



**Authorised Changes to the *Book of Alternative Services*
Eucharistic Prayers 1 and 3**

1. The phrase in Eucharistic Prayer 1 (“You formed us in your own image: *male and female* you created us.”) may be altered to read “You formed us in your own image: *wonderfully* you created us.”
2. The phrase in Eucharistic Prayer 3 (“where you dwell with all your *sons and daughters*”) may be altered to read “where you dwell with all your *children*.”

This authorization is permissive, not prescriptive; the new language may be used but it is not required. No other changes to the approved language of the Eucharistic Prayers in the *Book of Alternative Services* are permitted.



Memorandum from the Doctrine & Worship Committee of the Diocese of Huron Regarding Changing Language in Eucharistic Prayers One and Three

Dear Colleagues in Ministry,

We are aware that a concern has been expressed regarding the wording that appears in Eucharistic Prayers 1 and 3. In particular, there is a pastoral concern and regard for trans, non-binary, and other gender minority people who may feel excluded by the wording in the current prayers. The phrases that are being addressed are “You formed us in your own image: male and female you created us” in Eucharistic Prayer 1 (BAS p.193) and “where you dwell with all your sons and daughters” in Eucharistic Prayer 3 (BAS p.200).

Some clergy have taken upon themselves to alter the above wording to something else that is felt to be more expansive or inclusive of trans, non-binary, and other gender minority people. While we understand the pastoral sensitivities being expressed by the desire to change the wording of these prayers, we are also mindful of the fact that, as Anglicans, we are to respect the liturgical norms and authority established by General Synod that we swore to uphold in our ordination vows. The following instructions are meant to address the tensions that have arisen in regards to the wording of the prayers under consideration.

1. The highest authority regarding doctrine and worship in the Anglican Church of Canada is General Synod. No bishop or priest has the authority to permanently alter or change the wording of the Church’s liturgical rites. This principle has been established to avoid the liturgical chaos and anarchy that might ensue by the exercise of subjective personal opinion and prideful self-righteousness. “All things should be done decently and in order.” (1 Corinthians 14.40) Thus, a priest or bishop who wishes to use Eucharistic Prayers 1 and 3 as they are currently worded is in compliance with what has been lawfully established and should not be bullied or ridiculed for doing so.
2. Despite what has been said above, all Diocesan Bishops have the liturgical authority (*jus liturgicum*) to order the liturgical life of their Diocese and to make such dispensations and provisional alterations as are deemed advisable due to the local context and circumstances in which the bishop acts. This authority is based on sound Biblical principles: “Our competence is from God, who has made us competent to be ministers of a new covenant, not of letter but of spirit; for the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life.” (2 Corinthians 3.5-6)



3. Based on the above authority of *jus liturgicum*, we wish to establish the following norms for those clergy who wish to alter the current wording of Eucharistic Prayers 1 and 3.
 - a. The phrase in Eucharistic Prayer 1 (“You formed us in your own image: *male and female* you created us.”) may be altered to read “You formed us in your own image: *wonderfully* you created us.”
 - b. The phrase in Eucharistic Prayer 3 (“where you dwell with all your *sons and daughters*”) may be altered to read “where you dwell with all your *children*.”

4. No other alterations than the ones under number 3 above may be lawfully used. Until such time as General Synod acts to change the wording of the Eucharistic Prayers in the Book of Alternative Services, the above variations are established only in the Diocese of Huron. When presiding in another Diocese, the Bishop of that Diocese should be consulted as to the norms in their Diocese.

The Doctrine & Worship Committee
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