

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

**Resolution No.:** 2022-A126  
**Title:** A Resolution Supporting a Comprehensive Review of the Book Of Common Prayer, The Hymnal 1982, and Other Approved Liturgical Material  
**Proposer:** Presiding Officers' Working Group on Truth Telling, Reckoning, and Healing  
**Topic:** Book of Common Prayer, Liturgy

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

2018-A043      Revise Mandate for Executive Council Committee on Anti-Racism  
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  
2000-B034      Apologize to Those Offended During Transition to the 1979 Prayer Book

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

2018-A054      Request Multicultural Liturgical Resource Collection  
2018-A207      Affirm Beloved Community as a Global Community  
2018-D046      Encourage Development of Inclusive-Language Liturgies

*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.*

# A126 A Resolution Supporting a Comprehensive Review of the Book Of Common Prayer, The Hymnal 1982, and other approved liturgical material

<b>Proposer</b>	Presiding Officers' Working Group on Truth Telling, Reckoning, and Healing
<b>Endorsed by</b>	—
<b>Supported by</b>	—
<b>HiA / Leg. Cttee</b>	House of Bishops / —
<b>Current Status</b>	—
<b>Version</b>	Original (as filed)
<b>Review Status</b>	Not yet reviewed

## RESOLUTION TEXT

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

That this 80th General Convention instruct the Standing Commission on Liturgy and Music to examine all the language of the Book of Common Prayer, The Hymnal 1982 and other approved liturgical material in regard to the colonialist, racist and white supremacist, imperialist and nationalistic language and content as the Commission carries out their revisions,

*Resolved*, That in order to accomplish this review it is authorized to convene gatherings of Episcopalians of Color and of a wide variety of ethnicities and from all the countries where The Episcopal Church is gathered, for this review and for the discernment of cultural assumptions in these resources and materials, and be it further

*Resolved*, That the Standing Commission on Liturgy and Music communicate its learnings ongoing and widely throughout the next two years.

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## EXPLANATION

"We are becoming a new and re-formed church, the Episcopal branch of the Jesus Movement— individuals, small gathered communities and congregations whose way of life is the way of Jesus and his way of love, no longer centered on empire and establishment, no longer fixated on preserving institutions, no longer shoring up white supremacy or anything else that hurts or harms any child of God. By God's grace ...we are becoming a church that looks and acts like Jesus." (Presiding Bishop Curry)

This resolution seeks to address the ways in which, as Episcopalians, we are formed by the words we pray together in worship. In order to truly become a new and re-formed church, we must examine the ways in which our formation in worship has been steeped within a larger culture of colonialism, imperialism, nationalism, and white supremacy. This calls for a thorough and complete scholarly examination of the words and practices in our liturgical materials to identify and address those

legacies.

Across the Church there has been energy for revision of our liturgical materials and this resolution seeks to make sure that the leadership and voices of People of Color across the Church are widely included in those revisions.



**Resolution Number:** 2018-A043  
**Title:** Revise Mandate for Executive Council Committee on Anti-Racism  
**Legislative Action Taken:** Concurred as Substituted  
**Final Text:**

*Resolved*, That the mandate for the Executive Council Committee on Anti-Racism be amended, and hereby read as follows:

**“This Committee is charged with supporting and monitoring the Church’s work in response to General Convention resolutions directed at eliminating the sin of racism from the life of the Church by:**

**Recognizing and developing its work of racial healing, justice, and reconciliation as a fundamental and requisite part of Christian formation; supporting the work of Becoming Beloved Community: The Episcopal Church’s Long-Term Commitment to Racial Healing, Justice, and Reconciliation; recommending best practices for dismantling racism training; collecting information from dioceses and provinces about their successes and challenges in complying with the canonical requirements and with General Convention Resolution 2000-B049 for providing anti-racism training; and sharing their findings with Executive Council on an annual basis.”**

**Citation:** General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Austin, 2018* (New York: General Convention, 2018), pp. 667-668.



**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.



**Resolution Number:** 2000-B034  
**Title:** Apologize to Those Offended During Transition to the 1979 Prayer Book  
**Legislative Action Taken:** Concurred  
**Final Text:**

***Resolved, That the 73rd Convention recognize that the former Standing Liturgical Commission and others did everything in their power facilitating the use of the 1979 Book of Common Prayer in the most pastorally appropriate manner; and be it further***

***Resolved, That this Convention acknowledge that despite those efforts, in certain places there remains the memory, especially among some indigenous peoples, of occasions of insensitivity, harshness, or cultural superiority in the transition to the 1979 book; and be it further***

***Resolved, That this Convention apologize to any members of this Church who were offended or alienated by inappropriate or uncharitable behavior during the time of transition to the 1979 Book of Common Prayer.***

**Citation:** General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Denver, 2000* (New York: General Convention, 2001), p. 657f.