

**Guidelines for Diocesan Liturgical Commissions
from the Task Force on Liturgical & Prayer Book Revision
February 14, 2020**

Introduction

General Convention Resolution [2018-A068](#) created the Task Force on Liturgical and Prayer Book Revision (TFLPBR) and (among other things) “Resolved, That bishops engage worshipping communities in experimentation and the creation of alternative texts to offer to the wider church, and that each diocese be urged to create a liturgical commission to collect, reflect, teach and share these resources with the TFLPBR”.

The TFLPBR includes members (lay persons, seminarians, deacons, priests, bishops, diocesan chancellors, and liturgical professors) from each of the Provinces of The Episcopal Church, who represent the breadth of the liturgical, theological, and cultural perspectives across the Church.

It is vital to our task that we hear from the Church through local, diocesan Liturgical Commissions.

This document is designed to help with the formation and work of your diocese’s Liturgical Commission. It is divided into three parts:

- 1) Suggestions for forming a Diocesan Liturgical Commission; if one does not exist;
- 2) Guidelines for the work of your Diocesan Liturgical Commission;
- 3) A timeline to guide their work and allow their feedback and contributions to be included in the greater conversation.

Forming a Diocesan Liturgical Commission

The Bishop (or an agent or agents designated by the Bishop) should appoint, recruit, or seek a task-specific group who are invested in liturgy, open to liturgical revision and renewal, and who bring various gifts to the work – musical, textual, linguistic, ritual, etc.

A Diocesan Liturgical Commission can be large or small. We recommend a group of persons (lay persons, deacons, priests) who represent the breadth of the liturgical, theological, and cultural perspectives across the diocese.

The Bishop (or an agent or agents designated by the Bishop) should appoint a chair. A staff member might serve as chair or liaison.

Our timeline assumes that your Diocesan Liturgical Commission will be active for at least a triennium so it might be useful to appoint members with that in mind. In any event, terms of service should be sufficient to ensure continuity.

The Work of a Diocesan Liturgical Commission

Share liturgical resources, guidelines, and other information from The Episcopal Church with your diocese:

- These resources are available now:
 - <https://www.episcopalcommonprayer.org/>
 - [DRAFT "Common Prayer: Worship in The Episcopal Church"](#)
 - [DRAFT "Principles for New Liturgical Texts"](#)
 - [DRAFT "Expansive & Inclusive Language Guidelines" TFLPBR & SCLM](#)
- General Convention 2021 Blue Book Reports will be available in early 2021.
- Consider making a presentation at Deanery/Convocation meetings or at Diocesan Convention

Collect liturgies, prayers, and liturgical resources in use in the congregations and worship communities of your diocese:

- Seek alternative liturgies and prayers which are particularly life-giving to their communities and might be life-giving for other congregation or worship communities.
- Encourage congregations and worship communities to submit alternative liturgies and prayers to your Diocesan Liturgical Commission and/or to the TFLPRB and to share how these alternative liturgies and prayers have been life-giving and how they might be life-giving to other communities.

**Provide feedback of TFLPBR website and draft documents /
Submit alternative liturgies and prayers to the TFLPBR:**

- <https://www.episcopalcommonprayer.org/>
- tflpbr@episcopalchurch.org

Work with your diocese's Deputies/Alternates to General Convention

- Connect with your diocese's elected Deputies/Alternates to General Convention and make sure they are aware that Prayer Book Revision has been a topic at the past two General Conventions and will certainly be important in 2021.
- Make sure your Deputies/Alternates are aware of the work being done by the TFLPBR.
- Make sure your Deputies/Alternates are aware of any liturgies submitted by communities in your diocese.

Update your Diocese on any General Convention legislation that concerns liturgy:

- Follow General Convention and report back to your diocese any legislation that concerns liturgy.

Timeline

Today (or ASAP!)

Ensure that your diocese has a Liturgical Commission. Contact the TFLPBR to let them know who the contacts/chairs are for your Diocesan Liturgical Commission.

Before April 15, 2020

The TFLPBR is meeting in late April. It would greatly help our work if your Diocesan Liturgical Commission could submit feedback about our website and draft documents by April 15, 2020. It would be helpful if your Diocesan Liturgical Commission could submit any alternate liturgies or prayers you have received or sought out. Submissions and feedback after that will be reviewed and filed.

2020 Diocesan Convention / Deanery Meetings / Etc.

Use existing diocesan structures and meetings to update the diocese on your work and share information about what is happening in the wider church.

Early 2021

Blue Book reports from the Task Force on Liturgical and Prayer Book Revision, the Standing Commission on Liturgy and Music, and other interim bodies of the Episcopal Church are published in early 2021, a few months before General Convention. Read, mark, and inwardly digest these reports, and share them with your diocese and your diocese's Deputies/Alternates to General Convention.

July 2021

General Convention takes place in Baltimore in July 2021. Any person can testify at legislative hearings, including at legislative hearings concerning any legislation presented by the TFLPBR or SCLM. Your Deputies/Alternates will be at General Convention, but others are welcome.

Autumn 2021 & Diocesan Convention / Deanery Meetings / Etc.

Work with your Deputies/Alternates to make sure any General Convention legislation that concerns liturgy and prayer book revision is shared with and understood by your diocese.

2022 and beyond?

Regardless of the legislation that comes out of General Convention 2021, your Diocesan Liturgical Commission might need to continue into 2022 and beyond. If so, consider how these guidelines might be adapted.