



RULES OF SYNOD

Sections 6 to 8

RULES OF DEBATE

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

ORDINANCES

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PART 6 RULES OF DEBATE

MEMBERS TO STAND

144 A member must stand when speaking and address the President.

PRESIDENTS PRIVILEGE

145 (1) The President may take part in debate without leaving the Chair.

(2) When the President rises in his place a member speaking must resume his or her seat and all members other than the President must remain seated until the President resumes his seat.

QUESTIONS OF ORDER

146 (1) A question of order shall be determined by the President and his determination shall be final unless the Synod acts in accordance with subsection (2)

(2) the Synod may decide upon a question of order upon a motion moved without notice immediately after the determination by the President.

(3) A member may speak to a point of order.

LENGTH OF SPEECHES

147 (1) Unless Synod otherwise declares the following time limits apply to the length of speeches in the Synod:

(a) In the case of a procedural motion no speaker may speak for more than three (3) minutes; and

(b) In any other case the mover may speak for not more than ten (10) minutes, other speakers for not more than five (5) minutes and the mover may speak in reply for not more than five (5) minutes.

(2) The Synod may on motion put without notice or debate extend the time allowed to a speaker.

LIMITATION ON DEBATE

148 (1) At any time during a debate on a question, but not so as to interrupt a speaker, a member who has not spoken may ask the President without notice "Whether in the opinion of the President the question has been sufficiently debated."

(2) If upon being asked the question in subsection (1) or at any other time the President is of the opinion that the question has been sufficiently debated he must inform Synod.

(3) When the President informs the Synod that in his opinion the Synod has sufficiently debated the question a member who has not spoken may move without notice "that the question be now put."

(4) Upon the motion in subsection (3) being moved and seconded the President must put the motion without debate.

(5) If the motion “that the question be now put” is carried the President must afford the mover of the motion to which the question relates an opportunity to reply or if he does not wish to do so shall forthwith put the question to the vote.

SPEECHES TO DEAL ONLY WITH THE QUESTION UNDER DEBATE

149 The President must call to order any member who in the opinion of the President is digressing from the subject matter of the motion under discussion or who makes personal reflections on or imputes improper motives to another member or who speaks without proper Christian love and charity.

INTERRUPTIONS

150 A member must not interrupt a speaker except to raise a point of order or when expressly permitted to do so by these Rules.

DISORDERLY CONDUCT

151 (1) If in the opinion of the President a member

(a) persistently digresses from the subject matter of the question under discussion or

(b) is guilty of disorderly conduct

the President must report the member to the Synod which may suspend the member for part or the remainder of the session.

(2) The President may not report a member of the Synod for disorderly conduct until that member has been afforded an opportunity to withdraw any improper remarks or otherwise apologise and has refused to do so.

ADJOURNMENT OF DEBATE TO ORDER OF THE DAY

152 When the debate on a question is adjourned and made an Order of the Day for a future sitting the Synod may upon motion made without notice and put without debate, determine that the resumption of the debate take precedence over all or any motions or other Orders of the Day for that sitting.

RIGHT OF REPLY

153 (1) A member must not speak more than once in respect of a motion where with the permission of the President a personal explanation is made.

(2) Where an amendment has been moved to a motion a member who spoke on the motion prior to the amendment being moved may speak once only to the amendment.

(3) A member who has not previously spoken may, after an amendment has been moved, speak once only to both the original motion and the amendment.

(4) The mover of a motion who is not the mover of an amendment to the motion may speak a second time but only in reply and before the amendment is put.

(5) When the mover of a motion has spoken in reply the question must be put without further debate.

ORDER OF MOTIONS

154 (1) Unless the Synod otherwise orders motions shall be taken on a sitting day in the order in which they are listed on the agenda by the Steering Committee for that day.

(2) If a motion is not moved or is not adjourned by leave of the Synod when it is due to be moved the motion shall be deemed to have lapsed.

MOTIONS

155 (1) When a motion has been moved and seconded the President must propose to the Synod the question "that the motion be agreed to".

(2) Any member before the close of the debate may move an amendment to the motion.

156 The mover of a motion must phrase the motion concisely and in plain English.

157 (1) Any motion involving any financial liability must specify the method by which that liability is to be met.

(2) Any motion seeking that something be done must specify the names of the persons who are to carry out that task or assist in carrying out that task.

AMENDMENTS TO MOTIONS

158 An amendment may not be put unless it has been seconded and two copies of the proposed amendment has been given to the Secretaries.

159 An amendment must be in one of the following forms:

(a) if the purpose of the amendment is to substitute a new motion for the motion moved must be stated "that all words after the word 'that' in the motion be omitted and the following words substituted "; or

(b) if the purpose of the amendment is to alter the motion by deleting certain words and inserting other words instead the amendment must state "that the word or words be deleted and the following word inserted in their place "; or

(c) if the purpose of the amendment is to alter the motion by deleting certain words only the amendment must state "that the words be deleted"; or

(d) if the purpose of the amendment is to alter the motion by inserting or adding certain words to it the amendment must state "that the words be inserted after the word or added at the end".

160 (1) If an amendment has been moved and seconded the question to be proposed by the President must be

(a) if the amendment is that certain words be deleted and other words substituted instead, first “that the words proposed be deleted” and if that question is passed Synod, second “that the proposed words be inserted”; or

(b) in any other case “that the proposed words be deleted” or “that the proposed words be inserted or added” as the case requires.

(2) If a motion that certain words be inserted or added is not passed a motion may be moved for the insertion or addition of other words.

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162 An amendment to a motion must be disposed of before another amendment to the motion may be moved.

163 An amendment (the second amendment) may be moved to an amendment (the first amendment) as if the first amendment were an original motion.

164 Upon a proposed amendment being passed by the Synod, the motion to which it relates is varied in accordance with the terms of the amendment.

CERTAIN AMENDMENTS NOT IN ORDER

165 An amendment shall not be moved to a motion

(a) if it is not relevant to the subject matter of the motion; or

(b) if the amendment would result in the amended motion being the opposite of the original motion.

MOTION TO MOVE TO NEXT ITEM OF BUSINESS

166 (1) If a member wishes to avoid or postpone a decision on a motion, he or she may move without notice “that the Synod proceed to the next item of Business”.

(2) If moved the motion must, immediately after it has been seconded, be put without debate and if PASSED the Synod must proceed forthwith to the next item of business.

(3) No member of Synod who has spoken on the motion may move the motion referred in subsection (1).

RESOLUTION OF MOTIONS BY VOICES OR SHOW OF HANDS

167 (1) Subject to this section a motion must be resolved on the voices or by show of hands according to whether in the President’s opinion there is a majority voting “yes” or “no”.

(2) If eight or more members standing in their places require a division on a motion the motion must then be decided according to the result of the division.

RESOLUTION OF MOTIONS BY DIVISION

168 If a division is held

(a) The President must put the question and must direct the “yeses” to stand in their places and after being counted the “noes” must do the same;

(b) The President must appoint tellers for each side

(c) The tellers must count the votes for each side either collectively or by houses as the case requires and report the count to the President; and

(d) The President must declare the result of the division including the number voting for or against the motion.

169 Unless a vote by “houses” is required by these Rules the result of a division must be declared according to the votes of all members collectively.

DIVISION BY HOUSES

170 (1) Eight members of a House may stand in their places and request that a division take place by way of Houses.

(2) Where a vote by Houses is required the motion is not resolved in the affirmative unless a majority of the members voting in each House vote in favour of the question.

MOVEMENT DURING DIVISIONS

171 When a division is held

(a) no member may enter or leave the chamber after the President has directed that the count be commenced; and

(b) after the President has appointed the tellers no member other than a teller shall be entitled to change places.

WITHDRAWAL OF MOTION

172 A motion may with the leave of the Synod be withdrawn by the mover with the consent of the seconder.

MOTION PREVIOUSLY DEALT WITH

173 A matter that has been dealt with by the Synod at a particular session may not be the subject of a further motion during the session unless Synod resolves otherwise.

MOTION TO ADJOURN DEBATE OR SYNOD

174 A motion to adjourn a debate or to adjourn the Synod may be moved at any time without notice but not so as to interrupt a member already speaking.

VOTING BY PRESIDENT

175 The President may not vote on any question before the Synod.

SUSPENSION OF RULES OF SYNOD

176 A matter or thing may be done by or in the Synod notwithstanding the provisions of these Rules if

(a) it is done with the leave of Synod without any member dissenting; or

(b) the operation of these Rules is suspended upon motion moved with notice or a motion without notice passed by at least two thirds of the members present.

RIGHT TO SPEAK IN SYNOD

177 (1) Where there is no question before Synod a member may not speak unless they intend to move a motion

(2) Any member rising to move a motion of which notice has not been given must when called upon by the President state what motion the speaker intends to move.

PART 7 COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

178 The Synod shall sit as a Committee of the Whole as provided by these rules or upon a motion moved without notice and passed by the Synod.

CHAIR

179 When the Synod is sitting as a Committee of the Whole

(a) The Chair of Committees shall preside and

(b) The Chair shall have a casting but not a deliberative vote. ACTING CHAIR

180 (1) If the Chair is unable to attend a sitting of the Synod the Deputy Chair of Committees shall preside.

(2) The Chair or the Deputy Chair may at any time during a sitting of the Committee without notice request a member to act as Chair during the Chair's or Deputy Chair's temporary absence from the sitting.

(3) An Acting Chair shall have all the powers and shall exercise all the functions of the Chair and Deputy Chair as the case may be.

QUORUM

181 (1) The quorum in a Committee of the Whole shall be the same as that of the Synod.

(2) If while the Synod is sitting as a Committee of the Whole notice is taken that there is not a quorum present the Chair shall leave the chair and report accordingly to the President.

MOTIONS IN COMMITTEE

182 A motion in a Committee of the Whole need not be seconded.

SPEAKING IN COMMITTEE

183 A member may speak more than once on a motion before the Committee of the Whole.

LENGTH OF SPEECHES

184 Unless the Committee otherwise orders, a member shall not speak more than five (5) minutes on the first occasion of speaking before the Committee of the Whole on a particular matter and shall not speak for more than three (3) minutes in any subsequent speech on the same question.

ORDINANCES

185 (1) Unless the contrary intention appears a reference to a section of an Ordinance shall be read as including a reference to any schedule preamble and title to the Ordinance.

(2) When a proposed Ordinance is being considered by the Committee of the Whole the Chair without motion must put with respect to each section or subsection "the question is that sections shall stand part of the Ordinance".

(3) The question in subsection (2) may be put by leave of the Committee of the Whole concerning all or some sections together rather than each section separately.

(4) Where a schedule to a proposed Ordinance is divided into paragraphs each paragraph may be considered in Committee of the Whole as if it were a separate section of the Ordinance.

(5) The section providing for the short title to the Ordinance and the Title must be considered after every other clause and schedule and any preambles have been considered, after which the Chair shall put the question "that the Chair do leave the Chair and report to the President the Ordinance with or without amendment".

(6) Where the question referred to in subsection (2) of this section has been proposed amendments to the section may be moved as if the section were a motion.

(7) Where a section is amended the Chair must without motion propose the further question "that the section as amended stand part of the Ordinance".

(8) A motion for the inclusion of a new section must be moved before the section that is to follow has been dealt with by the Committee of the Whole.

(9) Where a section is omitted from or inserted in a proposed Ordinance it shall not be necessary for any consequential renumbering or altering of references to be put and agreed by the Committee of the Whole and such alteration is to be made by the Secretaries and certified by the Chair.

(10) Grammatical and typographical errors may be corrected by the Secretaries and certified by the Chair.

186 (1) Part 3 of these Rules applies to proceedings in Committee of the Whole as if references to the President were references to the Chair and references to the Synod be read as references to the Committee.

(2) The Committee may not suspend a member or members but the Chair may report to the President any such recommendation.

PART 8 ORDINANCES

BISHOP-IN-COUNCIL SPONSORED ORDINANCES

187 An Ordinance sponsored by Bishop-in-Council must be printed as part of the Orders for the day for the first sitting day of the Synod

PRIVATE MEMBER'S ORDINANCES

188 (1) A member of Synod wishing to present a private member's Ordinance must present it to the Registrar at least twenty-one (21) days before the Synod convenes

(2) The proposed Ordinance must be signed by at least six members of the Synod and sufficient copies must be provided for each member of the Synod.

LEAVE TO BE GIVEN

189 No proposed Ordinance may be considered by Synod unless the Synod gives leave to introduce the proposed Ordinance.

PROCEDURE FOR CONSIDERING ORDINANCES BY SYNOD

190 Ordinances must be considered in Synod and the Committee of the Whole in accordance with the following procedure-

(a) When Synod grants leave to introduce a proposed Ordinance the member in charge of the proposed Ordinance must move without notice "that the Ordinance be considered" or "that consideration of the proposed Ordinance be an Order of the Day for"

(b) Once the motion "that the Ordinance be considered" is moved the general principles of the proposed Ordinance may be debated.

(c) When the Synod has agreed to consider a proposed Ordinance Synod may

- (i) consider the Ordinance immediately; or
- (ii) resolve to discuss the Ordinance in a Committee of the Whole; or
- (iii) fix another time for further consideration of the proposed Ordinance.

(d) When the Chair of Committees reports to the President that the proposed Ordinance has been agreed to either with or without amendments the President without motion must put the question "that the report be adopted".

(e) The motion referred to in subsection (d) may be amended for the purpose of having the proposed Ordinance reconsidered by the Committee of the Whole but may not otherwise be amended.

(f) When the Chair's report concerning a proposed Ordinance is adopted the member in charge of the Ordinance must move either "that the Ordinance do now pass" or "that further consideration of the Ordinance be an Order of the Day for a future time".

(g) When the Synod has agreed to pass the Ordinance it must be presented to the Bishop for his assent after which it shall become law.

191 (1) In all matters which are not provided for in these Rules a ruling from the President must be sought and each such ruling shall have the same force as a Rule of Synod unless the Synod determines otherwise.

(2) The Secretaries must record each ruling from the President under this section.