

General Convention of The Episcopal Church 2024 Archives' Research Report

Resolution No.: 2024-C036
Title: The Peace of the Lord Be With You
Proposer: Nebraska
Topic: Liturgy

Directly Related: (Attached)

None

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

2022-A057 Continue Work of Liturgical and Prayer Book Revision

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](#).

C036 - The Peace of the Lord Be With You

Final Status: Not Yet Finalized

Proposed by: Nebraska

Has Budget Implications: No

Cost:

Amends C&C or Rules of Order: No

Requests New Interim Body: No

Directs an Interim Body: 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: [Principles to Guide the Development of Liturgical Texts\[35\]](#)

Resolution Text

Resolved, the House of _____ concurring,

That the 81st General Convention direct the Standing Commission on Liturgy and Music to include additional guidance in *The Principles to Guide the Development of Liturgical Texts*, to list as an option in paragraph 2a (Gathering and Preparation) the sharing of The Peace, defined in paragraph 2c as “a ritual expression of the unity of the Body of Christ as they come together to offer the Holy Eucharist” at the beginning of worship, offering a pastoral and realistic sense of unity as the community, coming together from different places and with different concerns, begins their liturgical journey together to the focal point of our shared worship experience, where unity, both in community, and in Christ, is realized.

Explanation

The service of Holy Eucharist consists of two parts, the Liturgy of the Word and The Holy Communion. Together they draw the community towards the central act of Eucharistic worship, the sharing of the Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ. Linking the two, the sharing of God’s peace affords all the opportunity to set aside our differences, and realize our unity, before approaching the table,

During this time, many enjoy the opportunity to exit the pew to meet and greet those who are present, often seeing for the first time those who are sitting behind them. This is a time of real blessing, yet the Holy Chaos this creates, can distract from the centering actions the Liturgy of the Word affords. Often followed by announcements, the Peace has been described by some as an intermission between the two parts of Eucharist, instead of that which binds them together.

During a clergy sabbatical, focusing on welcoming practices across various Christian traditions, it was noted that communities taking time, as they gather for worship, to welcome one another, seem to gain a deeper sense of unity in their worship and offer a more meaningful experience as the uninterrupted hymns, readings, and prayers of the liturgy draw the community closer together and to their central act of worship. By shifting the sharing of the peace to the start of the service, while offering a prayer for peace following the confession, parishioners have described feeling a greater sense of community in the sharing of the Eucharist, not as a gathering of individuals, but as one body, sharing in the love shared with them.

Believing the liturgy is a means of bringing people together, from wherever they are in life, drawing them even closer together and to God, it is therefore recommended that the sharing of the peace no longer be limited by rubric, but allowed to be shared at the beginning of worship as well.

Support Document:

[Principles to Guide the Development of Liturgical Texts\[35\]](#)



Resolution Number: 2022-A057
Title: Continue Work of Liturgical and Prayer Book Revision
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred as Amended
Final Text:

Resolved, That the 80th General Convention direct the Standing Commission on Liturgy and Music to continue the work of liturgical and Prayer Book revision; and be it further
*Resolved, That the 80th General Convention direct the SCLM to use in its work on liturgical and Prayer Book revision *The Principles to Guide the Development of Liturgical Texts* included in the report to the 80th General Convention (known as their "Blue Book" report) of the Task Force on Liturgical and Prayer Book Revision; and be it further*
Resolved, That bishops continue to engage worshiping communities in experimentation and the creation of alternative texts to offer to the wider church, and diocesan liturgical commissions collect and share these resources with the SCLM, and that the SCLM review these resources and materials submitted by worshiping communities for consideration in the process of liturgical and Prayer Book revision; and be it further
Resolved, That the 80th General Convention direct the SCLM to review materials submitted to the Task Force on Liturgical and Prayer Book Revision during the 2018-2021 triennium and the recommendations of that Task Force regarding those materials; and be it further
Resolved, That the 80th General Convention direct the SCLM to present to the 81st General Convention liturgical texts for optional and/or trial use in the ongoing process of liturgical and Prayer Book revision.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Baltimore, 2022* (New York: General Convention, 2023), pp. 442-443.