

General Convention of The Episcopal Church 2022 Archives' Research Report

Resolution No.: 2022-D085
Title: Spanish Grammatical Conventions in Official Communications and Liturgy
Proposer: The Rev. Daniel Robayo
Topic: Language Translation

Directly Related: (Attached)

2018-A070 Create New Translations of the 1979 Book of Common Prayer
2018-A281 Reaffirm Commitment to Providing Translation Services
2015-A068 Begin Translating Liturgies into Creole, French and Spanish

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

2018-C024 Propose a Process for Liturgical Translations
2015-A063 Amend Canon II.2 [Of Bible Translations] to Add Translation Criteria
2009-B017 Urge Translation of TEC Website into Spanish and French
2003-C029 Publish Official Church Documents in Spanish and French

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.

D085 - Spanish grammatical conventions in official communications and liturgy

Final Status: Not Yet Finalized

Proposed by: The Rev. Daniel Robayo

Endorsed by: The Rev. Robert Alves, The Rev. Paul Canady, Ms. Megan Carlson, Ms. Alice Freeman

Requests New Interim Body: No

Amends C&C or Rules of Order: No

Has Budget Implications: No

Cost:

HiA: HD

Legislative Committee Currently Assigned: 04 - Governance & Structure

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 require when Spanish is used in official communications and liturgies, that it be done in accordance with the grammatical conventions of the Spanish-speaking community as endorsed by the Royal Spanish Academy and the Association of Academies of the Spanish Language.

Explanation

This resolution is offered for consideration because the issue of personal gender, a comparatively recent psychological concept relating to personal identity, is being presented as opposed to grammatical gender in Spanish. This tends to lead English speakers to adopt Anglified-Spanish words, e.g., “Latinx.” These violate the protocols of correct Spanish and offend native Spanish speakers by incorrectly implying the exclusion of women.

Furthermore, switching from the existing conventions of the Spanish language to a dual form, known in Spanish as *desdoblamiento* (e.g., from “*los santos*” to “*los santos y las santas*”), has the unintended effect of excluding non-binary persons.



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: 2015-A068
Title: Begin Translating Liturgies into Creole, French and Spanish
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred as Amended
Final Text:

Resolved, That the Standing Commission on Liturgy and Music, in cooperation with the Custodian of the Book of Common Prayer, be directed to begin work on translation of portions of the Book of Common Prayer and/or other authorized liturgical resources into French, Creole, and Spanish, according to the principles outlined in Canon II.3.5; 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 \$40,000 for the implementation of this resolution; \$20,000 to be allocated for work on French and Creole translations; and \$20,000 for work on Spanish translations.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Salt Lake City, 2015* (New York: General Convention, 2015), p. 680.