



Rules of Procedure

Voting at assemblies shall be electronically, paper ballot, show of hands or by green, red and white cards.

The assembly shall receive all reports published in the Bulletin of Reports by virtue of the fact without vote.

By action of the Synod Council, all reports are to be printed/posted in the Bulletin of Reports, and oral reports will be given only in unusual circumstances. No second is required for motions coming from the Synod Council, a board, or a committee.

The representative of the Churchwide organization shall preside over the assembly whenever the assembly is in session and considering business related to the election of the synod bishop, or when the assembly is casting ballots in this election. Upon conclusion of balloting or of specific business related to the election, the Bishop or Vice President shall resume presiding over the assembly.

Only those items of the Synod Council report that require assembly action shall be called to the attention of the assembly.

To speak, please come to one of the floor microphones, wait to be recognized, and give your *NAME*, the name of the *CONGREGATION*, and *TOWN* that you represent.

Each speaker shall be limited to *two* minutes in any one speech in a debate.

In order to facilitate a more balanced assembly in which sufficient time is allowed for individual items and yet time is reserved for equally-deserving issues, voting members may move that, "*The debate close in (so many) minutes and that the matter be put to a vote,*" or, "*I move the previous question*" in order to close debate. A speaker must be recognized at a floor microphone to make such a motion.

The Synod Council has instructed the bishop to rule out of order any applause at the conclusion of controversial decisions on the grounds that Christians of good conscience may align themselves on either side of many issues that are not clearly decided by the Scriptures, the Confession of the Lutheran Church or the actions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. However, applause is often entirely appropriate following non-controversial actions.

Motions made from the floor of the assembly should come to the secretary of synod in writing.

Reference and Counsel may only accept resolutions and memorials during assembly in extreme circumstances based upon the Continuing Resolution entitled *Reference and Counsel Committee Operations* approved by Synod Council at the September 2004 meeting and updated December 2007, "*Only in extreme circumstances upon majority vote of the Assembly may additional resolutions be presented.*"

All votes on ratification of nominees from institutions and agencies will be taken by either voting yes with a green card, no with a red card and a white card for abstention, show of hands OR by electronic voting.

Other rules having to do with nominations and elections will be clarified by the Committees on Nominations and Conduct of Elections at the appropriate time.

