

General Convention of The Episcopal Church 2022 Archives' Research Report

Resolution No.: 2022-A057
Title: Continuing Liturgical and Prayer Book Revision
Proposer: Task Force on Liturgical & Prayer Book Revision
Topic: Book of Common Prayer

Directly Related: (Attached)

2018-A068 Create a Task Force on Liturgical and Prayer Book Revision
2015-A169 Prepare a Plan for Revising the 1979 Book of Common Prayer

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

2018-A063 Amend Constitution Article X [Book of Common Prayer Supplementary Text--First Reading]
1994-A051 Direct the Standing Liturgical Commission to Plan for Prayer Book Revision
1979-A058 Authorize Continued Work on the Prayer Book
1976-A108 Authorize the Liturgical Commission to Continue Its Work
1973-A134 Direct Continuation of Prayer Book Revision

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.

A057 - Continuing Liturgical and Prayer Book Revision

Final Status: Not Yet Finalized

Proposed by: Task Force on Liturgical & Prayer Book Revision

Requests New Interim Body: No

Amends C&C or Rules of Order: No

Has Budget Implications: No

Cost:

HiA: HB

Legislative Committee Currently Assigned: 12 - Prayer Book, Liturgy & Music

Completion Status: Incomplete

Latest House Action: N/A

Supporting Documents: Yes

Resolution Text

Resolved, the House of _____ concurring,

That the 80th General Convention direct the Standing Commission on Liturgy and Music to continue the work of liturgical and Prayer Book revision; and be it further

Resolved, That the 80th General Convention direct the SCLM to use in its work on liturgical and Prayer Book revision *The Principles to Guide the Development of Liturgical Texts* included in the report to the 80th General Convention (known as their "Blue Book" report) of the Task Force on Liturgical and Prayer Book Revision; and be it further

Resolved, That bishops continue to engage worshipping communities in experimentation and the creation of alternative texts to offer to the wider church, and diocesan liturgical commissions collect and share these resources with the SCLM; and be it further

Resolved, That the 80th General Convention direct the SCLM to review materials submitted to the Task Force on Liturgical and Prayer Book Revision and the recommendations of that Task Force regarding those materials; and be it further

Resolved, That the 80th General Convention direct the SCLM to present to the 81st General Convention liturgical texts for optional and/or trial use in the ongoing process of liturgical and Prayer Book revision.

Explanation

In Resolution 2018-A068, the 79th General Convention created a Task Force on Liturgical and Prayer Book Revision, called for bishops to engage worshiping communities in experimentation and the creation of alternative texts to offer to the wider church, and urged each diocese to create a liturgical commission to collect these resources and share them with the Task Force. To guide this work, the Task Force developed a set of liturgical principles rooted in Anglican tradition as received and interpreted in the 1979 Book of Common Prayer. During the triennium, the Task Force received a number of liturgical texts, which it evaluated in light of the liturgical principles.

This resolution returns responsibility for liturgical and Prayer Book revision to the Standing Commission on Liturgy and Music (SCLM). It directs the Commission to use the principles in the ongoing work of revision. The Task Force has made recommendations about the liturgical resources it received during the triennium, and this resolution directs the SCLM to review those recommendations.

This resolution also calls for liturgical revision to continue in two ways: first, through experimentation and creation of alternative texts in local worshiping communities, under the guidance of diocesan bishops and liturgical commissions, a process introduced in Resolution 2018-A068; second through development of liturgical texts that the 81st General Convention can consider for authorization for use throughout The Episcopal Church. For the latter, the SCLM might draw from resources already submitted to the Task Force on Liturgical and Prayer Book Revision, and/or from new resources it receives from dioceses and local worshiping communities, and/or from new texts it develops.



Resolution Number: 2018-A068
Title: Create a Task Force on Liturgical and Prayer Book Revision
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred as Substituted
Final Text:

Resolved, That the 79th General Convention, pursuant to Article X of the Constitution, authorize the ongoing work of liturgical and Prayer Book revision for the future of God's mission through the Episcopal branch of the Jesus movement. And, that it do so upon the core theological work of loving, liberating, life-giving reconciliation and creation care; and be it further

Resolved, That our methodology be one of a dynamic process for discerning common worship, engaging all the baptized, while practicing accountability to The Episcopal Church; and be it further

Resolved, That the 79th General Convention create a Task Force on Liturgical and Prayer Book Revision (TFLPBR), the membership of which will be jointly appointed by the Presiding Bishop and the President of the House of Deputies, and will report to the appropriate legislative committee(s) of the 80th General Convention, ensuring that diverse voices of our church are active participants in this liturgical revision by constituting a group with leaders who represent the expertise, gender, age, theology, regional, and ethnic diversity of the church, to include, 10 laity, 10 priests or deacons, and 10 Bishops; and be it further

Resolved, That this Convention memorialize the 1979 Book of Common Prayer as a Prayer Book of the church preserving the psalter, liturgies, The Lambeth Quadrilateral, Historic Documents, and Trinitarian Formularies ensuring its continued use; and be it further

Resolved, That this church continue to engage the deep Baptismal and Eucharistic theology and practice of the 1979 Prayer Book; and be it further

Resolved, That bishops engage worshipping communities in experimentation and the creation of alternative texts to offer to the wider church, and that each diocese be urged to create a liturgical commission to collect, reflect, teach and share these resources with the TFLPBR; and be it further

Resolved, That the TFLPBR in consultation with the Standing Commission on Structure, Governance, Constitution and Canons is directed to propose to the 80th General Convention revisions to the Constitution and Canons to enable The Episcopal Church to be adaptive in its engagement of future generations of Episcopalians, multiplying, connecting, and disseminating new liturgies for mission, attending to prayer book revision in other provinces of the Anglican Communion; and be it further

Resolved, That liturgical and Prayer Book revision will continue in faithful adherence to the historic rites of the Church Universal as they have been received and interpreted within the Anglican tradition of 1979 Book of Common Prayer, mindful of our existing ecumenical commitments, while also providing space for, encouraging the submission of, and facilitating the perfection of rites that will arise from the continual movement of the Holy Spirit among us and growing insights of our Church; and be it further

Resolved, That such revision utilize the riches of Holy Scripture and our Church's liturgical, cultural, racial, generational, linguistic, gender, physical ability, class and ethnic diversity in order to share common worship; and be it further

Resolved, That our liturgical revision utilize inclusive and expansive language and imagery for humanity and divinity; and be it further

Resolved, That our liturgical revision shall incorporate and express understanding, appreciation, and care of God's creation; and be it further

Resolved, That our liturgical revision take into consideration the use of emerging technologies which provide access to a broad range of liturgical resources; and be it further

Resolved, That the SCLM create a professional dynamic equivalence translation of the Book of Common Prayer 1979 and the Enriching Our Worship Series in Spanish, French, and Haitian Creole; and that the SCLM diversify the publication formats of new resources, liturgies and rites to include online publishing; and be it further

Resolved, That this church ensure that, at each step of the revision process, all materials be professionally translated into English, Spanish, French, and Haitian Creole, following the principles of dynamic equivalence and that no new rites or liturgical resources be approved by this church until such translations are secured; and be it further

Resolved, That the TFLPBR shall report to the 80th General Convention; and be it further

Resolved, That there being \$201,000 in the proposed budget for the translation of liturgical materials, that the Executive Council be encouraged to identify additional funds in the amount of \$200,000 to begin this liturgical revision.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Austin, 2018* (New York: General Convention, 2018), pp. 480-481.



Resolution Number: 2015-A169
Title: Prepare a Plan for Revising the 1979 Book of Common Prayer
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred
Final Text:

Resolved, That the 78th General Convention direct the Standing Commission on Liturgy and Music (SCLM) to prepare a plan for the comprehensive revision of the current Book of Common Prayer and present that plan to the 79th General Convention; and be it further

Resolved, That such a plan for revision utilize the riches of our Church's liturgical, cultural, racial, generational, linguistic, gender and ethnic diversity in order to share common worship; and be it further

Resolved, That the plan for revision take into consideration the use of current technologies which provide access to a broad range of liturgical resources; 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 \$30,000 for the implementation of this resolution.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Salt Lake City, 2015* (New York: General Convention, 2015), pp. 886-887.