

STANDING COMMISSION ON LITURGY AND MUSIC SUB-COMMITTEE ON THE BOOK OF OCCASIONAL SERVICES

Membership

Ms. Ana Hernandez, <i>Co-Chair</i>	New York, II	2018
The Rev. Dr. Paul Carmona, Ph.D.	San Diego, VIII	2018
The Rev. Paul Fromberg	California, VIII	2018
The Rt. Rev. Jeffrey Lee	Chicago, V	2018
The Rt. Rev. George Wayne Smith	Missouri, V	2018
The Rev. Canon James F. Turrell	Bethlehem, III	2018
The Rev. Devon Anderson, <i>Ex Officio</i>	Minnesota, VI	2018
The Rev. Paul Burrows, <i>Representative of the President of the House of Deputies</i>	California, VIII	2018
The Rev. Lydia Huttar Brown, <i>Other</i>	Minnesota, VI	
The Rev. Patrick Malloy, <i>Other</i>	Bethlehem, III	
The Rev. Michael Pipkin, <i>Other</i>	Minnesota, VI	

Mandate

Resolution 2015-A059 directed “the Standing Commission on Liturgy and Music to continue its work on a comprehensive revision of the Book of Occasional Services, to seek widespread input on the table of contents and scope of the revision, and to report on its progress to the 79th General Convention.”

Summary of Work

MEETINGS

Tele/Web Conference Meetings: January 14, 2016; March 3, 2016; March 10, 2016; March 11, 2016;
April

13, 2016; May 5, 2016; June 30, 2016; July 13, 2016; August 24, 2016; October 21, 2016.

In-Person Meetings: Nov. 18-21, 2015 (Linthicum Heights, MD); Oct. 5-8, 2016 (Chaska, MN); March 29-Apr 1, 2017 (Linthicum Heights, MD), September 27-30, 2017 (Renton, WA).

THE NEED FOR REVISION

The process of revision of the Book of Occasional Services 2003 continued in the past triennium as a response to 2012-A056. The need for revision expressed at that time noted that “a variety of considerations indicate that a revision of the Book of Occasional Services is both desirable and necessary.” Noteworthy among these considerations were the pastoral exigency for additional resources, the availability of new liturgical resources being used in the Church, and concerns regarding the use of archaic language. Additionally, there is a recognized need for new resources for use in the cycle of the liturgical year appropriate for the diverse membership of the Episcopal Church. The BOS Subcommittee has continued the work from the past triennium, and now presents a revised Book of Occasional Services.

PURPOSE AND CRITERIA

The Subcommittee continues to endorse the purpose and criteria for the BOS stated by the SCLM in the past triennium.

Purpose of the BOS:

The Book of Occasional Services is a collection of liturgical and catechetical resources in support of the fundamental liturgical life of The Episcopal Church.

Criteria for Resources in the BOS:

Primarily, resources included in the BOS should

1. Complement or supplement the BCP, but not duplicate the resources it contains;
2. Be consistent with the theological, sacramental, and liturgical ethos of the BCP;
3. Pertain to a specific occasion, need, or purpose that does not occur generally or frequently enough to warrant inclusion in the BCP;
4. Draw on liturgical materials that are already being broadly used in worshipping communities;
5. Secondly, it is desirable that some of the resources included in the BOS;
6. Serve the needs, or reflect the liturgical expressions, of diverse populations within The Episcopal Church;
7. Be adaptable for use by lay persons or clergy in a variety of non-ecclesial settings.

We also held in mind that the Book of Occasional Services contains liturgical materials for public worship, and that it is not intended as a compendium of materials primarily for private devotion.

DEVELOPING A TIMELINE FOR THE WORK

The starting point for the Subcommittee’s work was developing a timeline. We charted three phases of work:

1. For the first half of 2016 the Subcommittee reviewed the assigned sections of the Sample Table of Contents, making recommendations to determine what we would include in the revision, and sharing this work with the full SCLM.
2. From July 2016 through the end of March 2017 members of the Subcommittee, along with our consultants, revised and developed materials for the revision.
3. From April 2017 through the end of October 2017 the texts were refined and edited for inclusion in the revision.
4. We anticipate that following the 79th General Convention, the Subcommittee will make final preparations for publication of the *Book of Occasional Services, 2018*.

DEVELOPING A STRUCTURE FOR THE WORK

In order for the Subcommittee to accomplish this work, members worked in working groups to collect, compose, and edit materials. These six working groups consisted of:

1. *The Church Year.*
2. *Christian Initiation and Commitment.*
3. *Dying, Death, Burial, and Commemorations.*
4. *God's Created Universe, also Supporting and Nurturing Christian Life and Practice.*
5. *Healing, Sickness, and Well-Being, also Transitions, Milestones, and Urgent Occurrences in Life.*
6. *The Mission of the Church, also Episcopal Services, also Other Occasional Services.*

Although the working groups carried out their tasks independently, regular reports were made to the Subcommittee and the full SCLM. Some of the working groups invited additional writers to contribute to their sections of the Book. The working group on Christian Initiation and its additional contributors met in person in August 2016 to draft materials.

REFINING THE CONTENT OF THE WORK

Members of the Subcommittee reviewed and refined the respective rites contained in BOS 2003 as well as the materials developed in the past triennium for possible inclusion in the revision. The degrees of revision ranged from slight to extensive. New materials were developed as mandated by the General Convention, as well as to replace what was previously used.

GATHERING RESOURCES FOR THE WORK

Members of the Subcommittee solicited resources that could be included in the revision from a variety of sources. Resources were gathered from congregations including:

- La Iglesia Episcopal San Gabriel, Leesburg, VA
- Iglesia Episcopal de la Trinidad, Los Angeles, CA
- St. Mark's Cathedral, Seattle, WA

Resources were also gathered from individuals:

- Álvaro Araica
- Gary Cox
- Nancy Frausto
- Jason Haddox
- Melissa Hartley
- Amy McCreath
- Cameron Partridge
- John Rawlinson

A few existing resources provided the Subcommittee with both ideas and texts used in the revision, including:

- *Changes: Prayers and Services Honoring Rites of Passage*. New York: Church Publishing Incorporated, 2007
- *Enriching Our Worship*. 5 vols. New York: Church Publishing Incorporated, 1998-2009
- McElligott, Ann E. P. *The Catechumenal Process: Adult Initiation and Formation for Christian Life and Ministry*. New York: Church Hymnal Corporation, 1990
- Meyers, Ruth A., and Pettingell, Phoebe, eds. *Gleanings: Essays on Expansive Language and Prayers for Various Occasions*. New York: Church Publishing Incorporated, 2001

ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS OF THE WORK

- *Increased Variety of Resources*. The categories listed in the past triennium's report continued to inform the work of the Subcommittee. These include:
 - *Resources to be used in pastoral ministry in congregational life: Dying, Death, Healing, Sickness, Transitions, Milestones, and Urgent Occasions in Life*.
 - *Resources to be used in response to environmental crises: God's Created Universe*.
 - *Resources that Serve the Whole Church*. The Subcommittee continues to support the efforts made to include resources that reflect or support the sensibilities and urgent needs of diverse populations within the Church. We engaged this process with an awareness of the need for dialogue and theological reflection between communities for whom certain Rites carry significant cultural meaning, for example the commemoration of Our Lady of Guadalupe.
 - *Resources that Ask the Church to Create Rites*. In some instances, we hope that Rites will be developed for local use based on the stated principles in the BOS. For instance, the resources for Día de los Muertos are not a full Rite, but an outline of a Rite. We recognize that the developing resources may serve the larger goal of drawing various communities together in the work of crafting liturgy.

- *Reducing Redundancy of Resources.* The Subcommittee worked to limit duplication of Rites for certain occasions. For instance, the seasonal blessings for homes has been reduced to a simplified Rite with seasonal variations. Further, we deleted resources that are already published in other books; this includes the *Lucernaria* and *Confractoria*.
- *Work Remaining to be Done.* Although presenting a fully formed document, the Subcommittee's work remains incomplete. Some sections that we would have included or edited, including material related to death and dying and editing the *Service of Tenebrae*, could not be completed due to insufficient funding from General Convention and a lack of time. The Subcommittee hopes that future revisions of the BOS will include additional editing and material.

RESPONDING TO DIRECTION FROM GENERAL CONVENTION

The Subcommittee took direction from several resolutions of the 2015 General Convention, asking for certain resources to be included in the BOS.

- 2015-A058 *Materials Honoring God in Creation:* These resources were included in the BOS.
- 2015-D036 *Name Change Rite:* As instructed, the rite in *Changes* was considered and drawn upon, together with other materials, in the composition of a new rite that is included in the BOS.
- 2015-D046 *Liturgical Materials Honoring the Female in God and Man:* The materials in the book, *All Desires Known* (3rd edn.) were considered for inclusion, as instructed. These materials were not finally included in the BOS revision, because the most useful texts are already available to a congregation. For example, for the prayers of the people the Book of Common Prayer already encourages a congregation to devise its own forms, which might draw on these materials without requiring their inclusion. The Order for Eucharist in the prayer book similarly enables a congregation to draft sections of the eucharistic prayer, for which one might draw on these resources, regardless of their inclusion in the BOS.

THE PRODUCTION PROCESS OF THE WORK

The Subcommittee continued its work through the triennium, finding and revising texts, as well as composing new texts for use in the proposed BOS. Two writers were hired as consultants to edit the texts, and a project manager was hired as a consultant to organize and facilitate the process. The completed BOS was presented to the full SCLM at its final meeting of the triennium.

Proposed Resolution

A064 AUTHORIZE THE BOOK OF OCCASIONAL SERVICES, 2018

Resolved, The House of _____ concurring, That the 79th General Convention authorize for optional use throughout this Church the revision of that certain document entitled *The Book of Occasional Services*, prepared by the Standing Commission on Liturgy and Music and published by The Church Hymnal Corporation in 1979, and last revised in 2003.

Supplementary Material

The copy of the *The Book of Occasional Services*, with the revisions of this committee, was too large to be included in the main report. For digital versions of this report it is a separate, accompanying file, for print versions, a separate print document.