

Greater Milwaukee Synod Assembly
Rules and Procedures – 2019
MODIFIED FOR THE 2021 Special Meeting of the 2019 Synod
Assembly

Overview

The Greater Milwaukee Synod Council will recommend to the Synod Assembly the following Rules and Procedures for 2021's Special Synod Assembly. These will be formalized by the Assembly at the Plenary Session of the Assembly, on Saturday, June 1, 2019, but will be followed prior to that action.

The synod council may approve, upon the recommendation of the bishop, that a meeting of the synod assembly take place by means of an online meeting platform (such as Zoom webinar). This platform must allow that all participants who are entitled to voice and vote can communicate with others in the meeting, in accordance with governing documents and Illinois State Statutes.

A. Registration and Quorum

1. Since this is a special assembly, all voting members who were seated for the last regular assembly in May of 2019 are still considered voting members of this special assembly. Per the ELCA's representational principles, the Special Assembly registration of lay members continues to exceed 60% of total voting members.

The requirement of members present to legally conduct this meeting today is at least 50% of those voting members from 2019. There were 366 voting members present in 2019, so the Special Assembly must have at least 183 voting members here today. (S7.14)

2. The synod council shall also establish a registration deadline in advance of the meeting, providing sufficient time for meeting information and voting registration to be distributed. For the Special Assembly taking place on Saturday, January 23, registration shall close at 8:00 am on Friday, January 22. No registrations may be received after the deadline has passed.

B. Floor Procedures

1. Voting or advisory members with a procedural question or issue may seek to be recognized using the Q&A function of the meeting platform. Synod staff, serving as moderators, will alert the chair. Those joining by phone may indicate the desire to be recognized by hitting *9 to raise their hand and be addressed by the chair or by moderators.

2. When an item of business is opened by the chair for discussion, those voting or advisory members wishing to speak shall indicate their preference to do so in the Q&A function of the meeting platform. When indicating their preference to speak, voting or advisory members must specify if they are speaking for or against the item under consideration. Moderators will keep a speakers list and provide it to the chair.

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3. Once recognized by the chair, each speaker will state their name and congregational membership. No person may speak more than once on an item of business until all others who wish to speak have had opportunity to do so.
4. Speeches from the floor during debate shall be limited to two (2) minutes. Those whose primary language is not English may exceed the limit for translation purposes with the discretion of the chair. In the event of anticipated prolonged debate, the chair may declare (or an assembly move as a matter of procedure) that speeches will be made in alternating order between supporting and opposing views, which will be indicated in the chat function of the meeting platform and noted by a moderator.

(This is consistent with the 2019 Churchwide Assembly Rules of Organization and Procedure, which state in part: "Insofar as is possible during discussion, a speaker on one side of the question shall be followed by a speaker on the other side.")

Time will be kept by a designated individual. The chair will rotate speaking privileges between proponents and opponents of a measure,

5. The chair may recognize an individual(s) to provide pertinent background information regarding a resolution. Such speakers shall be limited to four (4) minutes.

C. Motions

1. When a member intends to bring a motion (whether a main motion, a secondary motion, or a motion to bring a question again before the assembly), the motion must be made and seconded, if applicable, before speaking to the issue. If a member speaks to a matter before bringing the motion, the motion will be considered out of order by the chair. Once the motion is properly made and seconded, if applicable, the member who made the motion shall have the privilege of speaking first in support of it, upon recognition by the chair.

D. Voting

1. Voting at digital assemblies, except for contested votes or elections, may, at the discretion of the chair, be conducted by means of a polling feature on the meeting platform (such as Zoom polling). In determining the outcome of a vote, only the yes and no votes shall be counted in determining the total number of votes required for adoption. Abstentions may be recorded, but do not count in the vote total. Proxy and absentee voting shall not be permitted in the transaction of any business of the Synod Assembly. The Chair will allow for at least one (1) minute for voting to occur.
2. In the case of contested elections or motions, voting shall take place by means of a secure voting platform that ensures all voting members are able to vote. Provisions will be made to allow voting members who do not have access to computer technology to register their vote by telephone. The Chair will allow for up to five (5)

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minutes of voting to occur.

E. Privilege of Voice

Guests, other than voting members, may be accorded the privilege of voice by a majority vote. Voice shall also be granted to those persons designated by the Synod Council, as provided for in S7.23. of the Synod's Constitution.