Implementation of Resolution #10: Provision for the Use of Other Forms of Worship

The resolution was sent as a resolution to the 2015 General Convention. It was a proposed amendment to Article X of the Constitution of The Episcopal Church. It would have allowed any General Convention to authorize experimental forms of worship for use at any time or place under the guidelines established by General Convention. The resolution was given the legislative number of C016. The Standing Commission on Liturgy and Music liked what we passed in Connecticut so they made the same wording a part of their official Blue Book report to General Convention. As a resolution from an interim body, it was given the legislative number of A066. This meant that the same proposed amendment had two possible legislative vehicles to get to enactment.

At General Convention, the legislative Committee on Prayer Book, Liturgy, and Music held hearings on the resolutions. They decided to use A066 as the resolution to perfect in the legislative process while asking to be discharged (no further legislative consideration) from C016. The House of Bishops subsequently voted to discharge C016, terminating its participation in the legislative process. The committee recommended certain amendments including adding that the bishop diocesan would have to authorize any experimental use and that any experimental forms of worship would have to be limited to rites already in the Book of Common Prayer, instead of allowing for new rites to emerge and be experimented with in local Eucharistic communities. The House of Bishops passed A066 as amended and sent it to the House of Deputies for concurrence. It was scheduled for floor action on the last morning of Convention and the legislative committee had recommended concurrence with the Bishops’ passage. Some felt that the amendments to the original resolution were too constricting since, part of its appeal to many, was to allow much experimentation with liturgies not in the Book of Common Prayer that might emerge in the 21st century. They convinced the House of Deputies not to concur with the Bishops so the resolution died.

On a positive note, General Convention did call for the Standing Commission on Liturgy and Music to develop a plan for Prayer Book revision to be presented at the 2018 General Convention in lovely Austin, Texas. This development was not expected
but now many can contribute, including our own Liturgy and Music Commission, to that project.

Respectfully submitted,

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Sponsor of Resolution #10 with the Commission on Liturgy and Music of ECCT