

**The Francophone Network of the Anglican Communion**  
**Seventh Triennial Meeting**  
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**Principles for Evaluating New Liturgical Materials (adapted)**

Materials proposed for new Books of Common Prayer must above all be consistent with the Anglican theology and ecclesiology of the great tradition of Books of Common Prayer across the Anglican Communion.

Nearly as important is that the proposed liturgical materials embody a classical Anglican liturgical ethos and style. Recognizing the varying notions of what makes public prayer recognizably Anglican, we note these qualities:

- It resonates with Scripture and proclaims the Gospel.
- It is rooted in Anglican theological tradition.
- It has high literary value; it is beautiful according to accepted and respected standards of the translated language.
- It is formal, not casual, conversational, or colloquial.
- It is dense enough to “carry the freight” of the sacred purpose for which it is intended.
- It is metaphoric without being obtuse.
- It is performative, that is, it effects what it says.

These rites also must resonate as natural speech in contemporary ears in the translated language. A religious or sacred tone must be achieved without the use of arcane or antiquated words or patterns of speech.

The Francophone Network of the Anglican Communion commends the following principles adopted by the Standing Commission on Liturgy and Music (Episcopal Church USA) for translating liturgical texts:

1. The translator does not translate literally, but translates ideas and concepts idiomatically.
2. It is imperative that the translator be familiar with idioms and their meanings in source and translated languages.
3. The translator needs to be familiar with nuances of the source and translated languages and cultures.
4. The translator must take into account multi-ethnic distinctions that influence dialects and idioms, and utilize language that has the widest currency.
5. The translator must take into account style & affect as well as cadence, rhythm and meter.
6. The translator needs to be fluent in the poetics of both languages.

The commission recommends the following process, which it is using for newly developed liturgical texts:

1. A single translator prepares a first draft of the translation.

2. The translation is sent to members of a review committee fluent in both languages and representing different cultural groups and countries that use the language.
3. The principal translator hosts web/teleconferences with the review committee to finalize the translation.

Culturally appropriate rites can be added to the classic Prayer Book texts. For example, in a hispanophone Book of Common Prayer, a Quinceañera liturgy or propers for Our Lady of Guadalupe could be appended.

The Francophone Network wishes to thank the Reverend Canon Gregory M. Howe, Custodian of the Standard Book of Common Prayer (Episcopal Church), for bringing this text to our attention.