

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

RESOLUTION NO.: 2018-D046
TITLE: Expansive-Language Liturgical Resources
PROPOSER: The Rev. Debra Bennett
TOPIC: Liturgy

Directly Related: (Attached)

2012-A057 Authorize Enriching Our Worship
2003-A026 Direct Executive Council to Appoint a Task Force on Baptismal Parity

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

2015-A169 Prepare a Plan for Revising the 1979 Book of Common Prayer
2006-A069 Direct Continued Development of Liturgies for the *Enriching Our Worship* Series
2003-A027 Use Preferred Forms of Address for Men, Women, and Groups
2003-A092 Continue to Develop *Enriching our Worship* and *Enriching our Music*
2000-A066 Plan for Revision and Enrichment of the Church's Common Worship
2000-B034 Apologize to Those Offended During Transition to the 1979 Prayer Book
1997-C021 Plan Constitutional and Liturgical Changes to Enrich Common Worship
1985-A095 Prepare Inclusive Language Texts for the Regular Services of the Church
1985-A115 Review the Constitution and Canons for Sexually Inclusive Language

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.

D046 Expansive-Language Liturgical Resources

Proposer	The Rev. Debra Bennett
Endorsed by	Kitch-Peck, Ms. Sophie; Johnson, The Rev. Deon
Sponsored by	
Page numbers	Blue Book: p. N/A; Constitution & Canons: p. N/A
HiA / Leg. Cttee	/
Current Status	Pre-Filed Resolution
Version	Original (as filed)
Review Status	Not yet reviewed

RESOLUTION TEXT

- 1 *Resolved*, the House of _____ concurring, That the 79th General Convention authorize continuing use of Enriching Our Worship 1: The Daily Office, Great Litany, and Eucharist; Enriching Our Worship 2: Ministry with the Sick and Dying and Burial of a Child; Enriching Our Worship 3: Burial Rites for Adults together with a Rite for the Burial of a Child; Enriching Our Worship 4: The Renewal of Ministry and the Welcoming of a New Rector or other Pastor; and Enriching Our Worship 5: Liturgies and Prayers Related to Childbearing, Childbirth, and Loss; and be it further
- 2 *Resolved*, That the 79th General Convention encourage the use of translations of the Psalter that use inclusive and expansive language; and be it further
- 3 *Resolved*, That the 79th General Convention direct the Standing Commission on Liturgy and Music to develop principles for the use of inclusive and expansive language in liturgical texts, to report these principles to the 80th General Convention, and to follow these principles in all revisions of liturgical resources and in the development of any new liturgical resources; and be it further
- 4 *Resolved*, That the 79th General Convention encourage the use of inclusive and expansive language within existing authorized resources, including but not limited to the Book of Common Prayer and Enriching Our Worship, by replacing masculine-gendered language for God with feminine or neutral language; and be it further
- 5 *Resolved*, That the 79th General Convention encourage the grassroots development of liturgical texts to provide expansive language resources, particularly resources that reflect the breadth of cultures, languages, and ancestral contexts already represented in The Episcopal Church; and to share those resources with the Standing Commission on Liturgy and Music for evaluation for inclusion in official liturgical resources.

EXPLANATION

Language shapes reality. Use of expansive God-language enables Christians to claim freedom and dignity as human beings created in the image and likeness of God. The predominantly masculine language of the 1979 Book of Common Prayer limits our vision and creates a context in which male

dominance and power is considered normative, implicitly providing theological support for exploitation and harassment of women. The BCP could make more use of biblical texts, drawing from neglected feminine imagery in scripture.

There is an urgent pastoral and evangelistic need to address the disconnect between our theology and the exclusively male God-language in our liturgies.

Work on inclusive and expansive language texts began in the triennium immediately following the adoption of the 1979 BCP. Though the controversy about expansive God-language largely subsided by the mid 1990s, General Convention has continued to authorize Enriching Our Worship materials for use under the direction of the ecclesiastical authority, limiting their use in some contexts.

The 1997 General Convention approved the study and occasional use of “The Liturgical Psalter: Text for Study and Comment” (Liturgy Training Publications, 1994) and “Psalter for the Christian People” by Gail Ramshaw and Gordon Lathrop (Liturgical Press, 1993) (Resolution 1997-A074). Since then, additional inclusive-language psalters have been published, including the “St. Helena Psalter: A New Version of the Psalms in Expansive Language” (Church Publishing, 2000).



Resolution Number: 2012-A057
Title: Authorize Enriching Our Worship
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred
Final Text:

Resolved, That the 77th General Convention authorize continuing use of Enriching Our Worship 1: The Daily Office, Great Litany, and Eucharist; Enriching Our Worship 2: Ministry with the Sick and Dying and Burial of a Child; Enriching Our Worship 3: Burial Rites for Adults together with a Rite for the Burial of a Child; Enriching Our Worship 4: The Renewal of Ministry and the Welcoming of a New Rector or other Pastor; and Enriching Our Worship 5: Liturgies and Prayers Related to Childbearing, Childbirth, and Loss, under the direction of a bishop exercising ecclesiastical authority.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Indianapolis, 2012* (New York: General Convention, 2012), p. 553.



Resolution Number: 2003-A026
Title: Direct Executive Council to Appoint a Task Force on Baptismal Parity
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred as Substituted and Amended
Final Text:

Resolved, That the 74th General Convention commit itself to using language and visual images that reflect the diversity of age, sex, ethnicity, disability, and race among the baptized membership of The Episcopal Church; and be it further

Resolved, That the 74th General Convention direct the Executive Council to appoint a task force to (1) explore ways to include all who are created in God's image in our use of biblical and theological language and our use of visual images; (2) create guidelines that assure inclusion of persons of both sexes, and all ages, ethnicities and races; and (3) encourage incorporation of these guidelines in the everyday worship, music, education, preaching, written materials, and visual art used at the congregational, diocesan, and national levels of The Episcopal Church; and be it further

Resolved, That the task force include theologians, members of the Standing Commission on Liturgy and Music, the Committee on the Status of Women, the House of Bishops Theology Committee, representatives of the ethnic desks, and the Episcopal News Service; 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 \$35,500 (\$34,000 for two meetings of the Task Force and \$1,500 for communication of these guidelines) for implementation of this resolution.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Minneapolis, 2003* (New York: General Convention, 2004), p. 182.