

Policy on Alternate Liturgies:

The Task Force on Liturgical and Prayer Book Revision has created a webpage for approved and trial liturgies as passed by General Convention. The resources on this site have my approval for use. Before using them, I ask that changes and additions to your customary worship be considered by the appropriate team (Worship Committee, Bishop's Committee, or Vestry) so that careful consideration can be given to education and preparing worshippers for the changes. Newsletter articles or Adult Forums are helpful to point out different theological statements found in the supplemental liturgy. For instance, "Why is this liturgy especially appropriate for the season of Advent?"

One example of a liturgy not commonly known about is found in *Changes: Prayers and Services Honoring Rites of Passage*. On page 47 of that book, there is a service for those who desire to change their name. Parts of this service could be used during the time of baptism on Principle Days or separately as a stand alone service. To publicize this liturgical offering when calling for those who wish to be baptized would give liturgical expression to the significant time in someone's life when a name change needs to occur: after a divorce, when changing gender identity, or when someone desires to go by a new name for other reasons. The addition of this liturgical offering would need conversation and explanation as it would be favorably received in some settings and not in others.

This can be a separate service, for instance might be a great community offering during a Pride Month service. If it is to be used during a baptismal service, it should be placed after the sermon prior to calling the baptismal candidates forward. (It would be wise to preach on the practice of renaming in scripture, or the nature of being beloved, etc.)

This is the liturgy:

Receiving or Claiming of a New Name

Celebrant: I invite our sibling seeking a name change and *their* sponsor(s) forward.

Let us pray.

Holy One of Blessing, in baptism you bring us to new life in Jesus Christ and you name us Beloved. We give you thanks for the renewal of that life and love in this our sibling who now takes on (*or chooses*) a new name. Strengthen and uphold *him/her/them* as *he/she/they* grows into the power, and authority, and meaning of this name; we pray in the name above all names, Jesus, your Son, whom with you and the Holy Spirit, the Triune God, we adore. Amen.

The Giving of the Name

Celebrant: By what name shall you be known?

Candidate: My name shall be *N*.

Celebrant: Your name shall be *N*.

The community may respond by repeating

Your name shall be *N*.

Celebrant: Bear this name in the Name of Christ. Share it in the name of mercy. Offer it in the name of justice. Live it as a beloved child of God.

Presentation and Examination of Baptismal Candidates...

The resources are located at <https://www.episcopalcommonprayer.org/existing-liturgies1.html>.

Additionally, locally written Prayers of the People are very powerful and impactful. Remembering that the BCP offers six formats that work well in a congregational setting, there is a wide range of approaches. Often the Psalm of the day, for instance, has a line that makes a perfect refrain, or People's Response, for the Prayers thereby tying in the lessons to the prayers.

Liturgy written or found for special occasions can also be quite powerful. I am happy to review any liturgies a congregation would like to use for one time special services that are taking the place of the Sunday morning worship service. Services used on other occasions, such as retreats, pilgrimages, Longest Night services, are free to be used at the clergy discretion so long as the theology is in keeping with that of the Episcopal Church.

+Bp. Phyllis Spiegel/May 2023