



2021 Assembly Rules of Procedure

Voting members must join each Zoom session before it begins. Once a session begins, the ability to join will be closed until the next session. It is recommended that voting members sign on early; registration will begin one hour before the first session of the day. Voting members who miss signing into the first session may join during the break.

Voting shall be electronic and via Zoom polls.

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 use the “Raise Hand” function in Zoom and wait for a Chat message from a moderator. You will be then asked to send a Chat message with your Name, the name of your Congregation and Congregation City, along with the matter at hand about which you wish to speak (i.e. a procedural matter, a question, etc.) In an instance of discussion, be sure to indicate whether you are speaking *for* or *against* the matter at hand. Be sure your video is turned on, wait to be recognized by the chair, and be ready to unmute yourself when recognized.

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.

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, the consultation committee, and the committee on discipline will be taken by electronic voting using Zoom polls.

En bloc voting will occur for ratifications agencies and institutions, discipline committee, and the consultation committee. To remove someone from *en bloc* please notify NC Synod Vice President Diana Haywood or Secretary Doug Ramsey prior to Noon on June 1, 2021.

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.

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