



List of Bible Versions Approved by the House of Bishops for
use in Public Worship in the Anglican Church of Canada, on
Recommendation from the Doctrine and Worship Committee

1991

List of Bible Versions Approved by the House of Bishops for use in Public Worship in the Anglican Church of Canada, on Recommendation from the Doctrine and Worship Committee (most recent change: 1991, with addition of New Revised Standard Version and the Revised English Bible).

New Revised Standard Version
Revised English Bible
King James (Authorized Version) 1611
Revised Standard Version 1952 (and its revision as Common Bible)
New American Bible 1970
Today's English Version (Good News) 1976
New International Version 1978
New Jerusalem 1985

Source: House of Bishops / 1991 November 4-10 / Resolution

TEXT: That the New Revised Standard Version and the Revised English Bible be added to the list of versions approved for use in public worship. CARRIED

Source: House of Bishops / 1987 October 13-18 / Resolution 1-10-87

Moved by: Bishop Curtis
Seconded by: Bishop Allan

Prologue: Bishop Barry presented the following report of the Doctrine and Worship Committee on Biblical translations recommended for public reading.

"In drawing up a list of biblical translations recommended for public reading, the Task Force began by generating criteria by which a translation might be excluded from such a list. Translations excluded by these criteria were noted. The exclusion of a translation as not suitable for public reading in the Anglican Church of Canada does not mean that the translation is necessarily unsuitable for study purposes.

I. Criteria for exclusion of a particular translation

- i. Paraphrases, e.g. The Living Bible, J.B. Phillips, Barclay, Cotton Patch.
- ii. Translations made for particular doctrinal purposes rather than rendering the original text, e.g. The Living Bible, Jehovah's Witnesses.
- iii. Translations which are translations of translations, e.g. The Living Bible, Jerusalem Bible (1966)
- iv. Translations which replace words through "computer search" rather than by examination of each text, e.g. NCC Inclusive translation.
- v. Translations from another culture, e.g. New English Bible, Cotton Patch.
- vi. Abridgements/harmonies, e.g. Reader's Digest.
- vii. Translations in colloquial rather than contemporary English, e.g. New English Bible

II. Recommendations

The Task Force recommends the following translations for public reading in the Anglican Church of Canada (by date of publication).

- King James (Authorized Version) 1611
- Revised Standard Version 1952 (and its revision as Common Bible)
- New American Bible 1970
- Today's English Version (Good News) 1976
- New International Version 1978
- New Jerusalem 1985

Selection

The Task Force suggests that local communities consider the following criteria when choosing a translation suitable for their needs and purposes:

- the nature of the local community, its cultural profile, education levels, etc.
- the fidelity of the translations to the original text.
- no gratuitous use of exclusive language.
- intelligible in terms of contemporary English use.
- natural use of language.
- coherence with the language of the liturgy itself.
- does the translation give help with the pronunciation of proper nouns ?

No one criterion is a sufficient basis for a community's choice."

TEXT of MOTION: That this report be received for the guidance of diocesan bishops.
CARRIED