

General Convention of The Episcopal Church 2022 Archives' Research Report

Resolution No.: 2022-A060
Title: Endorse Guidelines for Expansive and Inclusive Language
Proposer: Task Force on Liturgical & Prayer Book Revision
Topic: Inclusive Language

Directly Related: (Attached)

2018-A068 Create a Task Force on Liturgical and Prayer Book Revision
2018-D046 Encourage Development of Inclusive-Language Liturgies
2018-D067 Urge Compliance with the Principles of Inclusive Language
2003-A092 Continue to Develop *Enriching our Worship* and *Enriching our Music*
1997-D039 Direct Use of Gender Inclusive Language in all Rules of Order
1988-A073 Direct Episcopal Church Staff to Use Inclusive Language in All Communications
1985-A095 Prepare Inclusive Language Texts for the Regular Services of the Church

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

2003-A027 Use Preferred Forms of Address for Men, Women, and Groups
1985-A115 Review the Constitution and Canons for Sexually Inclusive Language

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.

A060 - Endorse Guidelines for Expansive and Inclusive Language

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 adopt *The Guidelines for Expansive and Inclusive Language*, contained in the reports to the 80th General Convention of the Task Force on Liturgical and Prayer Book Revision and the Standing Commission on Liturgy and Music, as the working principles for the revision and development of liturgical materials of The Episcopal Church; and be it further

Resolved, That the 80th General Convention direct the Standing Commission on Liturgy and Music to follow these guidelines as they develop revised and new liturgical materials; and be it further

Resolved, That when liturgical materials in languages other than English are developed for use in The Episcopal Church that they follow, to the greatest degree possible, the spirit and intent of these guidelines; and be it further

Resolved, That the 80th General Convention commend these guidelines to all persons who write or speak on behalf of the church for their serious reflection and consideration.

Explanation

The 79th General Convention and previous Conventions, and the Standing Commission on Liturgy and Music, have repeatedly urged the church toward a richer language for God and

more inclusive language for humanity, both in our liturgical prayer and in our daily discourse as God's people.

Resolution 2018-A068 explicitly set a clear direction in this regard and *The Guidelines for Expansive and Inclusive Language* were developed jointly by the Task Force on Liturgical and Prayer Book Revision and the Standing Commission on Liturgy and Music, to provide guidance on this matter going forward.



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: 2018-D046
Title: Encourage Development of Inclusive-Language Liturgies
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred as Amended
Final Text:

Resolved, That the 79th General Convention authorize continuing use of Enriching Our Worship 1: The Daily Office, Great Litany, and Eucharist; Enriching Our Worship 2: Ministry with the Sick and Dying and Burial of a Child; Enriching Our Worship 3: Burial Rites for Adults together with a Rite for the Burial of a Child; Enriching Our Worship 4: The Renewal of Ministry and the Welcoming of a New Rector or other Pastor; and Enriching Our Worship 5: Liturgies and Prayers Related to Childbearing, Childbirth, and Loss; and be it further

Resolved, That the 79th General Convention direct the Standing Commission on Liturgy and Music to develop principles for the use of inclusive and expansive language in liturgical texts, to report these principles to the 80th General Convention, and to follow these principles in all revisions of liturgical resources and in the development of any new liturgical resources; and be it further

Resolved, That the 79th General Convention encourage each diocese to identify an individual or body to encourage the development of liturgical texts to provide expansive language resources, particularly resources that reflect the breadth of cultures, languages, and ancestral contexts already represented in The Episcopal Church; and to report on their work to the Standing Commission on Liturgy and Music for inclusion in its report to the 80th General Convention.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Austin, 2018* (New York: General Convention, 2018), p. 622.



Resolution Number: 2018-D067
Title: Urge Compliance with the Principles of Inclusive Language
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred as Amended
Final Text:

Resolved, That the 79th General Convention acknowledges as has the Society of Biblical Literature Book of Style, that “bias-free language respects all cultures, peoples, and religions” and encourages the use of inclusive and expansive language for both God and humanity; and be it further

Resolved, That the 79th General Convention in the spirit of effective evangelism and proclamation of the Gospel affirm the use of “bias-free language” defined by the principles below:

- **Eliminate the perception of conscious or unconscious bias by the distracting use of biased language when not central to the meaning of the text.**
- **Avoid the generic use of masculine nouns and pronouns which is increasingly unacceptable in current English usage.**
- **Avoid the use of language that perpetuates stereotypes based on characteristics such as race, ethnicity, disability, sexual orientation, and gender identity or expression.**
- **Avoid the assignment of gender to God, except when required by the text.**
- **Respect all cultures, peoples, and religions by sensitivity to the uncritical use of biblical characterizations such as “the Jews” or “the Pharisees” that can perpetuate religious and ethnic stereotypes.**
- **Structure sentences to communicate clearly while using gender-neutral language, for example:**
 - **Omit the pronoun.**
 - **Repeat the noun.**
 - **Use a plural antecedent.**
 - **Use an article instead of a pronoun.**
 - **Use the neutral singular pronoun “one.”**
 - **Use the relative pronoun “who.”**
 - **Use the imperative mood;**

And be it further

Resolved, That the 79th General Convention urges that the Executive Council, the Office of General Convention and the Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society give priority to using these guidelines in all published communications; and be it further

Resolved, That the 79th General Convention exhort dioceses, congregations, institutions, and organizations affiliated with the Church to follow these guidelines in all published communications.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Austin, 2018* (New York: General Convention, 2018), p. 1094.



Resolution Number: 2003-A092
Title: Continue to Develop Enriching our Worship and Enriching our Music
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred as Substituted and Amended
Final Text:

Resolved, That the 74th General Convention direct the Standing Commission on Liturgy and Music (SCLM) to further develop *Enriching Our Worship* and *Enriching Our Music*, preparing and collecting rites and music that are culturally diverse for use in a wide range of settings to advance the goals of 20/20. These rites and music may include, but not be limited to, pastoral rites to celebrate specific events grounded in the many cultures in our Church, such as:

- **Pastoral offices of the Book of Common Prayer 1979;**
- **Rites of Passage, such as Quinceañeras (e.g. Latin American); Naming of Elders (e.g. Korean); Day of the Dead (e.g. Latin American); Honoring of Ancestors (e.g. Chinese); Adoption Rites (e.g. Native American); and Journey to Adulthood Rites;**
- **Mission and evangelism-based prayers;**
- **Creative worship resources for multisensory worship;**
- **And Spanish and French music resources; and be it further**

Resolved, That the development of these rites and resources be designed and implemented using models which would innovatively draw on and reflect our Church's liturgical, cultural, racial, generational, gender and ethnic diversity; and be it further

Resolved, That the SCLM begin to develop a network for sharing these learnings and resources and report on their progress to the 75th General Convention; 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 \$130,000 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. 594.



Resolution Number: 1997-D039
Title: Direct Use of Gender Inclusive Language in all Rules of Order
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred
Final Text:

*Resolved, That the Secretary of General Convention be and hereby is directed in editing the Rules of Order for the House of Bishops and the House of Deputies and the Joint Rules of the two Houses for inclusion in the book entitled *Constitutions and Canons for the Government of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the United States of America otherwise known as the Episcopal Church*, to use gender inclusive language wherever reasonably possible.*

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Philadelphia, 1997* (New York: General Convention, 1998), p. 566.



Resolution Number: 1988-A073
Title: Direct Episcopal Church Staff to Use Inclusive Language in All Communications
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred As Substituted and Amended
Final Text:

Resolved, That the 69th General Convention direct the Presiding Bishop and Church Center staff to ensure the use of inclusive language in all communications and materials issued by the Executive Council and the Church Center so these do not perpetuate stereotypes of race, age, sex, and disabling conditions; and be it further

Resolved, That they monitor all national, provincial and diocesan training under the auspices of units of the Church Center to ensure the use of inclusive language by trainers in training materials; and be it further

Resolved, That the Education for Mission and Ministry unit in collaboration with the Women in Mission and Ministry and other units identify and disseminate information concerning available educational resources which would help dioceses, congregations, educators and trainers teach at every age level about the influence of inclusive language and imagery in shaping and communicating our biblical and theological tradition, and in affecting patterns of relationship and participation within the Church.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Detroit, 1988* (New York: General Convention, 1989), p. 708.



Resolution Number: 1985-A095
Title: Prepare Inclusive Language Texts for the Regular Services of the Church
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred As Substituted and Amended
Final Text:

Resolved, That the Standing Liturgical Commission be directed to prepare inclusive language texts for the regular services of the Church, i.e., Morning and Evening Prayer and the Holy Eucharist, to be proposed for trial use at the next meeting of the General Convention in accordance with Article X of the Constitution and Canon II.3.6(a).

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Anaheim, 1985* (New York: General Convention, 1986), p. 605.