

Ten Tips for Synod Assembly-Goers in using Parliamentary Procedure

Adapted from The Honorable David Lillehaug, Minneapolis Area Synod Parliamentarian (2021)

1. Don't treat procedure as a game, but as a fair, efficient way to deliberate and (if possible) reach consensus.
2. Respect the rights of both majority and minority.
 - The majority's rights include getting business done.
 - The minority's rights include being heard and dissent.
3. Be prepared to listen to one another and the Holy Spirit, to deliberate, and to decide.
4. On and off the floor, always treat the presider and other voters with respect. Make your points on merits, not personalities or politics.
5. When you want to speak, wait to be recognized by the presider. Identify yourself, your pronouns, and your congregation.
6. Don't lightly interrupt the Assembly with points of privilege, information, or order.
7. Don't act lightly when moving the previous question (cutting off debate)
8. Don't act lightly when moving to override the rulings of the presider or suspending the rules.
9. Feel free to consult the parliamentarian for procedural advice.
10. Whatever your feelings about contentious outcomes, work to move forward together in God's peace.