

## General Convention of The Episcopal Church 2024 Archives' Research Report

**Resolution No.:** 2024-B003  
**Title:** The Tree of Life: an Armenian Rite for Holy Cross Day  
**Proposer:** Stebbins, The Rt. Rev. Martha E  
**Topic:** Liturgy

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**Directly Related:** (Attached)

None

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

2022-A013 Commend Church Calendar Taxonomy in the Book of Common Prayer  
2000-A063 Continue Trial Use of *The Revised Common Lectionary*

*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](#).*

# B003 - The Tree of Life: an Armenian Rite for Holy Cross Day

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**Final Status:** Not Yet Finalized

**Proposed by:** Stebbins, The Rt. Rev. Martha E.

**Endorsed by:** Baskerville-Burrows, The Rt. Rev. Jennifer, Hirschfeld, The Rt. Rev. A. Robert

**Has Budget Implications:** No

**Cost:**

**Amends C&C or Rules of Order:** No

**Requests New Interim Body:** No

**Changes Mandate Of Existing Ib:** Yes

**Directs Dfms Staff:** No

**Directs Dioceses:** No

**Directs Executive Council:** No

**HiA:** HB

**Legislative Committee Currently Assigned:** 10 - Prayer Book, Liturgy & Music

**Completion Status:** Incomplete

**Latest House Action:** N/A

**Supporting Documents:** Yes

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## Resolution Text

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

That the 81st General Convention direct the Standing Commission on Liturgy and Music to consider making available a rite, "The Liturgy of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross – Adapted from the Rite of the Armenian Orthodox Church," and that such a rite be brought before the 82nd General Convention for its consideration.

## Explanation

On the Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross (reckoned as the Sunday closest to September 14) members of the Armenian Apostolic Church gather for an ancient rite that is both solemn and delightful. The service is a multi-sensory and energizing experience of the Cross understood as the Tree of Life. Trial use in various Episcopal settings including two diocesan clergy conferences has demonstrated the appeal of this liturgy. Its themes are congruent with the ecumenical Season of Creation, which extends from September 1 to October 4. Falling as it does in the middle of the Season, it provides an apt focus within the larger celebration.

The proposed rite is a simplified version adapted from the actual texts of the Armenian liturgy, which are in the public domain. It is suggested for use following the Eucharist on Holy Cross Day with status of an “available rite.”

The complete liturgy is found in “The Exaltation of the Holy Cross—Processional and Adoration According to the Rite of the Armenian Church”, St. Vartan Press 2007, a publication of the Diocesan Liturgical Committee of the Eastern diocese.

Support Documents:

[The Liturgy of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross – Adapted from the Rite of the Armenian Orthodox Church](#)