

Liturgy We Live *by Dr. Gil Haas*

Until 1964, our Church's official name was "The Protestant Episcopal Church in the United States of America". In the 19th century, Anglo-Catholic members advocated a name change that reflected the church's Catholic heritage. However, alternative names, such as "American Catholic Church" were regularly rejected by General Conventions. The church's evangelical wing opposed this type of name change since it felt that the "Protestant" label accurately described our church's reformed character while acknowledging that our church was led by bishops or "Episcopates". By the 1960's, opposition to dropping the word "Protestant" subsided. At our 1964 General Convention, a preamble was added to the church's constitution recognizing "The Episcopal Church" (without the word "Protestant") as an alternative designation while still retaining the earlier name. In 1979, our General Convention voted to use only "The Episcopal Church" in the Oath of Conformity during the Declaration for Ordination. This evolution of our name can be followed in our BCP's. In the 1928 BCP, the title page reads, "According to the use of the The Protestant Episcopal Church in the United States of America", whereas the current BCP's title page states, "According to the use of the The Episcopal Church".

If you have a liturgical question or an inquiry about anything that transpires during or around our worship service, please forward the question you would like researched to: gghaas@aol.com, or drop the question in the offering basin. Please note whether we can credit you as the source of the question.