

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

RESOLUTION NO.: 2018-B010
TITLE: Concerning the Service of the Church
PROPOSER: The Rt. Rev. Ian Douglas
TOPIC: Book of Common Prayer

Directly Related: (Attached)

2015-A044 Direct Provision of Regular Communion for Congregations Without Clergy

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 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.

B010 Concerning the Service of the Church

Proposer	The Rt. Rev. Ian Douglas
Endorsed by	Hirschfeld, The Rt. Rev. A. Robert; Fisher, The Rt. Rev. Douglas
Sponsored by	
Page numbers	Blue Book: p. N/A; Constitution & Canons: p. N/A
HiA / Leg. Cttee	HD / 13 - Committee to Receive the Report of Resolution A169
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 substitute the word “preferred” for the word “principal” in the first sentence of the introduction to the Book of Common Prayer (BCP page 13) so that it would read:
- 2 “The Holy Eucharist, the ~~principal~~ *preferred* act of Christian worship on the Lord’s Day and other major Feasts, and Daily Morning and Evening Prayer, as set forth in this Book, are the regular services appointed for public worship in this Church.”

EXPLANATION

The drafters of the 1979 Book of Common Prayer assumed that there were sufficient priests available to preside at the Eucharist in each worshipping community of The Episcopal Church on any given Sunday. This assumption, however, did not fully appreciate the realities of underserved and resource stretched dioceses in the United States and in overseas jurisdictions. Today worshipping communities in many dioceses, and not just those which have been historically underserved and under resourced, are increasingly unable to afford regular clergy presence. In addition, there is a serious undersupply of clergy who are willing and available to preside at the Sunday Eucharist in small or hard to reach parishes. While the intention of the 1979 Book of Common Prayer to have the Holy Eucharist as the principal act of Christian worship on Sunday is theologically and liturgically to be commended and maintained as a goal, the missional realities of the world and the church today commend greater flexibility. Substituting the word “preferred” for the word “principal” in the opening sentence to the introduction of the Book of Common Prayer would allow dioceses, bishops, parishes and worshipping communities to try on new ways to support the liturgical life of worshipping communities in the new missional context for the Church today.



Resolution Number: 2015-A044
Title: Direct Provision of Regular Communion for Congregations
Without Clergy
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred as Substituted and Amended
Final Text:

Resolved, That the 78th General Convention direct the Bishop exercising ecclesiastical authority in each Diocese to discern and implement ways in which small congregations within their Diocese who are without benefit of clergy may receive Communion on a regular basis.

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