

General Convention of The Episcopal Church 2022 Archives' Research Report

Resolution No.: 2022-A145
Title: Amend Constitution Article X [Book of Common Prayer Supplementary Text--Second Reading]
Proposer: 12 - Prayer Book, Liturgy & Music
Topic: Book of Common Prayer, Constitution--Second Reading, Liturgy

Directly Related: (Attached)

2018-A062 Amend Canon II.3.6 [Trial Use]
2018-A063 Amend Constitution Article X [Book of Common Prayer Supplementary Text--First Reading]
2015-A066 On the Topic of Constitution Article X [The Book of Common Prayer--First Reading] (Rejected)
2003-A108 On the Topic of Amending Constitution Article X [Second Reading] (Rejected)
2000-A132 Amend Constitution Article X [The Book of Common Prayer--First Reading]
1997-C021 Plan Constitutional and Liturgical Changes to Enrich Common Worship
1994-A016 On the Topic of the Constitutional Article on Forms of Worship (Rejected)
1991-A121 Amend Constitution Article I.7 [Time and Place of General Convention--Second Reading]

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

None

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.

A145 - Amend Constitution Article X [Book of Common Prayer Supplementary Text--Second Reading]

Final Status: Not Yet Finalized

Proposed by: 12 - Prayer Book, Liturgy & Music

Requests New Interim Body: No

Amends C&C or Rules of Order: Yes

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: No

Resolution Text

Resolved, the House of _____ concurring,

That the 80th General Convention of The Episcopal Church amend Article X of the Constitution of the Episcopal Church as follows

<Amended text as it would appear if adopted and concurred. Scroll below the line of asterisks (***) to see the version showing all deleted and added text.>**

ARTICLE X

The Book of Common Prayer, as now established or hereafter amended by the authority of this Church, shall be in use in all the Dioceses of this Church. No alteration thereof or addition thereto shall be made unless the same shall be first proposed in one regular meeting of the General Convention and by a resolve thereof be sent within six months to the Secretary of the Convention of every Diocese, to be made known to the Diocesan Convention at its next meeting, and be adopted by the General Convention at its next succeeding regular meeting by a majority of all Bishops, excluding retired Bishops not present, of the whole number of Bishops entitled to vote in the House of Bishops, and by a vote by orders in the House of Deputies in accordance with Article I, Sec. 5, except that concurrence by the orders shall require the affirmative vote in each order by a majority of the Dioceses entitled to representation in the House of Deputies.

But notwithstanding anything herein above contained, the General Convention may at any one meeting, by a majority of the whole number of the Bishops entitled to vote in the House of Bishops, and by a majority of the Clerical and Lay Deputies of all the Dioceses entitled to representation in the House of Deputies, voting by orders as previously set forth in this Article:

- (a) Amend the Table of Lessons and all Tables and Rubrics relating to the Psalms.
- (b) Authorize for trial use throughout this Church, as an alternative at any time or times to the established Book of Common Prayer or to any section or Office thereof, a proposed revision of the whole Book or of any portion thereof, duly undertaken by the General Convention.
- (c) Authorize for use throughout this Church, as provided by Canon, alternative and additional liturgies to supplement those provided in the Book of Common Prayer.

And provided that nothing in this Article shall be construed as restricting the authority of the Bishops of this Church to take such order as may be permitted by the Rubrics of the Book of Common Prayer or by the Canons of the General Convention for the use of special forms of worship.

<Proposed amended resolution text showing exact changes being made:>

ARTICLE X

The Book of Common Prayer, as now established or hereafter amended by the authority of this Church, shall be in use in all the Dioceses of this Church. No alteration thereof or addition thereto shall be made unless the same shall be first proposed in one regular meeting of the General Convention and by a resolve thereof be sent within six months to the Secretary of the Convention of every Diocese, to be made known to the Diocesan Convention at its next meeting, and be adopted by the General Convention at its next succeeding regular meeting by a majority of all Bishops, excluding retired Bishops not present, of the whole number of Bishops entitled to vote in the House of Bishops, and by a vote by orders in the House of Deputies in accordance with Article I, Sec. 5, except that concurrence by the orders shall require the affirmative vote in each order by a majority of the Dioceses entitled to representation in the House of Deputies.

But notwithstanding anything herein above contained, the General Convention may at any one meeting, by a majority of the whole number of the Bishops entitled to vote in the House of Bishops, and by a majority of the Clerical and Lay Deputies of all the Dioceses entitled to representation in the House of Deputies, voting by orders as previously set forth in this Article:

- (a) Amend the Table of Lessons and all Tables and Rubrics relating to the Psalms.

(b) Authorize for trial use throughout this Church, as an alternative at any time or times to the established Book of Common Prayer or to any section or Office thereof, a proposed revision of the whole Book or of any portion thereof, duly undertaken by the General Convention.

(c) Authorize for use throughout this Church, as provided by Canon, alternative and additional liturgies to supplement those provided in the Book of Common Prayer.

And *provided* that nothing in this Article shall be construed as restricting the authority of the Bishops of this Church to take such order as may be permitted by the Rubrics of the Book of Common Prayer or by the Canons of the General Convention for the use of special forms of worship.

Explanation

As recorded under the Acts of Convention 1973-2018 in the Archives of The Episcopal Church, legislative action taken at the 79th General Convention concurred with Resolution 2018-A063. This resolution provides a second reading of the unaltered text.



Resolution Number: 2018-A062
Title: Amend Canon II.3.6 [Trial Use]
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred as Amended
Final Text:

Resolved, That the 79th General Convention of The Episcopal Church amend Canon II.3.6 as follows:

Sec. 6

(a) Whenever the General Convention, pursuant to Article X(b) of the Constitution, shall authorize for trial use a proposed revision of the Book of Common Prayer, or of a portion or portions thereof, the enabling Resolution shall specify the period of such trial use, the precise text thereof, and any special terms or conditions under which such trial use shall be carried out *including translation*.

(b) It shall be the duty of the Custodian of the Standard Book of Common Prayer:

- (1) To arrange for the publication of such proposed revision;
- (2) To protect, by copyright, the authorized text of such revision, on behalf of the General Convention; which copyright shall be relinquished when such proposed revision or revisions shall have been adopted by the General Convention as an alteration of, or addition to, the Book of Common Prayer;
- (3) To certify that printed copies of such revision or revisions have been duly authorized by the General Convention, and that the printed text conforms to that approved by the General Convention.

(c) During the said period of trial use and under the modifying conditions specified, only the material so authorized, and in the exact form in which it has been so authorized, shall be available as an alternative for the said Book of Common Prayer or the said portion or portions thereof; *provided, however*, that it shall be competent for the Presiding Bishop and the President of the House of Deputies, jointly, on recommendation by a resolution duly adopted at a meeting of the Standing Commission on Liturgy and Music communicated to the said presiding officers in writing, to authorize variations and adjustments to, or substitutions for, or alterations in, any portion of the texts under trial, which seem desirable as a result of such trial use, and which do not change the substance of a rite.

(d) In the event of the authorization of such variations, adjustments, substitutions, or alternatives, as aforesaid, it shall be the duty of the Custodian of the Standard Book of Common Prayer to notify the Ecclesiastical Authority of every Diocese, and the Convocation of the ~~American~~ *Episcopal* Churches in

Europe, of such action, and to give notice thereof through the media of public information.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Austin, 2018* (New York: General Convention, 2018), pp. 1125-1126.



Resolution Number: 2018-A063
Title: Amend Constitution Article X [Book of Common Prayer
Supplementary Text--First Reading]
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred
Final Text:

Resolved, That the 79th General Convention of The Episcopal Church amend Article X of the Constitution of the Episcopal Church as follows

ARTICLE X

The Book of Common Prayer, as now established or hereafter amended by the authority of this Church, shall be in use in all the Dioceses of this Church. No alteration thereof or addition thereto shall be made unless the same shall be first proposed in one regular meeting of the General Convention and by a resolve thereof be sent within six months to the Secretary of the Convention of every Diocese, to be made known to the Diocesan Convention at its next meeting, and be adopted by the General Convention at its next succeeding regular meeting by a majority of all Bishops, excluding retired Bishops not present, of the whole number of Bishops entitled to vote in the House of Bishops, and by a vote by orders in the House of Deputies in accordance with Article I, Sec. 5, except that concurrence by the orders shall require the affirmative vote in each order by a majority of the Dioceses entitled to representation in the House of Deputies.

But notwithstanding anything herein above contained, the General Convention may at any one meeting, by a majority of the whole number of the Bishops entitled to vote in the House of Bishops, and by a majority of the Clerical and Lay Deputies of all the Dioceses entitled to representation in the House of Deputies, voting by orders as previously set forth in this Article:

(a) Amend the Table of Lessons and all Tables and Rubrics relating to the Psalms.

(b) Authorize for trial use throughout this Church, as an alternative at any time or times to the established Book of Common Prayer or to any section or Office thereof, a proposed revision of the whole Book or of any portion thereof, duly undertaken by the General Convention.

(c) *Authorize for use throughout this Church, as provided by Canon, alternative and additional liturgies to supplement those provided in the Book of Common Prayer.*

And provided that nothing in this Article shall be construed as restricting the authority of the Bishops of this Church to take such order as may be permitted by the Rubrics of the Book of Common Prayer or by the Canons of the General Convention for the use of special forms of worship.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Austin, 2018* (New York: General Convention, 2018), pp. 1008-1009.



Resolution Number: 2015-A066
Title: On the Topic of Constitution Article X [The Book of
Common Prayer]
Legislative Action Taken: Rejected
Text of Resolution:

Resolved, the House of Deputies concurring, That Article X of the Constitution is hereby amended to read as follows:

The Book of Common Prayer, as now established or hereafter amended by the authority of this Church, shall be in use in all the Dioceses of this Church. No alteration thereof or addition thereto shall be made unless the same shall be first proposed in one regular meeting of the General Convention and by a resolve thereof be sent within six months to the Secretary of the Convention of every Diocese, to be made known to the Diocesan Convention at its next meeting, and be adopted by the General Convention at its next succeeding regular meeting by a majority of all Bishops, excluding retired Bishops not present, of the whole number of Bishops entitled to vote in the House of Bishops, and by a vote by orders in the House of Deputies in accordance with Article I, Sec. 5, except that concurrence by the orders shall require the affirmative vote in each order by a majority of the Dioceses entitled to representation in the House of Deputies.

But notwithstanding anything herein above contained, the General Convention may at any one meeting, by a majority of the whole number of the Bishops entitled to vote in the House of Bishops, and by a majority of the Clerical and Lay Deputies of all the Dioceses entitled to representation in the House of Deputies, voting by orders as previously set forth in this Article:

- (a) Amend the Table of Lessons and all Tables and Rubrics relating to the Psalms.
- (b) Authorize for trial use throughout this Church, as an alternative at any time or times to the established Book of Common Prayer or to any section or Office thereof, a proposed revision of the whole Book or of any portion thereof, duly undertaken by the General Convention.
- (c) Provide for use of other forms for the renewal and enrichment of the common worship of this Church, as an alternative at any time or times to any section or Office of the established Book of Common Prayer for such periods of time and upon such terms and conditions as the General Convention may provide, under the direction and subject to the permission of the bishop exercising ecclesiastical authority.

And Provided, that nothing in this Article shall be construed as restricting the authority of the Bishops of this Church to take such order as may be permitted by the Rubrics of the Book of Common Prayer or by the Canons of the General Convention for the use of special forms of worship.



Resolution Number: 2003-A108
Title: On the Topic of Amending Constitution Article X [Second Reading]
Legislative Action Taken: Rejected
Text of Resolution:

Resolved, the House of Deputies concurring, That Article X of the Constitution be amended to include the following sentence at the end of the second paragraph:

Provide for use of other forms for the renewal and enrichment of the common worship of this church for such periods of time and upon such terms and conditions as the General Convention may provide; and be it further

Resolved, That this resolution be sent within six months to the Secretary of the Convention of every Diocese to be made known to the Diocesan Convention at its next meeting.



Resolution Number: 2000-A132
Title: Amend Constitution Article X [The Book of Common Prayer--First Reading]
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred as Amended
Final Text:

Resolved, That Article X of the Constitution be amended to include the following sentence at the end of the second paragraph:

Provide for use of other forms for the renewal and enrichment of the common worship of this church for such periods of time and upon such terms and conditions as the General Convention may provide; and be it further

Resolved, That this resolution be sent within six months to the Secretary of the Convention of every Diocese to be made known to the Diocesan Convention at its next meeting.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Denver, 2000* (New York: General Convention, 2001), p. 624.



Resolution Number: 1997-C021
Title: Plan Constitutional and Liturgical Changes to Enrich Common Worship
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred as Substituted
Final Text:

Resolved, That the 72nd General Convention direct the Standing Liturgical Commission and the Standing Commission on Constitution and Canons to submit to the 73rd General Convention for first reading an amendment to the Constitution of this Church to add to Article X an authorization for preparation and use of additional liturgical materials; and be it further

Resolved, That the Standing Liturgical Commission be directed to prepare a plan for liturgical revision and enrichment of the common worship of this Church to be presented to the 73rd General Convention; and be it further

Resolved, That this plan include forms of worship reflective of our multicultural, multiethnic, multilingual and multigenerational Church while providing rites and structures that ensure the unity of Common Prayer; and be it further

Resolved, That any new or revised rites when authorized be available for distribution in a variety of forms, including multimedia and electronic options; and be it further

Resolved, That the Standing Liturgical Commission be directed to prepare for publication and use alternative liturgical materials to be presented to the 74th General Convention; and be it further

Resolved, That the Standing Liturgical Commission present the necessary budget request for this process of liturgical revision and enrichment to the 73rd General Convention.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Philadelphia, 1997* (New York: General Convention, 1998), p. 739.



Resolution Number: 1994-A016
Title: On the Topic of the Constitutional Article on Forms of Worship
Legislative Action Taken: Rejected
Text of Resolution:

Resolved, the House of Bishops concurring, That the second paragraph of Article X of the Constitution be amended by adding the following sub-paragraph (c):

c. Provide for limited use for other forms of worship on an experimental basis for such periods of time and upon such terms and conditions as the General Convention may provide.



Resolution Number: 1991-A121
Title: Amend Constitution Article I.7 [Time and Place of General Convention—Second Reading]
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred As Amended
Final Text:

Resolved, That this 70th General Convention direct the Standing Liturgical Commission to continue to study, develop and evaluate supplemental inclusive language texts as previously directed by the 68th and 69th General Conventions, in consultation with the Theology Committee of the House of Bishops, among other consultants, and in consultation with the bishops, clergy and laity of this Church through a process which solicits their reactions and suggestion to report back to the 71st General Convention; and be it further

Resolved, That for the sake of perfecting such draft texts as the Standing Liturgical Commission shall develop, using this consultative process, this Convention authorize Supplemental Liturgical Materials for use during the next triennium omitting Sections 4 and 34: such use shall always be under the direction of the diocesan bishop or ecclesiastical authority. Paragraph 34 to be referred back to the Standing Liturgical Commission in consultation with the House of Bishops Committee on Theology for evaluation, study and refinement, but not for use at this time; and be it further

Resolved, That the second paragraph of Article X of the Constitution be amended by adding the following sub-paragraph (c):

(c) Provide for limited use for other forms of worship on an experimental basis for such periods of time and upon such terms and conditions as the General Convention may provide.

And that this amendment be sent to the Secretary of the Convention of every Diocese and be made known to the Diocesan Convention at its next meeting.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Phoenix, 1991* (New York: General Convention, 1992), p. 405.