

General Convention of The Episcopal Church 2024 Archives' Research Report

Resolution No.: 2024-A160
Title: Revise Catechism in the Book of Common Prayer
Proposer: 10 - Prayer Book, Liturgy & Music
Topic: Book of Common Prayer, Inclusive Language, Liturgy

Directly Related: (Attached)

2022-A060 Endorse Guidelines for Expansive and Inclusive Language
2018-D046 Encourage Development of Inclusive-Language Liturgies

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

2018-A086 Authorize Marriage Rites and Added Provisions for Same-Sex Couples

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](#).

A160 - Revise Catechism in the Book of Common Prayer

Final Status: Not Yet Finalized

Proposed by: 10 - Prayer Book, Liturgy & Music

Has Budget Implications: No

Cost:

Amends C&C or Rules of Order: No

Requests New Interim Body: No

Changes Mandate Of Existing Ib: No

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: No

Resolution Text

Resolved, the House of _____ concurring,

That the section “Other Sacramental Rites” in “An Outline of the Faith commonly called the Catechism” in The Book of Common Prayer (page 861) be amended to read as follows:

Q. What is Holy Matrimony?

A. Holy Matrimony is Christian marriage, in which *two people* ~~the woman and the man~~ enter into a life-long union, make their vows before God and the Church, and receive the grace and blessing of God to help them fulfill their vows.

Q. What is required of those to be married?

A. It is required of those to be married that at least one member of the couple be baptized and that they have been instructed that Christian marriage is an unconditional, mutual, exclusive, faithful and lifelong commitment intended for the couple’s mutual joy, for the help and comfort given to each other in prosperity and adversity, and, when it is God’s will, for the gift and heritage of children and their nurture in the knowledge and love of God.

Explanation

This proposal is included in the Blue Book report of the Standing Commission on Liturgy and Music (pp. 40-41), as part of its proposal to add a gender-neutral marriage liturgy to the Book of Common Prayer. The proposed marriage rites will be considered in a separate resolution.



Resolution Number: 2022-A060
Title: Endorse Guidelines for Expansive and Inclusive Language
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred
Final Text:

*Resolved, That the 80th General Convention adopt **The Guidelines for Expansive and Inclusive Language**, contained in the reports to the 80th General Convention of the Task Force on Liturgical and Prayer Book Revision and the Standing Commission on Liturgy and Music, as the working principles for the revision and development of liturgical materials of The Episcopal Church; and be it further*

Resolved, That the 80th General Convention direct the Standing Commission on Liturgy and Music to follow these guidelines as they develop revised and new liturgical materials; and be it further

Resolved, That when liturgical materials in languages other than English are developed for use in The Episcopal Church that they follow, to the greatest degree possible, the spirit and intent of these guidelines; and be it further

Resolved, That the 80th General Convention commend these guidelines to all persons who write or speak on behalf of the church for their serious reflection and consideration.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Baltimore, 2022* (New York: General Convention, 2023), p. 444.



Resolution Number: 2018-D046
Title: Encourage Development of Inclusive-Language Liturgies
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred as Amended
Final Text:

Resolved, 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

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

Resolved, That the 79th General Convention encourage each diocese to identify an individual or body to encourage the 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 report on their work to the Standing Commission on Liturgy and Music for inclusion in its report to the 80th General Convention.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Austin, 2018* (New York: General Convention, 2018), p. 622.