

**GENERAL CONVENTION OF THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH 2018
ARCHIVES' RESEARCH REPORT**

RESOLUTION NO.: 2018-A070
TITLE: Translation of the Book of Common Prayer
PROPOSER: Standing Commission on Liturgy and Music
TOPIC: Language Translation

Directly Related: (Attached)

2015-A068 Begin Translating Liturgies into Creole, French and Spanish

Indirectly Related: (Available in the [Acts of Convention](#) database, searchable by resolution number)

2000-A066 Plan for Revision and Enrichment of the Church's Common Worship
1994-A081 Develop Liturgical Resources That Recognize Racial and Cultural Diversity
1982-D123 Request Publication of an Affordable Prayer Book in Spanish

Supplemental Documents: (Linked)

(*Blue Book*) Report to General Convention, [Standing Commission on Liturgy and Music](#), see page 211.

In preparing this report, the Archives researched the resolutions in the Acts of Convention database for the period 1976 through 2015, selecting "direct" resolutions that have a substantive bearing on the proposed legislation. The "direct" resolutions are attached and "indirect" resolutions are available in the Acts of Convention database. Committee members who require other research assistance should contact the Archives at 800-525-9329 before Convention or at Convention in the General Convention Secretariat.

A070 Translation of the Book of Common Prayer

Proposer	Standing Commission on Liturgy and Music
Topic	Language Translation
Endorsed by	
Sponsored by	
Page numbers	Blue Book: p. N/A; Constitution & Canons: p. N/A
HiA / Leg. Cttee	/
Current Status	Resolution Filed
Version	Original (as filed)
Review Status	Not yet reviewed

RESOLUTION TEXT

- 1 *Resolved*, the House of _____ concurring, That the 79th General Convention authorize the
- 2 Standing Commission on Liturgy and Music to create new translations of the Book of Common
- 3 Prayer 1979 into Spanish, French, and Haitian Creole, following the Guidelines for the Translation of Liturgical Materials adopted by the Standing Commission on Liturgy and Music. In addition, the Standing Commission on Liturgy and Music will develop additional liturgical resources which are borne out of the above linguistic communities.
- 4 *Resolved*, That in this process the Standing Commission on Liturgy and Music establish, within its auspices, an SCLM Task Force for Translations.
- 5 *Resolved*, That the Standing Commission on Liturgy and Music's Task Force for Translations will: create three subcommittees of three persons each, two of whom shall be native speakers of Spanish, French, and Haitian Creole; identify and hire translators in each language to draft translations in consultation with the subcommittee; send the translators' drafts to: a) congregations chosen for experimental use of the draft to give feedback, b) professional, preferably published writers and poets to comment on the literary quality of the translators' drafts and make suggestions, c) professional liturgical theologians to comment on the theology of the draft; direct the subcommittees to review feedback, and working with the translator, issue a final draft for approval by the Standing Commission on Liturgy and Music and certification; and report monthly on progress to the Standing Commission on Liturgy and Music.
- 6 *Resolved*, That the sum of \$201,000 be budgeted to the Standing Commission on Liturgy and Music to carry out this work.

EXPLANATION

Throughout the history of the Episcopal Church, translations from the Standard Book of Common Prayer into languages other than English have been literal translations on the formal equivalence model. It is widely appreciated that a degree of idiomatic freedom in the direction of dynamic equivalence results in more useful, just, and beautiful translations of the BCP.

Our current official texts in French and Spanish are more than 30 years old and do not reflect current liturgical usage in French and Spanish. Creole is the language of prayer in the Diocese of Haiti, the largest diocese in the Episcopal Church; there is no Standard Creole text of the BCP. A new Spanish translation would be beneficial in the United States and the Hispanophone dioceses in Latin America and the Caribbean. Further, a newly translated French text would be used widely throughout Francophone Africa and Oceania as well as in Europe. This proposal represents a major opportunity for enculturation and evangelism for our multicultural, multilingual Church.

The budget allocation would allow three subcommittees of three persons each, holding face-to-face meetings twice a year, as well as online meetings, plus a manager for the whole project. In addition, each subcommittee will contract the services of a professional translator.

A full description and a detailed methodology of Resolution A070 may be found in the report "Plan for Prayer Book Revision" which is part of the report of the Subcommittee on Revision of The Book of Common Prayer, within the report to the 79th General Convention of the Standing Commission on Liturgy and Music. The Standing Commission on Liturgy and Music's report, known as a "blue book" report, is available on the General Convention website (www.generalconvention.org).



Resolution Number: 2015-A068
Title: Begin Translating Liturgies into Creole, French and Spanish
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred as Amended
Final Text:

Resolved, That the Standing Commission on Liturgy and Music, in cooperation with the Custodian of the Book of Common Prayer, be directed to begin work on translation of portions of the Book of Common Prayer and/or other authorized liturgical resources into French, Creole, and Spanish, according to the principles outlined in Canon II.3.5; and be it further

Resolved, That the General Convention request the Joint Standing Committee on Program, Budget and Finance to consider a budget allocation of \$40,000 for the implementation of this resolution; \$20,000 to be allocated for work on French and Creole translations; and \$20,000 for work on Spanish translations.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Salt Lake City, 2015* (New York: General Convention, 2015), p. 680.