

Rules of Procedure

Voting at assembly shall be electronic, show of hands, or paper ballot.

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 ELCA 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, and give your NAME, the name of the CONGREGATION and TOWN that you represent, whether you are for, against, or have a procedural matter, or a question about the matter at hand and wait to be recognized by the chair.

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.

The Synod Council has instructed the bishop or vice president 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 the synod in writing.

The Reference and Counsel Committee 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.”

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

People needing accommodations that include having a person physically sitting with them in order to fully participate may have a support person sitting with them in the bar who would have no voice or vote in the assembly.

The chair shall have authority to call items of business before the assembly in whatever order is most expedient for conducting assembly business.