

General Convention of The Episcopal Church 2024 Archives' Research Report

Resolution No.: 2024-A114
Title: Authorize for Use Expansive Language Versions of Eucharistic Prayer C
Proposer: Standing Commission on Liturgy and Music
Topic: Book of Common Prayer, Liturgy

Directly Related: (Attached)

2022-A015 Refer a Resolution on Trial Use of The Holy Eucharist, Rite II, Prayer C (Referred)

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

2018-D078 Authorize The Holy Eucharist: Rite II (Expansive Language) for Trial Use
2009-C077 On the Topic of the Trial Use of a Eucharistic Prayer C (Rejected)

Supplemental Documents: (Linked)

[Expansive Language Versions of Eucharistic Prayer C](#)

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](#).

A114 - Authorize for use Expansive Language Versions of Eucharistic Prayer C

Final Status: Not Yet Finalized

Proposed by: Standing Commission on Liturgy and Music

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: No House Assigned

Legislative Committee Currently Assigned: No Committee Assigned

Completion Status: Incomplete

Latest House Action: N/A

Supporting Documents: Yes

Resolution Text

Resolved, That the 81st General Convention authorize The Holy Eucharist: Rite II, Prayer C, (Expansive Language) in two versions: dialogic and fixed response, for use throughout this church, subject to consent of the Bishop or the Ecclesiastical authority; and be it further

Resolved, That the period of authorized use of these texts shall extend to the 82nd General Convention; and be it further

Resolved, That the Holy Eucharist: Rite II, Eucharistic Prayer C, (Expansive Language) – both versions – be provided to the church at no cost via electronic distribution; and be it further

Resolved, That the Standing Commission on Liturgy and Music be directed to engage a dynamic equivalence translation of The Holy Eucharist: Rite II, Prayer C – both versions (Expansive Language) into the Spanish, French, and Kreyol languages; and be it further

Resolved, That the Standing Commission on Liturgy and Music be directed to develop a process for evaluation of the ongoing use of The Holy Eucharist: Rite II, Prayer C

(Expansive Language) – both versions - among the dioceses and congregations of this church.

Explanation

Resolution 2022-A015 stated that “The Holy Eucharist: Rite II, Eucharistic Prayer C, be referred to the Standing Commission on Liturgy and Music (SCLM) for possible revision...” This was a second referral, following GC79 in 2018. Resolution 2018-D078 had directed the SCLM to “engage a dynamic equivalence translation of The Holy Eucharist: Rite II, including Eucharistic Prayers A, B, and D, (Expansive Language) into the Spanish, French, and Haitian Creole [Kreyol] languages.”

The SCLM first would like to reemphasize, in concurrence with Resolution 2022-A068, that Eucharistic Prayer C (1979) is memorialized as a rite of the Episcopal Church in the Book of Common Prayer, 1979. Between 2018 and 2022, the SCLM crafted two new expansive language versions of Eucharistic Prayer C:

- A dialogic-response version that maintains the 1979 Prayer C responses by the assembly in the anaphora (e.g. “Risen Lord, be known to us in the breaking of the bread.”)
- A fixed-response version that instead provides a consistent, antiphonal-style response: “Glory to God for ever and ever.”

Unchanged from 2022-A015 are the following distinguishing features:

The existence and proposal of a fixed-response version of Prayer C is to offer a version of the Eucharistic Prayer that both lends itself easily to being sung and/or set to music, while also providing a version intended for one who is worshipping without a physical liturgy at hand

Both versions also feature expansive language changes throughout the entire prayer, following the [Guidelines for Expansive and Inclusive Language](#) in liturgical creation, as adopted at GC80 as Resolution A060.

Both versions also restructure the anaphora to harmonize with the West Syrian structure of the other authorized Eucharistic prayers, in the form of the epiclesis following the words of institution, instead of prior (as in Alexandrian-structured 1979 Prayer C).

Furthermore, both versions now feature an epiclesis of the assembly, which was notably absent in the 1979 version of Prayer C.

The fixed-response version offers some further alternative language options throughout, compared to the dialogic-response version (ex. the fixed-response version’s “Pour out your Spirit upon the whole earth...” versus the dialogic-response version’s “God of our ancestors; Redeemer and Mother of Israel...”

The SCLM thoroughly reviewed both versions in the biennial period between GC80 and GC81. In addition to conversations and attempted new drafts, our task was to address the

concerns shared by many in the Church over the phrase “you blessed us with memory, reason, and skill.” In short, the pastoral and expansive language concerns are thus: this phrase as it stands limits God and the availability of God’s blessing to all sorts of the human condition. In particular, the SCLM searched for an adaptation to this phrase that honors the experiences in creation of people with disabilities, those suffering from memory loss, and the like. The new phrasing, featured in both versions, now states “you blessed us with *the capacity for* memory, reason and skill.”

Taking into consideration the multiple triennia of various scholars and theologians who have contributed to the changes to both versions of Prayer C, as well as the current SCLM’s thorough vetting and review of the changes, we present these prayers now for approval by GC81 for trial use in the Episcopal Church.

The proposed revised texts for Rite II, Eucharistic Prayer C (Expanded Language) can be found as a supporting document to this resolution and are also available in the report to the 81st General Convention (otherwise known as the blue book report) of the Standing Commission on Liturgy and Music.

Support Document:

[Expansive Language Versions of Eucharistic Prayer C](#)



Resolution Number: 2022-A015
Title: Refer a Resolution on Trial Use of The Holy Eucharist, Rite II, Prayer C
Legislative Action Taken: Referred
Final Text:

Resolved, That the 80th General Convention authorize The Holy Eucharist: Rite II, Prayer C, (Expansive Language) in two versions: dialogic and fixed response, for trial use throughout this church as a proposed revision within pages 369 to 372 of the Book of Common Prayer pursuant to Article X(b) of the Constitution; and be it further

Resolved, That the period of trial use for these liturgies shall extend until the completion of the next comprehensive revision of The Book of Common Prayer; and be it further

Resolved, That The Holy Eucharist: Rite II, Eucharistic Prayer C, (Expansive Language) – both versions, be provided to the church at no cost via electronic distribution; and be it further

Resolved, That the Standing Commission on Liturgy and Music be directed to engage a dynamic equivalence translation of The Holy Eucharist: Rite II, Prayer C – both versions (Expansive Language) into the Spanish, French, and Haitian Creole languages; and be it further

Resolved, That the Standing Commission on Liturgy and Music be directed to develop a process for evaluation of the ongoing use of The Holy Eucharist: Rite II, Prayer C (Expansive Language) – both versions - among the dioceses and congregations of this church.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Baltimore, 2022* (New York: General Convention, 2023), pp. 614-615.