

Working Group to Review Canons and Implement Changes
Related to Revised Article X of the Constitution

Zoom Meeting
June 10, 2025, 2:30 p.m. EDT

Minutes
(Approved July 8, 2025)

June 10, 2025

Members Present: Cynthia Black, Joan Geiszler-Ludlum, Christopher Hayes, Jeffrey Lee, Thomas Little, Ruth Meyers, Neil Raman, Wayne Smith, J. Neil Alexander

Members Not Present: Jennifer Reddall, Scott Madison

Others Present: Airié Stuart, liaison of Church Publishing Incorporated

Chair Christopher Hayes convened the Working Group at 2:31 p.m. Ruth Meyers led opening prayers. The Chair said he would reach out to Scott Madison to see if he is able to participate in the Working Group's meetings.

The Chair walked through the published Agenda, a copy of which is attached to these Minutes. No changes to the Agenda were proposed.

Jeff Lee, not having been able to attend the May meetings, introduced himself to the members and shared his anticipation of the good work ahead.

The members discussed the draft Minutes of the May meetings. By a vote of 8-1, it was decided to treat the draft as detailed "progress notes" for the internal use of the Working Group, and that more conventional Minutes reporting the topics discussed and actions taken would be prepared and approved at the July 8 meeting for posting to the Church.

The subcommittees then reported on their work since the May meetings.

Communications Subcommittee. On June 9, Cynthia Black posted a draft public statement of the Working Group's purpose and its progress to date. The members discussed this. She will finalize it and re-post it. She plans to use it to update the Standing Commission on Liturgy and Music when it meets on June 12.

Copyrights Subcommittee. Christopher reported that he contacted the Task Force on Artificial Intelligence and Intellectual Property about the Working Group's look into the Book of Common Prayer (BCP) copyright questions that were discussed at the May meetings. He noted the distinction between copyrighting the BCP (or a new liturgical text) and licensing the same. We have both tools and can choose which to use (or not use) for new releases of BCP changes; we could at least license them.

Airié Stuart said she had met with DFMS General Counsel, Kent Anker, on these issues. Pre-registration of unpublished work is a possibility, as is registration. She researched the origin of the decision to not copyright English language BCP changes but has found nothing so far. The decision appears to have been made in the 1960's. Airié said that the Church can't copyright the format of the liturgies in the BCP.

Article X and Canon II.4 Subcommittee. Neil Alexander reported that the subcommittee has not yet done the outreach to proposers of the "memorialization" language (Canon II.4.3) discussed in May. He had nothing new to report on the capitalization and translation issues (Canon II.4.2). Neil Raman posted a Canon II.4 draft for the subcommittee on June 9. Joan Geiszler-Ludlum is working on another draft of Article X.

Canon II.3 and SCLM Subcommittee. Wayne Smith noted that the progress notes are a good foundation for further drafting efforts here, and that a Canon II.3 redraft was posted to the Teams page at the May meetings. There was consensus around cleaning up this draft for review and discussion at the July 8 meeting and thereafter turn it into a working draft for further review and editing.

Unfinished Business. The Chair noted that on June 2 Ruth Meyers posted two items on the history of BCP revision: (i) "The Problem and Method of Prayerbook Revision," by the Standing Liturgical Commission (1961), and (ii) The Annotated Constitution and Canons (a/k/a "White & Dykman") on Canon II.3.

Tom Little said he would work on a Table of Contents for the Blue Book report to help frame the work ahead.

Jeff Lee concluded the meeting with prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Thomas A. Little, Secretary

Next meeting: July 8, 2025, at 2:30 p.m. Eastern Daylight Time

Working Group to Review Canons and Implement Changes Related to Revised Article X of the Constitution

**June 10, 2025, at 2:30 pm Eastern Daylight Time
Via Zoom**

Organizational Items

Opening prayer

Attendance confirmation

Adoption of the agenda

Introductions for any members who were absent from the meeting of May 5–7, 2025

Review and approval of the minutes for the meeting of May 5–7, 2025 (*this will take time!*)

Report from the Communications Subcommittee

(Cynthia Black)

Report from the Copyrights Subcommittee

(Christopher Hayes)

Consultation with CPG’s copyright counsel (Airié Stuart)?

Historical research (Ruth Meyers and Joan Geiszler-Ludlum)?

Report from the Article X and Canon II.4 Subcommittee

Outreach to proposers of the “memorialization” language? (Canon II.4.3)

Under discussion: Capitalization and translation issues (Canon II.4.2)

Report from the Canon II.3 and SCLM Subcommittee

Trial use: Clearer definition?

Trial use: Case-by-case decision on whether trial use must always precede a first reading?

Trial use: Purpose statement in the canons for trial use?

Details remaining under discussion:

- Pagination and digital access (Canon II.3.2)
- Role of SCLM in approving typographical corrections (Canon II.3.3)
- II.3.4) • Distribution and publication responsibilities (Canon II.3.4)
- II.3.4) • Clarification of “in trust for the use thereof” (Canon II.3.4)
- Trial use timing and clarity (Canon II.3.6)
- (II.3.7) • Reappointment eligibility for the Custodian

Unfinished business

New business

Closing Items

Next meeting: July 8, 2025, at 2:30 p.m. Eastern Daylight Time

Closing prayer