

1 **R-1a Resolution to General Convention to Amend the Canons to Retain a**
2 **Printed Form of the Book of Common Prayer**

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4 **Resolved**, by the 229th Annual Convention of the Diocese of Virginia, that the following
5 resolution be presented to the 81st General Convention:
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8 **Resolved**, the House of _____ concurring, That the 81st General Convention of
9 The Episcopal Church amend Title II, Canon 3 of the Canons of the Episcopal Church as
10 follows: [Amendments to Canon in **bold red**]

11 Title II, Canon 3: Of the Standard Book of Common Prayer (Constitution and Canons, 2022, 90-
12 92)

13 Sec. 1. The copy of the Book of Common Prayer accepted by the General Convention of this
14 Church, in the year of our Lord 1979, **together with such alterations and additions approved**
15 **in accordance with Article X of the Constitution**, and authenticated by the signatures of the
16 Presiding Officers and Secretaries of the two Houses of the General Convention, is hereby
17 declared to be the Standard Book of Common Prayer of this Church.

18 Sec.-2. All copies of the Book of Common Prayer to be hereafter made and published shall
19 conform to this Standard, and shall agree therewith in paging, and, as far as it is possible, in all
20 other matters of typographical arrangement, except that the Rubrics may be printed either in red
21 or black, and that page numbers shall be set against the several headings in the Table of
22 Contents. The requirement of uniformity in paging shall apply to the entire book but shall not
23 extend to editions smaller than those known as 32mo, or to editions noted for music.

24 **Sec. 3 The Book of Common Prayer shall be available in both printed book and electronic**
25 **form.**

26 Sec. 4. In case any typographical inaccuracy shall be found in the Standard Book of Common
27 Prayer, its correction may be ordered by a joint Resolution of any General Convention, and
28 notice of such corrections shall be communicated by the Custodian to the Ecclesiastical
29 Authority of each Diocese of this Church, and to actual publishers of the Book of Common
30 Prayer.

31 Sec. 5. Folio copies of the Standard Book of Common Prayer, duly authenticated, as in the case
32 of the Standard Book, shall be sent to the Ecclesiastical Authority of each Diocese in trust for the
33 use thereof, and for reference and appeal in questions as to the authorized formularies of this
34 Church.

35 Sec.6. No **print or electronic copy**, translation, or edition of the Book of Common Prayer, or a
36 part or parts thereof, shall be made, printed, published, or used as of authority in this Church,

37 unless it contains the authorization of the Custodian of the Standard Book of Common Prayer,
38 certifying that the Custodian or some person appointed by the Custodian has compared the said
39 copy, translation, or edition with the said Standard Book of Common Prayer, or a certified copy
40 thereof, and that it conforms thereto. The Custodian, or some person appointed by the Custodian,
41 may exercise due discretion in reference to translations of the entire Standard Book or parts
42 thereof, into other languages so that such translations reflect the idiomatic style and cultural
43 context of those languages. And no copy, translation, or edition of the Book of Common Prayer,
44 or a part or parts thereof, shall be made, printed, published **electronically or in print**, or used as
45 of authority in this Church, or certified as aforesaid, which contains or is bound up with any
46 alterations or additions thereto, or with any other matter, except the Holy Scriptures or the
47 authorized Hymnal of this Church, or with material set forth in the Book of Occasional Services
48 and The Proper for the Lesser Feasts and Fasts, as those books are authorized from time to time
49 by the General Convention.

50 **Sec. 7.**

- 51 a. Whenever the General Convention, pursuant to Article X of the Constitution, shall authorize
52 for trial use a proposed revision of the Book of Common Prayer, or of a portion or portions
53 thereof, the enabling Resolution shall specify the period of such trial use, the precise text
54 thereof, and any special terms or conditions under which such trial use shall be carried out
55 including translation.
- 56 b. It shall be the duty of the Custodian of the Standard Book of Common Prayer:
- 57 1. To arrange for the publication of such proposed revision;
- 58 2. To protect, by copyright, the authorized text of such revision, on behalf of the General
59 Convention; which copyright shall be relinquished when such proposed revision or
60 revisions shall have been adopted by the General Convention as an alteration of, or addition
61 to, the Book of Common Prayer;
- 62 3. To certify that printed **and electronic** copies of such revision or revisions have been duly
63 authorized by the General Convention, and that the printed text conforms to that
64 approved by the General Convention.
- 65 c. During the said period of trial use and under the modifying conditions specified, only the
66 material so authorized, and in the exact form in which it has been so authorized, shall be
67 available as an alternative for the said Book of Common Prayer or the said portion or
68 portions thereof; provided, however, that it shall be competent for the Presiding Bishop and
69 the President of the House of Deputies, jointly, on recommendation by a resolution duly
70 adopted at a meeting of the Standing Commission on Liturgy and Music communicated to
71 the said presiding officers in writing, to authorize variations and adjustments to, or
72 substitutions for, or alterations in, any portion of the texts under trial, which seem desirable
73 as a result of such trial use, and which do not change the substance of a rite.

74 d. In the event of the authorization of such variations, adjustments, substitutions, or alternatives,
75 as aforesaid, it shall be the duty of the Custodian of the Standard Book of Common Prayer to
76 notify the Ecclesiastical Authority of every Diocese, and the Convocation of the Episcopal
77 Churches in Europe, of such action, and to give notice thereof through the media of public
78 information.

79 Sec. 8. The appointment of the Custodian of the Standard Book of Common Prayer shall be
80 made by nomination of the House of Bishops and confirmed by the House of Deputies at a
81 meeting of the General Convention. The Custodian shall hold office until the second General
82 Convention following the General Convention at which the Custodian was nominated and
83 confirmed. A vacancy occurring in the office of Custodian when General Convention is not
84 meeting may be filled until the next General Convention by appointment by the Presiding Bishop
85 upon the confirmation of the Executive Council.

86 Sec. 9. It shall be the duty of the Ecclesiastical Authority of any Diocese in which any
87 unauthorized edition of the Book of Common Prayer, or any part or parts thereof, shall be
88 published or circulated, to give public notice that the said edition is not of authority in this
89 Church.

90 *Submitted by: The Rev. Dr. Robert W. Prichard*
91 *The Rev. Catherine W. Swann*

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93 *Amended by the Resolutions Committee*
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97 **Explanation:** The General Convention of 2022 adopted Resolution 2022-A059 approving (on
98 the first of two required readings) a replacement for the current Title X of the Constitution of the
99 Protestant Episcopal Church (“Of the Book of Common Prayer”). If that revision is adopted on
100 second reading at the General Convention of 2024, the Book of Common Prayer will be
101 redefined as “those liturgical forms and other texts authorized by the General Convention in
102 accordance with this article and the Canons of this Church;” it will no longer be understood as
103 the contents of a single book.

104 This change, if approved on second reading will create the need for changes in Title II, Canon 3
105 (Of the Standard Book of Common Prayer), which provides for the publication of a book and
106 currently makes no mention to texts that exist only in electronic form. The purpose of this
107 proposal is to: (1) to bring electronic texts under the supervision of the Custodian of the Book of
108 Common Prayer; (2) to make it clear that alterations and additions adopted by General
109 Convention in accordance with Article X of the Constitution become part of the Standard Book

110 of Common Prayer, to which all copies of the prayer book should conform; and (3) to provide for
111 the continued availability of the Book of Common Prayer in printed book form.