

STANDING LITURGICAL COMMISSION

58th General Council of the Reformed Episcopal Church June 10-12, 2026

During the three years since General Council met in 2023, the Standing Liturgical Committee (SLC) has met four times via Zoom Video Conference and conducted two email votes. Most of the committee's work has focused on completing the revisions and corrections to the Third Edition of the *Book of Occasional Services* to prepare it for publication. We have now completed that process and have updated the Preface for the Third Edition. This will replace the older versions and will be available online as downloads on the REC website's "Resources" page upon approval by General Council. A hard-copy edition has previously been approved for publication by the SLC and the General Committee whenever funds allow.

At its first Zoom video conference in the new triennium on Tuesday, April 16, 2024, the SLC elected The Rev. Canon J. Ronald Mook as Assistant Chair and The Rev. Justin M. Forsberg as Secretary.

Book of Occasional Services (2023 - 2026)

Several amendments, corrections, and rubrical revisions have been made to the offices, some for consistency, others for clarity, or to correct grammatical errors. A change in the wording of the first rubric in the office for "The Admission of a Communicant Member", which also includes an explanatory footnote to be placed at the end of the service, was approved as follows:

In the Office for The Admission of a Communicant Member:

The beginning rubric:

¶ *For use by the Bishop in admitting into communicant membership in this Church persons already confirmed in another part of the holy Catholic Church by a bishop validly ordained according to historic precedent *, though not in communion with this Church.*

Footnote:

** In accordance with the Canons of the Reformed Episcopal Church and the historic Preface to the Ordinal, none shall be considered validly ordained as a Deacon, Priest, or Bishop, except they be male, of the age which the Canon in that case provided may require, and have received the laying on of hands by a bishop in valid Historic Succession.*

The committee also approved a change in the title of "The Installation of a Bishop." The word "Installation" has been replaced by the word "Institution" to make it compatible with the rubrics and consistent with the Book of Common Prayer.

A revised, shorter version of the *Litany for Missions* was submitted by The Rt. Rev. John Boonzaaijer to replace the current version already included in the section for Litanies in the Book of Occasional Services. With a few revisions to make the form consistent with other litanies, it was approved to replace the older version, then approved by the Committee on Doctrine and Worship. It is appended to this report. Therefore, we recommend this change to the General Council.

Supplemental Approved Services (online)

The *Litany for Holy Innocents* has been revised and rewritten in traditional language by the Rev. Wayne McNamara and was approved for inclusion under the "Supplemental Approved Services" on the "Resources" page of the REC website. The committee recommends this litany, appended to this report, for General Council's approval, having been approved by the Doctrine & Worship Committee.

Another version of the Stations of the Cross was submitted to the committee for approval as an Approved Supplemental Service. The *“Via Dolorosa: The Biblical Stations of the Cross”*, an adaptation of one advocated by Pope John Paul II, but using collects from the Book of Common Prayer, was submitted by The Very Rev. Canon Dr. Jason S. Patterson. It was approved by the SLC but is still under consideration by the Doctrine and Worship committee.

REC Book of Common Prayer

The new edition of the REC Book of Common Prayer, containing the revisions approved at General Council in 2023, has been printed and is available through the Episcopal Recorder.

Also, the General Committee approved the printing of one thousand copies of a new pocket-sized gift edition of the BCP with a leather cover as a joint endeavor of the Women’s Day Project for 2026 and the Publication Society (PubSoc).

The members of the Standing Liturgical Committee should be commended for their detailed work on the various projects they have been tasked with completing. Special appreciation goes to The Rev. Robert Peterson, who has taken on the task of formatting (and reformatting) the Book of Occasional Services for both online use and publication, and has made all necessary revisions as requested. We also wish to thank the members of the Committee on Doctrine and Worship who help keep us on the right track, both doctrinally and in our classical liturgy.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dss. Canon Annette M. Johnson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Annette" being particularly prominent.

Dss. Canon Annette M. Johnson, M.A.R.
SLC Chair

A Litany for Mission

O GOD the Father, Creator of heaven and earth;
Have mercy upon us.

O God the Son, Redeemer of the world;
Have mercy upon us.

O God the Holy Ghost, Sanctifier of the faithful;
Have mercy upon us.

O holy, blessed, and glorious Trinity, one God;
Have mercy upon us.

REMEMBER not the persecutions, pogroms, or neglect furthered by the Church in any age, nor indifference, wandering, or error in this present time. Purge our hearts from foolishness, pride, bigotry, and arrogance.
Spare us, Good Lord.

FROM heresy, schism, syncretism, and the wiles of the devil,
Good Lord, deliver us.

From building cultures of dependency among the poor,
Good Lord, deliver us.

From lack of interest in the Great Commission,
Good Lord, deliver us.

From dearth of parish extension works,
Good Lord, deliver us.

From blindness of heart, ungodliness, uncharitableness, and infidelity,
Good Lord, deliver us.

From all persecution, oppression, and the crafts and assaults of the devil,
Good Lord, deliver us.

WE sinners do beseech thee to hear us, O Lord God; and that it may please thee to plant thy holy Church in all the world, that Jesus Christ may be known and worshipped by all peoples;
We beseech thee to hear us, Good Lord.

That it may please thee to awaken a zeal for missions in the hearts of all thy people;
We beseech thee to hear us, Good Lord.

That it may please thee to send forth laborers into thy harvest throughout the world;
We beseech thee to hear us, Good Lord.

That it may please thee to enkindle within thy faithful people willingness to provide faithful support;
We beseech thee to hear us, Good Lord.

That it may please thee to revive thy Church in North America and the Christian West;
We beseech thee to hear us, Good Lord.

That it may please thee to restore and enlarge thy Church in the Caribbean and Latin America;
We beseech thee to hear us, Good Lord.

That it may please thee to prosper and protect thy Church in Africa;
We beseech thee to hear us, Good Lord.

That it may please thee to raise up faithful evangelists to restore the Church in Europe;
We beseech thee to hear us, Good Lord.

That it may please thee to increase conversions among the people of the Middle East;
We beseech thee to hear us, Good Lord.

That it may please thee to reveal the incarnate Lord to all Asia;

We beseech thee to hear us, Good Lord.

That it may please thee to grant stability in the Holy Land and peace to Jerusalem, that the Gospel of thy Son may be heard, loved, and obeyed;

We beseech thee to hear us, Good Lord.

That it may please thee to establish and uphold Reformed Episcopal missionary dioceses, convocations, outposts, missionaries, sending agencies, and all who minister in thy Church;

We beseech thee to hear us, Good Lord.

That it may please thee to strengthen all who suffer persecution for the Faith throughout the world;

We beseech thee to hear us, Good Lord.

That it may please thee to prosper ministry among immigrants, the neglected, and forlorn;

We beseech thee to hear us, Good Lord.

That it may please thee to convert those who worship the Creation rather than its Creator;

We beseech thee to hear us, Good Lord.

That it may please thee to enlighten all seekers, catechumens, and converts;

We beseech thee to hear us, Good Lord.

That it may please thee to deliver all nations and people from slavery and oppression;

We beseech thee to hear us, Good Lord.

That it may please thee to uphold the work of education in schools and centers of learning everywhere;

We beseech thee to hear us, Good Lord.

That it may please thee to bless medical, agricultural, and economic missions;

We beseech thee to hear us, Good Lord.

That it may please thee to guide and inspire all Bible translators;

We beseech thee to hear us, Good Lord.

That it may please thee to foster unity among all who love thee;

We beseech thee to hear us, Good Lord.

Son of God, we beseech thee to hear us.

Son of God, we beseech thee to hear us.

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world;

Grant us thy peace.

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world;

Have mercy upon us.

O Christ, hear us.

O Christ, hear us.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Christ, have mercy upon us.

Christ, have mercy upon us.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

O ALMIGHTY Father, thou King eternal, immortal, invisible, thou only wise God our Savior; Hasten, we beseech thee, the coming upon earth of the kingdom of thy Son, and draw the whole world of mankind into willing obedience to his blessed reign. Overcome all his enemies, and bring low every power that is exalted against him. Cast out all the evil things which cause wars and fightings among us, and let thy Spirit rule the hearts of men in righteousness and love. Repair the desolations of former days; rejoice the wilderness with

beauty; and make glad the city with thy law. Establish every work that is founded on truth and equity, and fulfill all the good hopes and desires of thy people. Manifest thy will, Almighty Father, in the brotherhood of man, and bring in universal peace; through the victory of thy Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

¶ *Minister and People.* **O Lord, arise, help us, and deliver us for thy Name's sake.**

O MOST merciful Saviour, who willest that all men should be saved; be present with those who are gone forth in thy Name to preach the Gospel in distant lands, [*especially those for whom our prayers are desired;*] Be with them in all perils, in sickness and distress, in loneliness, weariness, and pain, in disappointment and persecution, and in hope and planning. Give them a sure confidence in thee. Pour out upon them thy Holy Spirit, and prosper the works of their hands; send unto them faithful and true fellow-laborers. Give them a rich increase here, and grant that hereafter they may dwell with thee in the heavenly places, world without end. *Amen.*

¶ *Minister and People.* **O Lord, arise, help us, and deliver us for thine honor.**

¶ *Here shall follow the Lord's Prayer, if not already said, and may follow other prayers from the Book of Common Prayer, a Cycle of Prayer, or other prayers offered by the people.*

OUR Father, who art in heaven, Hallowed be thy Name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, On earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, As we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, But deliver us from evil. *Amen.*

Minister: The LORD bless us and keep us. The LORD make his face to shine upon us and be gracious to us. The LORD lift up his countenance upon us and give us peace, this *day* and evermore. *Amen.*

Litany for the Holy Innocents

O GOD the Father, Creator of heaven and earth;

Have mercy upon us.

O God the Son, Redeemer of the world;

Have mercy upon us.

O God the Holy Spirit, Lord and Giver of Life;

Have mercy upon us.

O holy, blessed, and glorious Trinity, one God;

Have mercy upon us.

Lord, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

O Christ, hear us.

Graciously hear us, O Christ,

Graciously hear us, O Lord Christ.

Blessed art thou O LORD God, through whom all things were made, the author and giver of life, lover of the poor and weak, defender of the helpless, who dost fashion in mystery each child conceived in a mother's womb, the One who loves every child thou hast made.

We humbly beseech thee to hear the prayers of thy people offered at this time when we remember the Innocents who perished for thy Name's sake by the sword at Herod's command. Be pleased, O LORD, to accept our repentance and humble supplications which we offer today on behalf of all the young and innocent.

Our Father, whose beloved Son didst say to His disciples, when they would have kept the infants and children from Him, "Suffer the little children to come unto me, for of such is the kingdom of heaven"; of thy great mercy, defend from the wickedness of the evil one all such as are unable to defend themselves.

LORD, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

O gracious Father, as Rachel wept for the Holy Innocents of Ramah, we deeply mourn the loss of millions of innocents taken by abortion in *America*; May this horrible disgrace which overshadows our nation, by thy hand, be speedily lifted from us. Drive far from us all wicked and unclean spirits that travel throughout the world to the ruin souls.

LORD, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Forgive us LORD for every sin against life, for the heinous practice of abortion, for the neglect and abuse of children, for silence, apathy, and any cooperation of thy people in commission of injustices toward the young and innocent. Grant us true repentance and better minds.

LORD, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

May thy holy Church throughout the world be always strengthened in true faith, holiness, and perfect love. May She uphold the truth in love and acknowledge the goodness of thy divine providence in the conception of each new child, that each one, being wrought mysteriously in the womb, would be valued, protected, and nurtured.

LORD, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Especially we pray for all bishops, priests, deacons, deaconesses, and those in prominent places of service in thy Church, that they may bear faithful witness in teaching and through godly example how we may protect the young and innocent, and care for those parents who are in need.

LORD, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

For all in authority in this our nation, especially *the President of the United States*, the *governors of each state*, all legislators and judges, that they would above all things seek thine honour and glory. May they, remembering whose ministers they are, labour to serve this people in thy faith and fear, and faithfully administer justice to the maintenance of thy true religion and virtue, especially for the sake of the unborn.

LORD, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

We offer unto thee, O Lord, our humble and hearty thanks for the overturning of *Roe v. Wade*, and pray now for each state government and its leaders to uphold the sacredness of life in policy and legislation.

May those in authority ever be reminded of, and keep always before their eyes, the account they will one day render unto thee. May those still blind to thy Truth be swiftly brought to the Light and granted courage and strength to boldly speak for the cause of justice.

LORD, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Almighty God, our heavenly Father who hast committed to thy holy Church the care and nurture of children; Enlighten with thy wisdom all who teach and those who learn; grant to thy faithful people everywhere insight and courage to bear faithful witness to the world about the sanctity of human life.

LORD, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

On behalf of the innocents we commend to thy continual care the homes in which thy people dwell; Knit together in constant affection those who, in holy wedlock have been made one flesh: grant them to know themselves to be icons of Christ and the Church, to give themselves to one another in the love of the Holy Trinity, and to find the soothing balm of the Gospel in all their wounds.

LORD, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Touch with pity the hearts of those pregnant women who do not think of motherhood. Grant them to see that the child they carry is made in thine image for eternal life. Dispel their fears and give them true womanly hearts to love their babies, give them birth, and all the needed care a mother alone can give.

LORD, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Grant grace especially to the single parent led home. Protect and keep them ever in thy Name, granting wisdom and strength in the nurture and raising of thy children.

LORD, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

In thy great compassion bring healing, salvation, and deliverance to all whose lives have been touched by these sins.

LORD, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

We pray for all unborn children who will lose their lives this (*day, week, year*) by abortion; in thy great compassion attend them in the hour of their death, and mercifully bear them to thyself.

LORD, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Bless all those who seek in this our day to bring an end to abortion and child abuse, and all who offer help, encouragement, and the Gospel to mothers and families in need or distress (*N...*) especially to those women in the balance of deciding whether or not to have an abortion.

LORD, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Father, graciously direct all thy people to know and understand their part in answering the issues of abortion and the abuse of young children; grant us wisdom, courage, and strength to do it. We thank thee for granting us fruitful labor on behalf of thy children.

LORD, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Bless the fruit of the womb with havens of peace, in the fear of God and the nurture of the Lord, and heal the brokenness of our land.

LORD, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

For all who suffer ridicule, rejection, mistreatment, and imprisonment in defending the innocents; sustain them in their afflictions and suffer not their faith in thee to fail.

LORD, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

And finally, we praise thee for the wonderful grace and virtue demonstrated to us in all thy saints, who have been chosen vessels of thy grace and Lights of the world in their generations; grant us grace so to direct our lives in following their good examples, that at the last, we may join them in everlasting life.

Amen.

Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy Name,
thy kingdom come, thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power,
and the glory,
for ever and ever.
Amen.

O Lamb of God, Who takest away the sins of the world,
Have mercy upon us.
O Lamb of God, Who takest away the sins of the world,
Have mercy upon us.
O Lamb of God, Who takest away the sins of the world,
Grant us thy peace.

Let us pray.

Almighty and ever-living God, thou hast created all things through thy Son Jesus Christ who trampled the power of death by his Paschal Mystery. May all who acknowledge thee promote the sacredness of life and always serve thee faithfully, through the same Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Preface to the Third Edition

The diligent work of the Standing Liturgical Commission of the Reformed Episcopal Church has continued over the past several years to provide a trustworthy supplement to the Book of Common Prayer as was indicated it would by the former chairs of this commission, The Rt. Rev. David Hicks and our late brother-in-Christ, The Very Rev. Jerry D. Kistler, in their prefaces to the first and second editions of the Book of Occasional Services. Therefore, we now present the third edition.

Two significant additions were made to the third edition. First was the addition of “A Prayer of Blessing for the Anniversary of the Setting Apart of a Deaconess” in the section, Episcopal Blessings for Various Occasions. This coincides with the Form for the Setting Apart of a Deaconess already included in the Book of Occasional Services and is consistent with the anniversary prayers provided for that of deacons, presbyters, and bishops, recognizing the important ministry of each particular canonical office in the life of the Church.

The second addition was to create a separate section within the book for Litanies. Some litanies that were already in the Book of Occasional Services were rearranged to be included in this section, and others not found in the Book of Common Prayer were added. The section for Litanies now contains A Litany for the Church, A Litany for a Sick Person, A Litany for Missions, and A Litany for Marriage.

Another revision of note was to the initial rubric for The Admission of a Communicant Member. Additional wording was added to this rubric to help define what was meant by the term “communicant member.” To help further define the Reformed Episcopal Church’s doctrinal position, a footnote was included at the end of the office to explain the phrase, “by a bishop validly ordained according to historic precedent,” used in the rubric.

Similarly, as a way of explanation, the text of Canon 7, Section 8, from the Constitution and Canons, has been inserted after the Table of Contents. This section states the Reformed Episcopal Church’s position on the use of the terms “priest” and “presbyter” as found within the Book of Occasional Services.

Other minor grammatical and formatting revisions were made to particular offices and rubrics for clarity and to make them more consistent within themselves and in conformity with the classical Book of Common Prayer. One such revision was to change the title of “The Installation of a Bishop” by replacing the word “Installation” with the word “Institution.”

We pray that this third edition will be a blessing to the clergy and serve to edify the Church as a supplement to its liturgical life, to the Glory of God.

Dss. Canon Annette M. Johnson, Chair
Eastertide, 2026