

## **LITURGY AND COMMON WORSHIP TASK FORCE**

### **Report to the College of Bishops**

Vancouver, June 2015

The Liturgy and Common Worship Task Force (LCWTF) has met twice face-to-face and twice telephonically since January. In addition, the Bishops Review Panel has considered and responded to submissions from the Task Force on two occasions.

The Task Force is now recommending the rites for Holy Baptism, for Confirmation, and for Baptism and Confirmation when administered together. Additionally, an order for The Renewal of Baptismal Vows is being put forward. It is the hope of the Task Force and of the Review Panel that these rites can be approved, at the Vancouver meeting of the College, as working texts for use in the Province. It may be that the College of Bishops will eventually desire to produce a Preface to Holy Baptism, as it has done for Confirmation, but the release of the rites now being presented are not dependent on such a preface.

The Preface to Confirmation, adopted by the College in January, has had an immense impact on the formulation of the rites being presented. An adult profession of faith by every member of the Anglican Church in North America and an expectation that every member will have received an apostolic laying-on-of-hands renews the significance the Anglican tradition has always accorded these actions. The liturgies begin differently (distinct opening dialogues) and the short exhortations in each rite allow for clearer teaching about both. The Creed at Confirmation is the Nicene Creed, except in the combined rite. The recommendation of the Task Force is that bishops consider focusing on the Laying-on-of-Hands in ordinary visitations, allowing for a much deeper re-appropriation of the role of confirmation, reception and reaffirmation in the life and practice of the Church, both local and diocesan.

A brief teaching paper on the oils widely (though not universally) used in the Church is also appended to this report. When the Holy Week rites are eventually produced, this teaching might be included in the additional directions for the service for Blessing of Oils and Renewal of Ordination Vows. The teaching is sent to the College now because it clarifies the role of the little-used Oil of Catechumens, as the Oil of Exorcism, its other historic name. The Task Force believes that this oil, which can be used after the renunciations in Baptism, might gain much wider pastoral use in the Church if its purpose were understood and its function made plain. There is no requirement for any use of oils, but the LCWTF is attempting to be helpful as issues present themselves (which they clearly do in Baptism and Confirmation), always seeking the College's direction.

The Liturgy Task Force has begun work – in response to the request made by the College to do so – on a Eucharistic Canon of the sort familiar since Vatican II, a canon that rehearses salvation history in the manner of the Rite II canons of the 1979 Prayerbook, and of many ecumenical canons. The Hippolytan Canon (on which Prayer A is based) will be the source.

A committee within the Anglican Network in Canada has come forward with a contemporized Reformation-era (1552) liturgy. This liturgy has been authorized by the Canadian Ordinary and his Suffragans for two years of local use. Once a report of the Canadian experience is available, the LCWTF will be seeking advice of the College as to whether to consider this offering as a Provincial rite.

The sub-committees of the Liturgy and Common Worship Task Force – Calendar, Collects and Lectionaries; Episcopal Offices; Offices of the Hours and Occasional Rites; Pastoral Offices; and Psalter and Music – have begun to function. Furthest along are the first and last named.

The Calendar, Collects and Lectionaries Sub-Committee has sought approval of the Task Force to:

- 1) Develop a 3-year cycle Sunday Lectionary based on the Common Lectionary (not RCL), with reference to the seasonal patterns of Common Worship of the Church of England (allowing for “gesimas”), and with a 1-year cycle of Collects, drawn principally from the Cranmerian corpus, but related, as much as possible, to the lectionary texts.
- 2) Advance a daily office lectionary, with OT and NT readings for both morning and evening, with reference to the historic Prayer Book lectionary, and with especial reference to the Canadian and Reformed Episcopal Books of Common Prayer whose basis is that lectionary.
- 3) Propose the annual calendar of feasts, fasts and saints days, with the last category much reduced, and with both criteria and categories spelled out.

The Psalter and Music Sub-Committee has sought approval for:

- 1) Production of a Psalter, based on the work of T.S. Eliot, C.S. Lewis et al.(1963), renewing the Coverdale standard, with scholarly corrections, and conforming the psalter to contemporary idiom for address of the Lord. This is seen as a gift to global Anglicanism. (The 1979 BCP Psalter, like the original Coverdale, could be continued permissively.)
- 2) Work toward an on-line resource for clergy, musicians and worship planners that would offer hymnody, praise songs, and traditional anthems related to the lectionary of every Sunday and season of the Christian year. Additionally, service music for the eucharist and offices would be offered. (There is no plan to produce a hymnal.)

The Pastoral Offices Sub-Committee intends to move to consideration of, and proposals for, Holy Matrimony and Burial as expeditiously as possible. Episcopal Offices Sub-Committee is moving forward with the Consecration of a Church, then Celebration of New Ministry. It is the hope that the Offices of the Hours and Occasional Rites Sub-Committee will present Noonday Prayer and Compline for consideration in January.

The Task Force continues to receive feedback on the rites published in 2013 in [Texts for Common Prayer](#) ([liturgytaskforce@anglicanchurch.net](mailto:liturgytaskforce@anglicanchurch.net)). The TF has committed itself to getting the most widely used liturgies available to the Church as “working texts” before turning to the finalizing of any texts. It is hoped that serious consideration of all the feedback received on already-published or soon-to-be-published rites might begin in calendar year 2017.

With delight, the Liturgy and Common Worship Task Force is able to report that [Texts for Common Prayer](#) is now available in Chinese (Mandarin and Cantonese). This achievement is the result of the labors of Bp. Stephen Leung and Canadian colleagues.

The Liturgy and Common Worship Task Force continues to meet monthly in conference call. Its next face-to-face meeting is planned for Columbia, SC, November 18-19, 2015.