Resolution #6: Encouraging the Standing Commission on Liturgy & Music to Minimize the Use of Gendered Language in its Plan for Comprehensive Prayer Book Revision

This resolution was tabled by the 232nd Annual Convention


RESOLVED, that the Convention reaffirms ECCT’s position at the 231st Diocesan Convention that “the use of solely male language for God needlessly distorts and impoverishes our theological vision” (Resolution #6); and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this Convention encourages the Standing Commission on Liturgy and Music, as it develops its plan for comprehensive revision of the BCP, to eliminate, as far as is practicable, all gendered references to God and to Christ, and, where this is not practicable, to equalize the use of male and female language.

Explanation:

Language matters. ECCT’s 231st annual convention “acknowledged that the use of solely male language for God needlessly distorts and impoverishes our theological vision” (Resolution #6). Our principal resource for worship, the Book of Common Prayer, contains thousands of references to God, none of which is female. This reinforces patriarchy, sexism and clericalism. The 78th General Convention required the Standing Commission on Liturgy and Music to present a plan for the comprehensive revision of the Book of Common Prayer (A169) to the 79th General Convention. Prayer Book revision is an unprecedented opportunity to further our commitment to full inclusion and equality of women.

Furthering God’s Mission:

This resolution promotes a world in which all genders might see the face of God in themselves, and thereby deepen their faith, and more fully commit to discipleship and God’s mission in all of its diverse manifestations. The resolution counters traditions of patriarchy, anthropocentrism, sexism, and clericalism, all of which can alienate people
of various genders from attraction to, and participation in God’s mission, both within the institutional church, and as disciples and apostles. God needs every one of us to promote God’s mission.

Requirements to Implement:

There are no costs or materials or time required to implement this resolution, other than that of the Secretary of Convention transmitting this resolution to the Standing Commission on Liturgy and Music.