the worship of this church; and be it further  
8 *Resolved*, that the Standing Commission on Liturgy and Music report back to the 77th  
9 General Convention.  
10  
11  
12  
13

**EXPLANATION:**

The 75th General Convention of the Episcopal Church, meeting in Columbus, Ohio in 2006, directed that "the Revised Common Lectionary shall be the Lectionary of this Church, amending the Lectionary on pp. 889-921 of The Book of Common Prayer, effective the First Sunday of Advent, 2007." The Convention also made provision for "continued use of the previous Lectionary for purposes of orderly transition, with the permission of the Ecclesiastical Authority, until the First Sunday of Advent 2010." There is not a broadly-based consensus in the Diocese of New York that favors the Revised Common Lectionary over the Lectionary found in the 1979 Book of Common Prayer. Rather, since the adoption of the Revised Common Lectionary in 2007, it has become clear that well-reasoned preferences for both lectionaries are found among the churches and clergy of this diocese. The Right Reverend Mark Sisk, Bishop of New York, while accepting the action of General Convention, and the new place of the Revised Common Lectionary in the Episcopal Church, has asked that the 1979 Lectionary be used at all occasions of his own Episcopal visitations to churches in the Diocese of New York, and has issued blanket permission for any and all churches in his diocese to continue to use the 1979 Lectionary through the First Sunday of Advent 2010. Many churches in the diocese, so permitted, have thus chosen not to introduce the Revised Common Lectionary into their worship, while many others have. It is the desire of the Bishop of New York, supported by the Diocesan Liturgical Commission, that both the 1979 Lectionary and the Revised Common Lectionary remain as equally acceptable choices for liturgical use in the Episcopal Church.