

## **General Convention of The Episcopal Church 2022 Archives' Research Report**

**Resolution No.:** 2022-A024  
**Title:** Create a Task Force on Translation and Interpretation  
**Proposer:** Standing Commission on World Mission  
**Topic:** Language Translation, Structure

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### **Directly Related:** (Attached)

2018-A070 Create New Translations of the 1979 Book of Common Prayer  
2018-A281 Reaffirm Commitment to Providing Translation Services  
2018-C024 Propose a Process for Liturgical Translations  
2009-B017 Urge Translation of TEC Website into Spanish and French  
2003-A082 Request a Strategy for Expanding the Church's Multilingual Resources  
2003-C029 Publish Official Church Documents in Spanish and French

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

2012-A062 Amend Canon II.3.5 [Of the Standard Book of Common Prayer]

*In preparing this report, the Archives researched the resolutions in the Acts of Convention database for the period 1973 through 2018, 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 through the [Research Request Form](#) or call 800-525-9329.*

# A024 - Create a Task Force on Translation and Interpretation

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**Final Status:** Not Yet Finalized

**Proposed by:** Standing Commission on World Mission

**Requests New Interim Body:** Yes

**Amends C&C or Rules of Order:** No

**Has Budget Implications:** Yes

**Cost:** 90.000,00 €

**HiA:** HD

**Legislative Committee Currently Assigned:** 13 - Committees & Commissions

**Completion Status:** Incomplete

**Latest House Action:** N/A

**Supporting Documents:** No

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## Resolution Text

*Resolved*, the House of \_\_\_\_\_ concurring,

That the 80th General Convention, pursuant to Joint Rule IX.22, create a Task Force on Translation and Interpretation, whose mandate includes, but is not limited to, (1) development of a working strategy and criteria for determining and prioritizing the types of materials (media releases, resources, reports, etc.) pertaining to church life to be translated and meetings related to governance to be interpreted and into which languages; (2) establishment of criteria for assuring the quality of translations and interpretation, employing dynamic equivalence, and establish procedures and criteria for hiring professional translators and interpreters to assure high-quality translations and interpretations; (3) consultation with non-English speaking dioceses, jurisdictions, and area missions about their needs and priorities for translations and interpretation; and (4) recommendation of funding levels necessary to implement the strategy; and be it further

*Resolved*, That the task force begin its work no later than January 1, 2023, with the task concluding its work at the conclusion of the 82nd General Convention, unless its mandate is extended by the 82nd Convention; and be it further

*Resolved*, That the task force report annually to Executive Council and provide an interim report to the 81st General Convention and a final report with recommendations to the 82nd General Convention; and be it further

*Resolved*, That the membership of this task force be appointed by the Presiding Bishop and the President of the House of Deputies and include up to three Bishops appointed by the

Presiding Bishop for five-year terms, with special consideration given to inclusion of Bishops from non-English speaking dioceses and jurisdictions; up to three Clergy and up to three Lay Persons appointed by the President of the House of Deputies for five-year terms, with special consideration given to inclusion of persons from non-English speaking dioceses, jurisdictions, and mission areas; up to two members of the Standing Commission on World Mission (SCWM) appointed by the SCWM; and one member of the Standing Commission on Liturgy and Music (SCLM) appointed by the SCLM; and be it further

*Resolved*, That the Executive Officer of General Convention appoint a member of the staff from the General Convention Office and the Presiding Bishop appoint a member of staff from the Language Services Department of the Office of Communications to serve as consultants to the task force; and be it further

*Resolved*, That \$90,000 be budgeted for the implementation of this resolution, of which \$30,000 would be allocated to the first triennium of the task force's work.

## **Explanation**

Previous resolutions of General Convention have called for all official documents, publications, and digital publications produced by the Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society to be issued in Spanish, and French, notably resolutions 2003-C029, 2003-A082, and 2009-B017. These resolutions have not been fully honored for reasons including lack of funds and the difficulty of identifying which documents should be selected for translations into which languages. Failure to translate critical documents and interpret critical meetings adversely impacts both evangelism and full inclusion of non-English speaking members in the life of the Church, including preparation and participation in General Convention.

More recently, the 79th General Convention acknowledged and started to address shortcomings in translation and interpretation. Resolution 2018-A281 acknowledged the need to improve the provision of interpretation and translations at General Convention. The Standing Commission on Liturgy and Music (SCLM) has made significant progress this triennium, pursuant to 2018-A070, with translations of the Book of Common Prayer into Spanish, French, and Haitian Creole. The Church awaits SCLM's plan, pursuant to 2018-C024, for translating *Enriching Our Worship*, the Book of Occasional Services, and other authorized liturgical resources into the "primary languages currently in use in this church."

Translations of the Book of Common Prayer and liturgical materials serve as an important beginning, but do not address the on-going needs for translation and interpretation of materials and meetings in the life and governance of an inclusive, welcoming, international church. Recognizing that it is infeasible to translate everything, the task force must prioritize what is translated and interpreted and in which languages, evaluate the technical expertise required, and request the requisite funding. Translations must employ "dynamic equivalence": a way of stating, in the target language, the same idea present in the original source language. The correspondence is not word-to-word, but from idea-to-idea, expressed in the same words but, if not possible, in similar phrases having a similar meaning in the source language in its cultural context.

Successful development and implementation of a strategy or criteria to routinely identify and prioritize the types of materials most in need of translation as well as meetings requiring interpretation, requires collaboration with the Presiding Bishop's staff in the Office of Communications and the General Convention Office. It is imperative, once the strategy and procedures are developed and ready for implementation, that more funds be made available for the important work of translation and interpretation. Translation and interpretation needs and costs should be assessed in the planning of new initiatives and programs.



**Resolution Number:** 2018-A070  
**Title:** Create New Translations of the 1979 Book of Common Prayer  
**Legislative Action Taken:** Concurred  
**Final Text:**

*Resolved, That the 79th General Convention authorize the Standing Commission on Liturgy and Music to create new translations of the Book of Common 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; and be it further*

*Resolved, That in this process the Standing Commission on Liturgy and Music establish, within its auspices, an SCLM Task Force for Translations; and be it further*

*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; and be it further*

*Resolved, That the sum of \$201,000 be budgeted to the Standing Commission on Liturgy and Music to carry out this work.*

**Citation:** General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Austin, 2018* (New York: General Convention, 2018), p. 1010.



**Resolution Number:** 2018-A281  
**Title:** Reaffirm Commitment to Providing Translation Services  
**Legislative Action Taken:** Concurred as Substituted  
**Final Text:**

*Resolved, That the 79th General Convention affirm the necessity of translation, interpretation, communication access, and related services to allow for the full inclusion of all participants; that it commend the work of the General Convention Office in providing for these needs; and, at the same time, that it express its regret for the inadequacy of these services and resources in certain circumstances during this Convention, resulting in the exclusion and hurt of some of its members; and be it further*

*Resolved, That it is the intention of The Episcopal Church to continue our becoming ‘The Beloved Community;’ a charism of which is a multi-cultural church that functions with integrity, equity and care for the whole body; and be it further*

*Resolved, That the Joint Standing Commission on Planning and Arrangements and The General Convention Office reaffirm their commitments to provide professional interpretation and translation services for members of the General Convention as needed for all meetings and documents of the Convention as well as throughout the triennium; that at General Convention hearings and floor sessions every reasonable effort be made for simultaneous interpretation and translation as needed; and that the orientation process for the General Convention communicate clearly the procedures for arranging interpretation and translation services; and be it further*

*Resolved, That the Joint Standing Commission take into account the varying language, hearing, and sight needs of those participating in General Convention; and that it invite members with diverse communication needs into its planning process in order to allow for the full inclusion and substantive participation of all; and be it further*

*Resolved, That funding for this work be among the usual and customary administrative expenses of The General Convention, and that regular evaluation of translation and interpretation resources include the primary users of these services.*

**Citation:** General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Austin, 2018* (New York: General Convention, 2018), p. 1119.



**Resolution Number:** 2018-C024  
**Title:** Propose a Process for Liturgical Translations  
**Legislative Action Taken:** Concurred as Amended  
**Final Text:**

*Resolved, That the Standing Commission on Liturgy and Music be directed to consider and propose to the 80th General Convention a process for translating Enriching Our Worship, Book of Occasional Services, and other authorized liturgical resources into the primary languages currently in use in this church.*

**Citation:** General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Austin, 2018* (New York: General Convention, 2018), p. 1009.



**Resolution Number:** 2009-B017  
**Title:** Urge Translation of TEC Website into Spanish and French  
**Legislative Action Taken:** Concurred as Substituted  
**Final Text:**

*Resolved, That the 76th General Convention, in accordance with Resolution 2003-C029, which directed that “all official documents, publications and digital publications produced by the Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society be issued in Spanish and French no later than 2006...,” commend the efforts to date, and strongly urge that select pages of the Web site of The Episcopal Church, [www.episcopalchurch.org](http://www.episcopalchurch.org), be translated and posted into Spanish and French; and be it further*

*Resolved, That where additional resources are necessary, the translation work be directed to translators in the appropriate region, for example Province IX, where these funds might serve to support the Church’s ministry in these areas.*

**Citation:** General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Anaheim, 2009* (New York: General Convention, 2009), p. 213.





**Resolution Number:** 2003-A082  
**Title:** Request a Strategy for Expanding the Church's Multilingual Resources  
**Legislative Action Taken:** Concurred as Substituted  
**Final Text:**

*Resolved, That the 74th General Convention, consistent with the Executive Council's June 2002 mandate that materials issued by the Church Center be multilingual when appropriate, ask the Executive Council, in coordination with the Church Center staff, to develop a strategy to utilize existing multilingual resources and to consider the employment of translation services; and be it further*

*Resolved, That the 74th General Convention request the Joint Standing Committee on Program, Budget and Finance to consider a budget allocation of \$85,000 per year for the triennium for implementation of this resolution.*

**Citation:** General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Minneapolis, 2003* (New York: General Convention, 2004), p. 181.



**Resolution Number:** 2003-C029  
**Title:** Publish Official Church Documents in Spanish and French  
**Legislative Action Taken:** Concurred as Substituted and Amended  
**Final Text:**

*Resolved, That the 74th General Convention direct that all official documents, publications, and digital publications produced by the Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society be issued in Spanish and French no later than 2006, and in other languages used in The Episcopal Church as soon as possible; and be it further*

*Resolved, That translated materials shall include, but are not limited to the following: Episcopal News Service (ENS) press releases, the Presiding Bishop's monthly message, Pastoral Letters of the House of Bishops, Summary Reports of the actions of General Convention, Executive Council resolutions and actions, and official communications from The Episcopal Church; and be it further*

*Resolved, That materials produced in Spanish and French be published on The Episcopal Church website after review by the Office of Ethnic Congregational Development; and be it further*

*Resolved, That *Episcopal Life* be urged to publish a section of the newspaper in Spanish and French; and be it further*

*Resolved, That the 74th General Convention encourage dioceses, congregations, and other agencies and institutions related to The Episcopal Church to make available, as appropriate, materials in Spanish and French or other languages of its constituents; and be it further*

*Resolved, That the 74th General Convention request the Joint Standing Committee on Program, Budget and Finance to consider a budget allocation of \$85,000 per year for the triennium for the implementation of this resolution.*

**Citation:** General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Minneapolis, 2003* (New York: General Convention, 2004), p. 190f.