

General Convention of The Episcopal Church 2024 Archives' Research Report

Resolution No.: 2024-D038
Title: Amend Canon II.3 to Remove Copyright Restrictions from Non-English Books of Common Prayer
Proposer: Pankey, The Rev. Dr. Steve
Topic: Book of Common Prayer, Canons, Language Translation

Directly Related: (Attached)

None

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

1994-B025 Direct Report on Copyright Flexibility for Music Published by CPF

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](#).

D038 - Amend Canon II.3 to Remove Copyright Restrictions from Non-English Books of Common Prayer

Final Status: Not Yet Finalized

Proposed by: Pankey, The Rev. Dr. Steve

Endorsed by: Trambley, The Rev. Dr. Adam, Parish, The Rev. Canon Nurya, Castellan, The Rev. Megan L.

Has Budget Implications: No

Cost:

Amends C&C or Rules of Order: Yes

Requests New Interim Body: No

Changes Mandate Of Existing Ib: No

Directs Dfms Staff: No

Directs Dioceses: No

Directs Executive Council: No

HiA: HB

Legislative Committee Currently Assigned: 02 - Constitution & Canons

Completion Status: Incomplete

Latest House Action: N/A

Supporting Documents: No

Resolution Text

Resolved, the House of _____ concurring,

That Canon II.3 is revised to insert a new section 6, renumbering all following sections:

<Amended text as it would appear if adopted and concurred. Scroll below the line of asterisks (*****) to see the version showing all deleted and added text.>

Sec. 6. All editions of The Book of Common Prayer authorized by the Custodian of the Book of Common Prayer, including translations into languages other than English, shall be held without copyright in the public domain.

<Proposed amended resolution text showing exact changes being made:>

Sec. 6. *All editions of The Book of Common Prayer authorized by the Custodian of the Book of Common Prayer, including translations into languages other than English, shall be held without copyright in the public domain.*

Explanation

General Convention, through the Canons of this Church, has made it clear that authorized versions of the Book of Common Prayer are to be in the Public Domain. Unfortunately, translations of said Book have not been treated as authorized versions, but rather revisions, with the Custodian of the Book of Common Prayer holding copyright on them. This creates an undue burden on non-English speaking congregations, which this canonical change seeks to ease by making it clear that all translations of the Book of Common Prayer are to be held without copyright.