

**GENERAL CONVENTION OF THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH 2018
ARCHIVES' RESEARCH REPORT**

RESOLUTION NO.: 2018-A016
TITLE: Trial Use of Creation Care Language in the Baptismal Covenant
PROPOSER: Advisory Council on the Stewardship of Creation
TOPIC: Book of Common Prayer

Directly Related: (Attached)

2015-C015 Refer a Resolution to Amend the Baptismal Covenant (Referred)
2009-D005 On the Topic of an Alternative Baptismal Covenant (Rejected)

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

None

Supplemental Documents: (Linked)

(*Blue Book*) Report to General Convention, [Advisory Council on the Stewardship of Creation](#), see page 589.

In preparing this report, the Archives researched the resolutions in the Acts of Convention database for the period 1976 through 2015, 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 at 800-525-9329 before Convention or at Convention in the General Convention Secretariat.

A016 Trial Use of Creation Care Language in the Baptismal Covenant

Proposer	Advisory Council on the Stewardship of Creation
Topic	Book of Common Prayer
Endorsed by	Johnson, The Rev. Stephanie
Sponsored by	
Page numbers	Blue Book: p. N/A; Constitution & Canons: p. N/A
HiA / Leg. Cttee	HB / 12 - Prayer Book, Liturgy and Music
Current Status	Resolution Filed
Version	Original (as filed)
Review Status	Not yet reviewed

RESOLUTION TEXT

- 1 *Resolved*, the House of _____ concurring, That the 79th General Convention, hearing the baptismal prayer asking for the newly baptized to be granted “the gift of joy and wonder in all your works,” authorize the trial use of additions to the Baptismal Covenant concerning our responsibility as baptized Christians to care for God’s creation; and be it further
- 2 *Resolved*, That there be two (2) options for this addition;
- 3 First, an additional question may be added with the wording:
“Will you cherish the wondrous works of God, and protect and restore the beauty and integrity of all creation?”
- 4 People: I will, with God’s help.”
- 5 Second, that the question:
- 6 “Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity every human being?” may be augmented as “Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of the Earth and every human being?”; and be it further
- 7 *Resolved*, That use of this additional wording be authorized for trial use as part of the Baptismal Covenant for the triennium following the 79th General Convention, beginning on the first Sunday of Advent 2018; and be it further
- 8 *Resolved*, That the Standing Commission on Liturgy and Music accept comments and suggestions on the trial baptismal covenant language at the 80th General Convention and, as appropriate, consider for future inclusion in the revised Prayer Book.

EXPLANATION

No explanation.



Resolution Number: 2015-C015
Title: Refer a Resolution to Amend the Baptismal Covenant
Legislative Action Taken: Referred
Final Text:

Resolved, That the 78th General Convention authorize the trial addition to the Baptismal Covenant of a sixth question concerning our responsibility as baptized Christians to care for God's creation; and be it further

Resolved, That the additional question and response be worded as follows:

"Will you cherish the wondrous works of God, and protect the beauty and integrity of all creation?

I will, with God's help." ; and be it further

Resolved, That use of this additional question and response be authorized for trial use as part of the Baptismal Covenant for the triennium 2016-2018.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Salt Lake City, 2015* (New York: General Convention, 2015), p. 841.



Resolution Number: 2009-D005
Title: On the Topic of an Alternative Baptismal Covenant
Legislative Action Taken: Rejected
Text of Resolution:

Resolved, the House of Deputies concurring, That the 76th General Convention approve for study and occasional use, under the direction of the Diocesan Bishop or Ecclesiastical Authority, the following “An Alternative Baptismal Covenant;” and be it further

Resolved, That the Standing Commission on Liturgy and Music be directed to request from bishops and dioceses written evaluations of said study and occasional use for the purpose of presenting to the 77th General Convention a resolution to include an “Alternative Baptismal Covenant” in the series Enriching our Worship:

“An Alternative Baptismal Covenant”

Celebrant Do you believe in God the Father?

People I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth

Celebrant Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

People I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the Virgin Mary.
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried.
He descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again.

He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

Celebrant Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

People I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting.

Celebrant How will you each remain faithful to these things you believe?

People With God’s help, by continuing in the apostles’ teaching and fellowship, in the breaking
of bread, and in the prayers.

Celebrant How will you each respond to temptation and sin in your own life?
People With God's help, by persevering in resisting evil, and whenever falling into sin, repenting and returning to the Lord.

Celebrant How will you each share Christ with the world?
People With God's help, by proclaiming by word and example the Good News of God in Christ.

Celebrant How will you each follow Christ in your daily life?
People With God's help, by seeking and serving Christ in all persons, loving my neighbor as myself.

Celebrant How will you each participate in God's redemptive work?
People With God's help, by striving for justice and peace among all people, and by respecting the dignity of every human being.

Celebrant How will you each cultivate reconciliation between human beings and God's created order?
People With God's help, by working for the just and proper stewardship of God's creation, caring for all creatures and living things in this world.