

REPORT OF THE LITURGY AND COMMON WORSHIP TASK FORCE
College of Bishops, Provincial Council and Provincial Assembly
5 June, A.D. 2017

The process of development of a Book of Common Prayer (2019) has entered its third and final phase. All the texts – with the exception of the Psalter – have now been prepared and, God willing, pending approval of three final rites at the June meeting of the College, will be in use as “working texts” across the Church. All texts are available on-line through the Anglican Church website.

The first phase of the work, 2009-2013, was led by the Right Reverend William Thompson (Western Anglicans) and involved the composition and adoption of the “lens” that would guide Prayer Book revision (“Principles of Christian Worship”), and of the “working texts” of Morning and Evening Prayer, and of the Standard and Common Texts of the Holy Communion.

The second phase of the work, led by the Most Reverend Robert Duncan (Archbishop Emeritus), 2014-2017, involved the composition and adoption of all other Prayer Book working texts, as well as the authorization to a sub-committee of practitioners and scholars to prepare, by January 2019, a “Renewed Coverdale Psalter.”

The third and final phase of the work, begun in the spring of 2017, is the “feedback incorporation phase.” Since the promulgation of the first working texts in 2013 a system of electronic feedback (liturgytaskforce@anglicanchurch.net), available to every member of the Church, has enabled hundreds of encouragements, criticisms, and suggestions to be received, acknowledged and catalogued. During 2017 the Liturgy Task Force began evaluating and incorporating all the feedback related to daily offices and eucharists in hopes that these rites can have final form approval at the January 2018 meeting of the College of Bishops. During 2018 the task force hopes to assess and incorporate all other feedback, related to all other Prayer Book texts, so that all remaining texts can be finalized by the College of Bishops in January of 2019. Cognizant of these dates with which the feedback “windows” will close, the Church at large continues to be encouraged to provide feedback.

The development of supplemental tools to enhance the Church’s worship also continues. In addition to the publication of a 2017 Anglican Church Calendar (in cooperation with the Ashby Calendar Company), Scripture Leaflet Inserts for every Sunday of the Christian Year began to be available as of Sunday, June 4, the Day of Pentecost. These inserts originated from local work done by a priest and deacon in the Diocese of San Joaquin (Howard and Erin Giles), took electronic and graphic form through the efforts of a lay designer in Colorado (Catherine Hoemke), and were licensed for local duplication by Crossways Publications which owns the English Standard Version [ESV] copyright. Also of considerable import for the spiritual life of the Church was the development and sharing of a website – www.legereme.com – on which the Daily Offices of Morning and Evening Prayer, including psalms, collects and lectionary readings, and the lesser offices of midday prayer and compline were electronically available for personal or group use. This tool was developed and is maintained by a Pittsburgh priest, Paul Sutcliffe. Another tool, a “presentation copy for couples” of the Rite for Holy Matrimony (available from Anglican House) was sent by the Marriage, Family and Single Life Task Force sent to all clergy. A 2018 successor to the Anglican Church Calendar will be available this fall directly from the Ashby Company.

Work has also begun on an “electronic” hymnal. The resource imagined by the Liturgy Task Force sub-committee on Church Music, will be in four sections: Hymns, Songs of Praise, Anthems, and Service Music, all keyed to the three-year cycle of Sunday lessons and to the lessons of the Holy Days of the Christian Year.

The work continues amid much excitement. A listing of all task force and sub-committee appointees is available elsewhere among Provincial Council documents. It is an extraordinary team engaged in a remarkable and timely work, to which hundreds of others have also made – and will continue to make – significant contributions through the feedback channel:

liturgytaskforce@anglicanchurch.net

Respectfully Submitted,

+Robert Pittsburgh

Archbishop Emeritus, Task Force Chair

ABSTRACT: All working texts of the 2019 Book of Common Prayer, excepting the Psalter, are now available. Many additional supplemental tools are now also available: Sunday Scripture Inserts, Display Calendar, Holy Matrimony Presentation Booklet, Online Daily Office. Task Force has entered its “feedback incorporation phase.” The Daily Offices and basic Eucharist texts are to be finalized in 2017 (feedback deadline 11/1); all other texts are to be finalized in 2018. Feedback to: liturgytaskforce@anglicanchurch.net