

PRAYER BOOK REVISION

THE TOPIC

Before General Convention, the Standing Commission on Liturgy and Music (SCLM) released their General Convention Blue Book Report, and part of that report laid out two options for Prayer Book Revision. Resolution A068 coincided with the Option 1 Plan of the SCLM Report, revision of the Book of Common Prayer. Resolution A069 coincided with the Option 2 Plan that called for deeper engagement with the Book of Common Prayer, directed the SCLM to develop materials for deeper engagement and directed the SCLM and the Standing Commission on Structure, Governance, Constitution and Canons to work together to expand canonical categories of liturgies authorized for use in the Church. Lastly, Resolution A070 authorized the SCLM to create new and more culturally accurate translations of the Book of Common Prayer.

WHAT HAPPENED AT GENERAL CONVENTION

A substitute version of Resolution A068 was adopted to provide a path to develop new liturgies with “expansive and inclusive” language while continuing the use of the 1979 Book of Common Prayer. The revised resolution now encourages dioceses to “create a liturgical commission to collect, reflect, teach and share resources [to be developed within the dioceses] with the Task Force for the Liturgical and Prayer Book Revision (TFLPBR).” The approach was put in place to address the unmet needs of Episcopalians without proceeding to a full Prayer Book revision, as it was determined the direction of such a revision still needs to be further clarified. In addition to the liturgical development and continued prayer book usage, Resolution D078 continued the Church’s progress toward greater inclusivity with the allowance of all congregations to use alternative language for the [Eucharistic] Prayer A, B and D from Rite II in the 1979 Book of Common Prayer.

FAQS

So what happened to A069 & A070?

A069’s official final status is “Take No Further Action” which usually means that it was either acted upon at a previous General Convention or it was already acted upon at this General Convention. In A069’s case, since the General Convention spoke on how they felt about Prayer Book Revision by adopting the substitute resolution for A068, A069 (the other option proposed for Prayer Book Revision) was therefore not voted upon and now has the status of Take No Further Action. A070 was adopted by both houses.

QUESTIONS?

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