

General Convention of The Episcopal Church 2024 Archives' Research Report

Resolution No.: 2024-A031
Title: Translate Reconciliation Resources into Spanish
Proposer: Executive Council Committee on Anti-Racism & Reconciliation
Topic: Language Translation, Racism, Reconciliation

Directly Related: (Attached)

2022-A019 Urge Development of Non-English Resources in Formation Programs
2022-A024 Create a Task Force on Translation and Interpretation
2022-A052 Revise Mandate for Executive Council Committee on Anti-Racism and Reconciliation
2018-A281 Reaffirm Commitment to Providing Translation Services
2015-A063 Amend Canon II.2 [Of Bible Translations] to Add Translation Criteria
2012-A024 Recognize Communications as Essential Ministry
2003-C029 Publish Official Church Documents in Spanish and French
1988-A035 Encourage Spanish-speaking Provinces to Translate Church Documents

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

2022-A005 Translate *Enriching Our Worship* and the *Book of Occasional Services*
2022-A065 Adapt and translate Safe Church Training into Spanish, Creole, and French
2022-C071 On the Topic of Establishing Standards for Spanish Language Use (Rejected)
2018-A070 Create New Translations of the 1979 Book of Common Prayer
2015-A068 Begin Translating Liturgies into Creole, French and Spanish
2009-B017 Urge Translation of TEC Website into Spanish and French
2003-A082 Request a Strategy for Expanding the Church's Multilingual Resources

In preparing this report, the Archives researched the resolutions in the Acts of Convention database for the period 1973 through 2022, 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](#).

A031 - Translate Reconciliation Resources into Spanish

Final Status: Not Yet Finalized

Proposed by: Executive Council Committee on Anti-Racism & Reconciliation

Has Budget Implications: Yes

Cost: \$50.00

Amends C&C or Rules of Order: No

Requests New Interim Body: No

Changes Mandate Of Existing Ib: No

Directs Dfms Staff: Yes

Directs Dioceses: No

Directs Executive Council: No

HiA: No House Assigned

Legislative Committee Currently Assigned: No Committee Assigned

Completion Status: Incomplete

Latest House Action: N/A

Supporting Documents: No

Resolution Text

That this 81th General Convention of The Episcopal Church (“TEC”) hereby strongly encourages Language Coordinator Services work with the Office of Ethnic Ministries, the Office of Racial Reconciliation, and the Executive Council Committee on Anti-Racism & Reconciliation to translate key racial reconciliation resources into Spanish that will further the Church’s efforts toward dismantling racism and achieving racial justice and healing; and be it further Resolved, that the sum of \$50,000 be set aside for carrying out this work which is figured on a perword basis.

Explanation

1 Corinthians 14:9-13 says: “9 So with yourselves, if with your tongue you utter speech that is not intelligible, how will anyone know what is said? For you will be speaking into the air. 10 There are doubtless many different languages in the world, and none is without meaning, 11 but if I do not know the meaning of the language, I will be a foreigner to the speaker and the speaker a foreigner to me. 12 So with yourselves, since you are eager for manifestations of the Spirit, strive to excel in building up the church. 13 Therefore, one who speaks in a tongue should pray that he may interpret.” Why, indeed, should the Church speak to those for whom English is not their first language how will they know what we have said? How can we be one Church? As the passage says, we are called to interpret what we say. Since English and Spanish are the most widely used languages without any doubt,

their translations are incredibly crucial to the life of the Church. General Convention Resolution 1988-A035 Encourage Spanish-speaking Provinces to Translate Church Documents encouraged Spanish-speaking Provinces to Translate Church Documents. This has been found insufficient and unfair by the Church. Several General Convention Resolutions (including 2018-A070 Create New Translations of the 1979 Book of Common Prayer and 2018-C024 Propose a Process for Liturgical Translations) were passed with the aim of translating various liturgical resources into Spanish. Some of this has been accomplished. However, discussions with staff at Church Headquarters have revealed that funding is insufficient to complete these translations and that none of them provide funding to translate resources around dismantling racism and achieving racial justice and healing. This resolution asks that the Church stay true to God's teachings and its commitment to translating key documents with a focus on those related to racial reconciliation so that the whole Church can do the critical work of dismantling racism and achieving racial justice and healing.



Resolution Number: 2022-A019
Title: Urge Development of Non-English Resources in Formation Programs
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred as Amended
Final Text:

Resolved, That the 80th General Convention celebrate the efforts being made within The Episcopal Church and throughout the Anglican Communion to collaborate in offering theological education and formation in languages other than English; and be it further
Resolved, That the General Convention urge and promote increasing development and availability of resources for discernment, theological education and formation in languages other than English, including in our major seminaries and other programs of formation throughout The Episcopal Church; and be it further
Resolved, That the General Convention urge the seminaries and other institutions of formation, in collaboration with the non-US jurisdictions to identify theological and other texts, especially in Anglican studies, most in need of translation for theological formation, and consult with the Office of Communications and others as appropriate to explore ways such translations can be made, following professional guidelines; and be it further
Resolved, That the Office of Global Partnerships be tasked with urging and following up on this initiative.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Baltimore, 2022* (New York: General Convention, 2023), p. 438.



Resolution Number: 2022-A024
Title: Create a Task Force on Translation and Interpretation
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred
Final Text:

Resolved, That the 80th General Convention, pursuant to Joint Rule IX.22, create a Task Force on Translation and Interpretation, whose mandate includes, but is not limited to, (1) development of a working strategy and criteria for determining and prioritizing the types of materials (media releases, resources, reports, etc.) pertaining to church life to be translated and meetings related to governance to be interpreted and into which languages; (2) establishment of criteria for assuring the quality of translations and interpretation, employing dynamic equivalence, and establish procedures and criteria for hiring professional translators and interpreters to assure high-quality translations and interpretations; (3) consultation with non-English speaking dioceses, jurisdictions, and area missions about their needs and priorities for translations and interpretation; and (4) recommendation of funding levels necessary to implement the strategy; and be it further

Resolved, That the task force begin its work no later than January 1, 2023, with the task concluding its work at the conclusion of the 82nd General Convention, unless its mandate is extended by the 82nd Convention; and be it further

Resolved, That the task force report annually to Executive Council and provide an interim report to the 81st General Convention and a final report with recommendations to the 82nd General Convention; and be it further

Resolved, That the membership of this task force be appointed by the Presiding Bishop and the President of the House of Deputies and include up to three Bishops appointed by the Presiding Bishop for five-year terms, with special consideration given to inclusion of Bishops from non-English speaking dioceses and jurisdictions; up to three Clergy and up to three Lay Persons appointed by the President of the House of Deputies for five-year terms, with special consideration given to inclusion of persons from non-English speaking dioceses, jurisdictions, and mission areas; up to two members of the Standing Commission on World Mission (SCWM) appointed by the SCWM; and one member of the Standing Commission on Liturgy and Music (SCLM) appointed by the SCLM; and be it further

Resolved, That the Executive Officer of General Convention appoint a member of the staff from the General Convention Office and the Presiding Bishop appoint a member of staff from the Language Services Department of the Office of Communications to serve as consultants to the task force; and be it further

Resolved, That \$90,000 be budgeted for the implementation of this resolution, of which \$30,000 would be allocated to the first triennium of the task force's work.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Baltimore, 2022* (New York: General Convention, 2023), pp. 777-778.



Resolution Number: 2022-A052
Title: Revise Mandate for Executive Council Committee on Anti-Racism and Reconciliation
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred as Amended
Final Text:

Resolved, That the mandate for the Executive Council Committee on Anti-Racism & Reconciliation is hereby clarified as follows:

“This Committee is charged with supporting and monitoring the Church’s work in response to General Convention resolutions directed at dismantling racism and promoting racial healing, justice, and reconciliation in the Church by:

- a) helping the church recognize and develop its work of racial healing, justice, and reconciliation as a fundamental and requisite part of Christian formation;
- b) supporting the work of **Becoming Beloved Community: The Episcopal Church’s Long-Term Commitment to Racial Healing, Justice, and Reconciliation** and other such initiatives the Presiding Officers, Executive Council, or Interim Bodies develop, and also the work of the Episcopal Coalition for Racial Equity and Justice;
- c) recommending, in collaboration with staff and other church organizations, resources and best practices for dismantling racism and for promoting racial healing, justice, and reconciliation that can be adapted to different contexts;
- d) collecting information from dioceses and provinces about their successes and challenges in complying with the canonical requirements and with General Convention Resolution 2018-A045 for providing anti-racism training;
- e) and sharing their findings with Executive Council on an annual basis.

Membership of the Executive Council Committee on Anti-Racism & Reconciliation shall be composed of:

one person named by the governing body of each province of this Church who has been trained in doing the work of dismantling racism and seeking to foster racial healing, justice, and reconciliation, has demonstrated experience in anti-racism/racial reconciliation work, has demonstrated the ability to make connections with people in their geographic area who do this work, and has demonstrated a commitment to make connections with people in the provinces who do this work;

one member of the Executive Council as appointed by the Chair and Vice-Chair of Executive Council;

one Bishop as appointed by the Presiding Officers;

members named who are from the racial or ethnic groups of black, Latino/a, Asian, Native American/Indigenous, and non-Hispanic white to ensure representation of diverse racial and ethnic voices on this Committee - if there are none, then the Chair and Vice-Chair of Executive Council shall appoint a member at large from each unrepresented racial or ethnic group;

a member named who is under 40, to ensure representation of multiple generations - if there are no members then the Chair and Vice-Chair of Executive Council shall appoint a member at large from each unrepresented generational group.

Members shall serve terms as follows:

Each Committee member shall serve one triennium beginning January 1 in the year following each General Convention until the December 31 following the next General Convention. Members may be named to serve consecutive terms by their provinces.

In the event that a province fails to name a person to serve on the Committee by [sic] January 1, when each term begins, the Chair and Vice-Chair of Executive Council shall appoint a qualified person from that province to serve on the Committee.

Vacancies shall be filled in the same manner as the original members were named. Vacancies in excess of 30 days shall be filled by the Chair and Vice-Chair of Executive Council, and in the case of a Bishop vacancy, by the Chair of Executive Council.”

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Baltimore, 2022* (New York: General Convention, 2023), pp. 837-838.



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-A063
Title: Amend Canon II.2 [Of Bible Translations] to Add Translation Criteria
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred
Final Text:

Resolved, That the 78th General Convention adopt the following Criteria for Recommending New Biblical Translations for Use in Public Worship:

I. Guiding assumptions:

1. There is no perfect translation. It is impossible to render the full meaning of a text in its original language and context into another language and context.
2. All translations make interpretive choices; there is no “neutral” translation. However, some translations conform more closely than others to the specific criteria listed below.
3. The goal of these criteria is not to advance any particular interpretations; but, rather, to help ensure that amendments to Canon II.2 will be generally received as reasonable, responsible, and suitable.
4. Ordinarily, for a translation to be considered, it must include the books of the Old and New Testament and the Apocrypha or Deuterocanonical Books as listed in the Articles of Religion.
5. No translation will be universally received as fully meeting all of these criteria. To be recommended, a new translation should be widely received as meeting most of these specific criteria.

II. To be recommended for use in public worship, a translation should meet the specific criteria of being:

1. Based on academically or historically accepted editions of the Hebrew and Greek texts;
2. Technically competent in approximating the meaning of the base text; Comprehensible to the target audience;
3. Fluid when spoken aloud;
4. Stylistically suitable to approved services.

III. While some translations obviously fail to meet these standards, measuring a text by these criteria is far from an exact science. We can, however, look for certain kinds of positive reception to indicate whether or not a text meets most of these criteria:

1. Academic reception. Do most biblical scholars recognize the translation as technically competent and comprehensible to the target audience? Do most liturgical scholars recognize the translation as fluid when spoken aloud and stylistically suitable to approved services?
2. Pastoral reception. Does a significant number of clergy consider the translation comprehensible to their congregations, fluid when spoken aloud, and/or stylistically suitable for their services?
3. Anglican reception. Have most other Churches in the Anglican Communion made provision for the use of the translation in public worship?
4. Full Communion Partners’ reception. Have most of The Episcopal Church’s Full Communion Partners made provision for the use of the translation in public worship?

5. Ecumenical reception. Have other Churches made provisions for the use of the translation in public worship?; and be it further

Resolved, That Canon II.2 is hereby amended by adding two new sections:

Canon 2: Of Translations of the Bible

Sec. 1. The Lessons prescribed in the Book of Common Prayer shall be read from the translation of the Holy Scriptures commonly known as the King James or Authorized Version (which is the historic Bible of this Church) together with the Marginal Readings authorized for use by the General Convention of 1901; or from one of the three translations known as Revised Versions, including the English Revision of 1881, the American Revision of 1901, and the Revised Standard Version of 1952; from the Jerusalem Bible of 1966; from the New English Bible with the Apocrypha of 1970; or from The 1976 Good News Bible (Today's English Version); or from The New American Bible (1970); or from The Revised Standard Version, an Ecumenical Edition, commonly known as the "R.S.V. Common Bible" (1973); or from The New International Version (1978); or from The New Jerusalem Bible (1987); or from the Revised English Bible (1989); or from the New Revised Standard Version (1990); or from the Contemporary English Version (1995); or from the Contemporary English Version Global (2005); or from the Common English Bible (2011); or from translations, authorized by the diocesan bishop, of those approved versions published in any other language; or from other versions of the Bible, including those in languages other than English, which shall be authorized by diocesan bishops for specific use in congregations or ministries within their dioceses.

Sec. 2. All translations proposed for inclusion in Canon II.2.1 must conform to the Criteria for Recommending New Biblical Translations for Use in Public Worship adopted by General Convention.

Sec. 3. All translations proposed for inclusion in Canon II.2.1 must first be referred to the Standing Commission on Liturgy and Music for review according to the Criteria for Recommending New Biblical Translations for Use in Public Worship.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Salt Lake City, 2015* (New York: General Convention, 2015), pp. 723-725.



Resolution Number: 2012-A024
Title: Recognize Communications as Essential Ministry
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred as Amended
Final Text:

Resolved, That the 77th General Convention of the Episcopal Church recognizes that communications is an essential ministry of the Church that enables and empowers evangelism, congregational development, the building of community, and mission at the churchwide, diocesan and congregational levels; that there should be a trained communicator in each diocese and ongoing communication training for all congregations; that there should be sensitivity to multi-lingual and multi-cultural requirements that may exist; and that communications should be adequately funded to meet the needs of mission and ministry as defined by the diocese; and be it further

Resolved, That this convention recognizes that the ministry of communication allows us effectively to proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom, the first of the Five Marks of Mission.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Indianapolis, 2012* (New York: General Convention, 2012), p. 257.



Resolution Number: 2003-C029
Title: Publish Official Church Documents in Spanish and French
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred as Substituted and Amended
Final Text:

Resolved, That the 74th General Convention direct that all official documents, publications, and digital publications produced by the Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society be issued in Spanish and French no later than 2006, and in other languages used in The Episcopal Church as soon as possible; and be it further

Resolved, That translated materials shall include, but are not limited to the following: Episcopal News Service (ENS) press releases, the Presiding Bishop's monthly message, Pastoral Letters of the House of Bishops, Summary Reports of the actions of General Convention, Executive Council resolutions and actions, and official communications from The Episcopal Church; and be it further

Resolved, That materials produced in Spanish and French be published on The Episcopal Church website after review by the Office of Ethnic Congregational Development; and be it further

*Resolved, That *Episcopal Life* be urged to publish a section of the newspaper in Spanish and French; and be it further*

Resolved, That the 74th General Convention encourage dioceses, congregations, and other agencies and institutions related to The Episcopal Church to make available, as appropriate, materials in Spanish and French or other languages of its constituents; and be it further

Resolved, That the 74th General Convention request the Joint Standing Committee on Program, Budget and Finance to consider a budget allocation of \$85,000 per year for the triennium for the implementation of this resolution.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Minneapolis, 2003* (New York: General Convention, 2004), p. 190f.



Resolution Number: 1988-A035
Title: Encourage Spanish-speaking Provinces to Translate Church Documents
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred As Amended
Final Text:

Resolved, That this 69th General Convention encourage a consortium of Spanish-speaking Provinces in their efforts to translate and publish church documents into Spanish, and recommend that such translations include significant ecumenical documents.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Detroit, 1988* (New York: General Convention, 1989), p. 328.