

Fifth Report
of the Joint Commission on
the Revision and Enrichment of
The Book of Common Prayer

Appointed by
The General Convention of 1913



1928

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THE JOINT COMMISSION
ON
THE REVISION AND ENRICHMENT
OF
THE BOOK OF COMMON PRAYER

To the General Convention of the Protestant Episcopal Church of the United States of America:

THE Joint Commission on the Revision and Enrichment of the Book of Common Prayer, appointed in 1913, herewith presents its Fifth Report.

I
THE STANDARD BOOK OF 1928

The Commission, understanding that the Church has ordered the present revision to be completed in 1928, presents at this time no new material for the consideration of the General Convention. The Resolutions of the last Convention, authorizing the Commission

to prepare the Standard Book of 1928, define this command as follows:

RESOLVED, That the Joint Commission on the Revision and Enrichment of the Book of Common Prayer be continued, with power to fill vacancies.

RESOLVED, That the Joint Commission on the Revision and Enrichment of the Book of Common Prayer be authorized to prepare the Standard Book of 1928.

RESOLVED, That the Joint Commission on the Revision and Enrichment of the Book of Common Prayer be authorized to edit the Standard Prayer Book, and to correct typographical and other obvious errors.

There are individuals or groups who would like to keep the revision open in the hope that some specially desired item of revision might thereby be brought about. These desires, however, are few; and there is, further, no guarantee that, even if some such suggestions were to pass in 1928, they would be ratified in 1931. The present undertaking of formal revision has covered a period of fifteen years. The last revision was accomplished in twelve years. Ministers and congregations are naturally eager to have in their hands the revised

Prayer Book. The work of revision is not perfect. No human undertaking is. Every member of the Commission has in mind some further item of change which he would like to see incorporated; but, taking the work as a whole, the Commission believes that much has been accomplished, and that the revision will be welcomed by the people as a genuine help in the advancing life and work of the Church.

In regard to the editing permitted by the General Convention, the Commission desires to report that it has endeavored to do its work with the utmost care, in every typographical detail. In the arrangement and form of new material, where there is any tradition of punctuation and capitalization to follow, the tradition has been scrupulously observed. The language of the third Resolution of the last Convention gives to the Commission, as an editing committee, the power to make certain corrections which are not strictly typographical. The Commission has therefore undertaken a few items of what may be called major editing, wherein the changes seemed to the whole Commission to carry out the will and intention of the Convention. It herewith

reports these items as a matter of information to the Convention, as follows:

- (1) In Morning and Evening Prayer, after "Let us pray," following the Creed, this rubric has been inserted:

¶Here, if it hath not already been said, shall follow the Lord's Prayer.

This rubric seems obviously needed, as an aid to the Minister in carrying out the purpose of the rubric at the beginning of the Office.

- (2) In the Holy Communion, after the Prayer of Consecration and before the Lord's Prayer, the Commission has changed the words, "Let us say," to the words, "We are bold to say." It is obvious that there is no intention on the part of the Convention to break the continuity of prayer, or of address to the Father, by a phrase which might seem to be taken as an address to the congregation. The phrase substituted is a traditional and familiar form.
- (3) In the Holy Communion, we have placed before the rubric preceding the words of distribution, the rubric heretofore in the Prayer Book,

¶Here may be sung a Hymn.

Obviously, since the rubric proposed as a substitute for this failed of passage, the old rubric must stand.

The Commission will be prepared in the Convention, immediately after action on Ratification of the proposals of 1925, to present a copy of the Standard Book of 1892 as revised by the Conventions from 1913 to 1928, with a resolution that the same be accepted as the Standard Book of 1928, and ordered printed. Meantime, Mr. Morgan, in emulation of his father's action in 1892, has come forward with the request that he be allowed to bear the expense of printing the Standard Book. This offer has been gratefully accepted by the Commission; and already, after study of proofs submitted by the best printers in England and America, the Commission has approved the form of the book. The only desire of the generous giver is that it shall be typographically as beautiful and worthy as possible. The types, arrangement, paper, and various details will be ready, in sample pages, to exhibit at the Convention.

II THE SO-CALLED MISSION PRAYER BOOK

The General Convention of 1922 passed the following Resolution:

Whereas, a short and simple form of Morning and Evening Prayer, with a few Psalms and Special Prayers, and the Office for Holy Communion, with possibly a few hymns, would be a great help in the Mission work carried on in the rural districts of our country, therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the Commission on the Revision of the Book of Common Prayer be requested to prepare such a Mission Prayer Book and to present the same at the General Convention to meet in 1925.

The Commission has studied this problem and believes that the preparation of an abridged Prayer Book for use in certain congregations is desirable, and accordingly offers the following Resolutions:

RESOLVED (The House of * * * concurring), That the Prayer Book Commission be authorized to prepare and cause to be published a shorter book under such title as they may decide upon, this book to contain the following parts of the Book of Common Prayer:

Morning Prayer.

Evening Prayer.

Selected Psalms.

The Litany.

The Order for the Holy Communion.

Family Prayer.

The Offices of Instruction.
The Collects of the Christian Year, and
The Prayers and Thanksgivings,
or selections from them, together with cer-
tain prayers from other parts of the Prayer
Book.

RESOLVED (The House of * * * con-
curring), That the Commission, in the
preparation of this book, be authorized to
make such changes in arrangement, in typo-
graphical form, and in simplification of rub-
rics, as they may deem helpful to people
who are unfamiliar with the Book of Com-
mon Prayer.

III

THE ORDER FOR THE ADMISSION OF DEACONESSES

A Service for the Admission of Deacon-
esses was referred to this Commission by the
last Convention. The Commission has consid-
ered the subject, and has appointed a sub-
committee to study the forms of service, and
to confer with the Deaconess Commission. If
a form acceptable to that Commission is later
approved by this Commission, it will be pre-
sented to the Convention, with a resolution
that it be approved, and authorized for use in
this Church.

IV

A LITURGICAL COMMISSION

After the work of ratification has been completed and the new Standard Book has been accepted, the Commission will offer the following resolutions:

RESOLVED (The House of * * * concurring), That when the Standard Prayer Book of 1928 shall have been published, and the so-called Mission Prayer Book prepared and published, this Joint Commission on the Revision and Enrichment of the Book of Common Prayer be discharged.

RESOLVED (The House of * * * concurring), That there be appointed a continuing Liturgical Commission consisting of eight Bishops, eight Presbyters, and eight Laymen, to be appointed by the Chairmen of the two Houses, to which Commission may be referred such matters as are not finally determined at any Convention by action upon the recommendation of the Prayer Book Committees of the Houses; and to which Commission reference could be made for advice on the part of any desiring it, when occasion arises for the use of special offices or forms; such Commission to have power to fill vacancies, and to add to their number.

CHARLES L. SLATTERY, *Chairman.*
JOHN W. SUTER, *Secretary.*