Amended: Minimize Gendered Language in Prayer Book Revision


RESOLVED that the 233rd Annual Convention of the Episcopal Church in Connecticut submits the following resolution to the 79th General Convention of the Episcopal Church:

RESOLVED, the House of _________ concurring, that the 79th General Convention direct the Standing Commission on Liturgy and Music, as it considers revision of the Book of Common Prayer, to amend, as far as is practicable, all gendered references to God, replacing them with gender expansive language.

Explanation

Language matters. ECCT’s 231st convention “acknowledged that using only male language for God distorts and impoverishes our theological vision” (Resolution # 12). Our principal worship resource, the Book of Common Prayer, contains thousands of references to God, virtually all of which are male. As we increasingly understand the fluidity of gender, assigning a male gender to God reinforces patriarchy, androcentrism and clericalism. The 78th General Convention required the Standing Commission on Liturgy and Music to present a plan for BCP revision to the 79th General Convention. This is an unprecedented opportunity to further our commitment to equality of all genders.

How does this resolution further God’s mission of restoration and reconciliation with all of creation?

This resolution promotes a world in which persons of 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, androcentrism, 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 submit this resolution to the House of Bishops, which initiates resolutions on liturgy, and transmits those that are approved to the Standing Commission on Liturgy and Music.