

## **STANDING RULES OF THE TWENTY-NINTH GENERAL SYNOD**

As approved by the Executive Council March 16, 2012

### **The Membership of the General Synod**

1. The General Synod is the representative body of the United Church of Christ and is composed of delegates chosen by the Conferences, from among the members of its Local Churches, the thirty (30) voting members of each of the Boards of Directors of Justice and Witness Ministries, Local Church Ministries and Wider Church Ministries, the Office of General Ministries and of ex officio delegates; these shall constitute the voting delegates. The ex officio delegates with vote are the members of the Executive Council, including the Officers of the United Church of Christ, the Moderator and Assistant Moderators. There are also associate delegates who have voice without vote (United Church of Christ Constitution, paragraph 53, and Bylaws 193-194).

### **Accreditation and Seating of Voting Delegates and Associate Delegates**

2. Delegates will be accredited by the General Synod Registrar or the Assistant Registrar or their agents at the registration desk upon presentation of proper credentials.

3. Conference Ministers are responsible for certifying substitutes to fill vacancies in the Conference's delegation. These persons shall be registered by the Registrar or the Assistant Registrar and accredited as delegates.

4. Composition of delegations can be challenged by voting or associate delegates only. Delegate seats that are contested will remain vacant until the General Synod Credentials Committee (Bylaw 207) makes a recommendation to the Synod and a decision is made by majority vote of the Synod.

A. A challenge of a delegation shall be made to the Credentials Committee at least one month prior to the General Synod for appropriate consideration and recommendation to the General Synod.

B. In the event of a challenge to the composition of a delegation, the Credentials Committee shall resolve within fourteen (14) days of receipt of the challenge the matter on the basis of the (1) provisions of the Conference for electing its General Synod delegates, (2) provisions as described in paragraph 189 of the Bylaws for the composition of the Conference delegations.

5. Voting delegates (Bylaws 188-192) wearing the proper badge will be seated in the specifically designated delegate section. Conference delegates will be seated with their Conference delegation. Members of the Covenanted Ministries Boards of Directors will be seated with their Covenanted Ministry. Executive Council members representing the Covenanted Ministries shall attend General Synod as part of the Executive Council and shall be seated with the Executive Council.

6. Associate delegates (Bylaw 193) wearing the proper badge will be seated in the specifically designated associate delegate section, except the chairperson of the governing board and the chief executive officer(s) of each Conference who may be seated with their Conference delegation. Associate Delegates to General Synod have voice without vote in all aspects and functions of General Synod, including committees.

7. No other persons will be allowed in the delegate section except Non-Delegates having voice without vote as described below, and persons designated by the General Synod Administrator as General Synod staff, national staff liaisons and persons with press credentials. All delegates, associate delegates, non-delegates having voice without vote and other persons mentioned in this paragraph must have appropriate credentials from the General Synod Registrar.

### **Accreditation and Seating of Non-Delegates Having Voice Without Vote**

8. Any chairperson or chief executive officer of any national program agency, both temporary and permanent, created by General Synod action, or of any of the bodies representing a historically underrepresented constituency (Bylaw 224), who is not either a voting delegate or an associate delegate (Bylaws 187-194) shall be accorded the privilege of voice without vote and of seating with the associate delegates.

9. When the interests of their respective institutions or groups are before the General Synod, the chief executive officers of the institutions related to the Council for Higher Education or the Council for Health and Human Service Ministries shall have the privilege of voice without vote.

10. A group is composed of at least 25 members of the United Church of Christ who have come together because they are persons of a particular constituency or interested in a specific issue or concern. Such groups may have voice without vote under the following conditions:

A. The General Synod may vote, on recommendation of the Business Committee, to grant to not more than two non-delegate representatives of a group the privilege of voice without vote and of seating with the associate delegates, if the group meets the following criteria:

(1) The group must consist of at least 25 members of the United Church of Christ and more than one Conference must be represented in its membership.

(2) The group must show cause to the Business Committee why elected delegates cannot effectively represent its cause or concern to the General Synod.

(3) The two non-delegate representatives given voice without vote must hold membership in a local church of the United Church of Christ.

B. Any request for voice without vote privileges at the Twenty-ninth General Synod must be sent via email\* to the Office of General Ministries of the United Church of Christ **on or before February 1, 2013**. A list of at least 25 current members including local church membership reflecting membership in more than one conference must accompany all requests.

C. For groups not formally related to the United Church of Christ, privilege of voice without vote ends with the adjournment of General Synod.

11. Honored Guests, Former Officers of the United Church of Christ, Moderators of past General Synods, Chief Executive Officers of formerly Recognized and Established Instrumentalities, and the Commission of Racial Justice, and Ecumenical Guests who are not associate delegates may be accorded the privilege of voice without vote and of seating with the associate delegates by vote of the General Synod.

### **Procedures for Communicating and Considering Formal Motions**

12. Matters of concern to members of the United Church of Christ may be presented in the form of Formal Motions for consideration by a General Synod. Formal Motions are Proposed Pronouncements; Proposals for Action; and Resolutions and Other Formal Motions. All matters submitted by a Conference or Association shall be considered by the Synod (Bylaws 169 and 174). All Formal Motions must be sent via email\* to the Office of General Ministries. The Executive Council, acting as the Business Committee, will recommend to the General Synod on the proposed disposition of these proposals for formal motion based on the procedures set forth in this paragraph. The Executive Council, acting as the Business Committee, will then propose recommendations regarding the disposition of these proposals and report these recommendations to the General Synod.

A. Items that are expected to be routine, non-controversial, or dealt with in a special hearing will be reported directly to the plenary session by the Executive Council. This might include, but is not limited to, such items as the budget, amendments to constitution or Bylaws, statements of commendation, recognition and celebration.

B. All proposed pronouncements and proposals for action shall be assigned to committee.

C. Items which are complicated or controversial, which require background discussion and study, which merit and need a hearing process, or which have a system-wide impact will be assigned to a committee. The proposer shall supply a resource person to the committee.

D. Any proposed business item which reiterates or reaffirms previous action shall normally be referred by the General Synod to the body or bodies implementing such action. A referral for implementation is, in itself, a statement that the General Synod is already on record with the intent of the business item and that the policy base for implementation is already in existence.

E. Items addressing issues addressed by one of the two preceding General Synods shall be referred by the General Synod to implementing bodies unless the proposal would significantly change the previous action or addresses an urgent and significantly altered context.

F. If a proposed motion differs significantly from previous policy or action of the two preceding General Synods, it shall be assigned to a committee. The burden of proof is on those submitting the proposal to explain how it is different.

## A. Proposed Pronouncements

(1) Definition: A Pronouncement is a statement of Christian conviction on a matter of moral or social principle and has been adopted by a two-thirds vote of a General Synod. It is based on biblical, theological and ethical grounds. Until adopted, the statement presented for consideration by a General Synod is a Proposed Pronouncement. Proposals for Action shall not be included in Proposed Pronouncements. (See B. Proposals for Action, below.)

(2) Sources: A Proposed Pronouncement may be submitted only by:

- (a) a General Synod delegate or delegate-elect with the written concurrence of at least ten additional General Synod delegates or delegates-elect from two or more Conferences;
- (b) a Local Church, with the written concurrence of at least five other Local Churches of the United Church of Christ;
- (c) an Association;
- (d) a Conference;
- (e) a Covenanted, Associated or Affiliated Ministry, or other body as defined in Article VI of the Bylaws of the United Church of Christ; and
- (f) the Executive Council.

(3) Procedures for Considering Proposed Pronouncements are:

(a) A Copy of the Proposed Pronouncement must be sent via email\* to the Office of General Ministries **on or before October 28, 2012**.

(b) The Office of General Ministries will send the Proposed Pronouncement to the Local Churches, Associations, Conferences, and delegates **on or before January 1, 2013**. It shall be labeled "Proposed Pronouncement--Circulated for Discussion and Comments."

(c) The Executive Council shall designate a committee or other group to review the Proposed Pronouncement and make recommendations to a General Synod. The initiator(s) of the Proposed Pronouncement shall designate a person to support the Proposed Pronouncement before the committee or group designated by the Executive Council. Additional persons may provide support or opposition.

(d) The Office of General Ministries will receive via email\* responses to the Proposed Pronouncement from Local Churches, delegates, delegates-elect, Associations, Conferences, Covenanted, Associated, or Affiliated Ministries, or other bodies as defined in Article VI of the Bylaws of the United Church of Christ including the record of any votes taken. The Office of General Ministries will provide one copy of each response to the committee or group designated to review the Proposed Pronouncement, retaining one copy in the Office of General Ministries. A report shall be made to the General Synod of the volume and character received.

(e) The committee or group designated by the Executive Council to review the Proposed Pronouncement shall have the following duties:

- 1. To coordinate the responses received;
- 2. To hold open hearing(s) after proper notice; and
- 3. To present, after such hearing(s), to a plenary session of the General Synod its recommendations for action. Such action may be approval, disapproval, amendment, consolidation, referral or no action. A substitute motion or other amendment which radically

alters the basic intent or direction of the original Proposed Pronouncement, however, shall be ruled out of order.

- (f) Copies of the Proposed Pronouncement and the recommendations of the committee or group reviewing the Proposed Pronouncement must be distributed to the delegates before action can be taken.
- (g) If adopted, the Pronouncement shall be communicated throughout the United Church of Christ and to the public.

(4) Format: A Proposed Pronouncement and its supporting materials shall be submitted and circulated in the following format: (Proposed Pronouncements and supporting materials which do not follow this format will be returned for revision.)

- (a) A brief title with an information sheet indicating the source of the Proposed Pronouncement, date of submission, and any other information pertinent to the Proposed Pronouncement.
- (b) A brief summary (an abstract).
- (c) Background statement indicates significance and rationale for the Proposed Pronouncement.
- (d) Biblical, theological and ethical rationale for the Proposed Pronouncement.
- (e) The statement of Christian conviction upon which the General Synod will vote.

(5) The Statement of Christian Conviction is the only portion of the Proposed Pronouncement which will be voted on by the General Synod. Committees functioning for the General Synod, however, shall consider and may amend any portion of the Proposed Pronouncement.

## **B. Proposals for Action**

(1) Definition: A Proposal for Action is a recommendation for specific directional statements and goals implementing a Pronouncement. A Proposal for Action normally accompanies a Pronouncement. Additional Proposals for Action may also be considered at a later date. (A Proposal for Action may be submitted and circulated in anticipation of the adoption of a Proposed Pronouncement.)

(2) Sources: Proposals for Action may be submitted only by

- (a) a General Synod delegate or delegate-elect, with the written concurrence of at least ten additional General Synod delegates or delegates- elect, from two or more Conferences;
- (b) a Local Church, with the written concurrence of at least five other Local Churches of the United Church of Christ;
- (c) an Association;
- (d) a Conference;
- (e) a Covenanted, Associated or Affiliated Ministry or other body as defined in Article VI of the Bylaws of the United Church of Christ; and
- (f) the Executive Council.

- (3) Procedures for Considering Proposals for Action are:
- (a) A copy of the Proposal for Action must be sent via Email\* to the Office of General Ministries **on or before October 28, 2012.**
  - (b) The Office of General Ministries will send the Proposal for Action to the Local Churches, Associations, Conferences, proposed implementor(s), and delegates **on or before January 1, 2013.** It shall be labeled "Proposal for Action--Circulated for Discussion and Comments."
  - (c) The Executive Council may designate a committee or other group to review the Proposal for Action and make recommendations to the General Synod, or the Executive Council may present the Proposal for Action with its own recommendation to the General Synod. The initiator(s) of the Proposal for Action shall designate a person to support the Proposal for Action before the committee or group designated by the Executive Council. Additional persons may provide support or opposition.
  - (d) The Office of General Ministries will receive responses to the Proposals for Action from Local Churches, delegates, delegates-elect, Associations, Conferences, Covenanted, Associated, or Affiliated Ministries and other bodies as defined in Article VI of the Bylaws of the United Church of Christ including the record of any votes taken. The Office of General Ministries will provide one copy of each response to the committee or group which may have been named by the Executive Council to review the Proposals for Action, and one copy to the initiator(s) of the Proposals for Action, retaining one copy in the Office of General Ministries. A report shall be made to the General Synod of the volume and character of the responses received.
  - (e) The proposed implementor(s) shall be required to provide to the General Synod a statement of feasibility and an estimate of the financial implications for the Church at the national level of the Proposal for Action.
  - (f) Copies of the Proposal for Action and the recommendations pertaining to it, including a statement of financial implications, must be distributed to the delegates before action can be taken.
  - (g) If adopted, the Proposal for Action shall be communicated throughout the United Church of Christ, to the public and to those named as implementor(s).
- (4) Format: A Proposal for Action shall include the following: (Proposals for Action and supporting materials which do not follow this format will be returned for revision.)
- (a) A brief title with an information sheet indicating the source of the Proposal for Action, date of submission, and any other information pertinent to the Proposal for Action.
  - (b) A brief summary (an abstract).
  - (c) Background statement indicating the Pronouncement(s) or the Proposed Pronouncement(s) on which it is based, the Synod(s) at which it was adopted or is proposed, and the rationale for the Proposal for Action.
  - (d) The names of the implementor(s) expected to develop the strategies and program to carry out the Proposal for Action.
  - (e) The directional statements and goals upon which the General Synod will vote.
  - (f) The statement, *The Collegium of Officers, in consultation with appropriate ministries or other entities within the United Church of Christ, will determine the implementing body.* The implementing body is responsible to develop the strategy and program of the directional statements and goals.

(g) The statement, *The funding for the implementation of the Proposal for Action will be made in accordance with the overall mandates of the affected agencies and the funds available.*

(5) The Directional Statements and Goals are the only portions of the Proposal for Action that will be voted on by the General Synod. Committees functioning for the General Synod, however, shall consider and may amend any portion of the Proposal for Action.

### C. **Resolutions and Other Formal Motions**

#### (1) Definitions:

(a) **Resolution of Witness:** A Resolution of Witness is an expression of the General Synod concerning a moral, ethical or religious matter confronting the Church, the nation, or the world, adopted for the guidance of the officers, Associated or Affiliated Ministries, or other bodies as defined in Article VI of the Bylaws of the United Church of Christ; the consideration of local churches, associations, conferences and other bodies related to the United Church of Christ; and for a Christian witness to the world. It represents agreement by at least 2/3rd of the delegates voting that the view expressed is based on Christian conviction and is a part of their witness to Jesus Christ. The text of the proposed resolution should be so phrased as not to bring into question the Christian commitment of those who do not agree.

(b) **Prudential Resolutions:** A Prudential Resolution establishes policy, institutes or revises structure or procedures, authorizes programs, approves directions or requests actions by a majority vote.

(c) Other Formal motions include actions other than those provided for above by majority vote.

#### (2) Sources: A Resolution or Other Formal Motion may be submitted by:

(a) General Synod Delegate or Delegate-elect with the written concurrence of at least ten additional General Synod Delegates or Delegates-elect from two or more conferences;

(b) a Local Church with the written concurrence of at least five other local churches of the United Church of Christ;

(c) an Association;

(d) a Conference;

(e) a Covenanted, Associated or Affiliated Ministry or other body as defined in Article VI of the Bylaws of the United Church of Christ; and

(f) the Executive Council.

#### (3) Procedures for Considering Resolutions and Other Formal Motions are:

(a) Proposed Resolutions and Other Formal Motions shall be submitted before the following deadlines:

1. A copy of the Resolution or Other Formal Motion must be sent via email\* to the Office of General Ministries **on or before January 1, 2013**. The Office of General Ministries shall make copies available to delegates **on or before April 1, 2013**.

2. A Resolution or Other Formal Motions which could not have been anticipated or submitted in conformance with the above deadline must be sent via email\* to the Office of General Ministries on or before June 7, 2013.

3. A Resolution or Other Formal Motion which could not have been anticipated or submitted three weeks prior to the opening session of the General Synod may be sent via email\* to the Office of General Ministries during those three weeks or by a voting delegate to the Executive Council on the day of registration or at a designated point in the agenda of Synod where new business may be introduced by title only, or when there is no other business before the Synod, provided that there will remain twenty-four hours for study before action is taken by the Synod. The presenter must be accompanied by two other delegates, at least one of whom must be from a second conference, and must provide at least 1200 copies of the proposed Resolution or Other Formal Motion for distribution to the Executive Council, Business Committee, Officers, chairpersons of committees, delegates, and to each conference. The Resolution or Other Formal Motion must also be provided on a portable electronic device.

4. To enable Resolutions or Other Formal Motions submitted by a Conference or Association (Bylaws 169 and 174) to be considered by the General Synod, the deadlines articulated in this section shall apply except in cases where a Conference or Association Annual Meeting takes place fewer than three weeks before the General Synod. In such cases, the Conference or Association must provide at least 1200 copies of the proposed Resolution or Other Formal Motion for distribution to the Executive Council, Business Committee, Officers, chairpersons of committees, delegates, and to each conference. The Resolution or Other Formal Motion must also be provided on a portable electronic device. Items submitted by a Conference or Association, like all other business items, are subject to the criteria and referral options described in paragraphs 12.A. through 12.F.

(b) Every Resolution or Other Formal Motion received prior to the General Synod shall be referred to the Executive Council or, during the General Synod meeting, to the Business Committee. The Executive Council or Business Committee shall, in respect of each proposal, either (1) present its own recommendations to the General Synod or (2) assign it to a committee or other group for review and recommendation to the General Synod. Such recommendations may include approval, disapproval, amendment, consolidation, referral, or no action. (see Rule 22)

(c) Copies of each Resolution or Other Formal Motion and the recommendation pertaining to it **must be distributed to delegates at least one-half day before action can be taken.**

(4) Format: Resolutions and Other Formal Motions shall include the following information:

(a) A brief title with information providing the source of the Resolution or Other Formal Motion, the date of submission and any other information pertinent to the Resolution or Other Formal Motion. The title must accurately reflect the intent of the proposed motion. If presented at General Synod, the names and conferences of the delegates presenting the Resolution or Other Formal Motion shall be included.

- (b) A brief summary that accurately reflects the content of the Resolution or Formal Motion.
- (c) The biblical, theological and ethical rationale; and the expected outcome.
- (d) The text of the motion.
- (e) The statement, *The funding for the implementation of the Resolution (or Other Formal Motion) will be made in accordance with the overall mandates of the affected agencies and the funds available.* There is no financial guarantee of any kind other than the annual budget determined by the Executive Council (73 GS 81).
- (f) The statement, *The Collegium of Officers, in consultation with appropriate ministries or other entities within the United Church of Christ, will determine the implementing body.* The implementing body is responsible for developing the strategy and program designed to implement the Resolution or Other Formal Motion.

13. No more than three Proposed Pronouncements, Proposals for Action, Reports with Recommendations, Resolutions, and Overtures may be admitted to the agenda from any single source.

14. Reports to be made to succeeding General Synods on a Pronouncement, Proposal for Action, Resolution or Other Formal Motion may be requested for no more than the three General Synods immediately following that General Synod.

### **Reports to the General Synod**

15. Reports to the General Synod with no action required shall be placed on file. Reports required by previous General Synod action and Reports from Councils must be sent via email\* to the Office of General Ministries **on or before April 1, 2013**. All reports made within the context of the meeting shall be contained in the official minutes of the meeting.

### **Conduct of the Business of the General Synod**

16. A quorum for the conduct of business at General Synod shall consist of one-third of the voting delegates; provided that in this number at least two-thirds of the Conferences are represented by at least one delegate each (United Church of Christ Constitution, paragraph 53).;

17. All proceedings of the General Synod shall, unless otherwise provided for, be governed by the current edition of Robert's Rules of Order (United Church of Christ Bylaw 185).

18. Main motions not in distributed printed material and substantive amendments shall be presented to the Moderator in writing, signed by the maker and seconder. Only voting delegates may make motions.

19. When a matter has been referred to a committee or group during the General Synod for review prior to its presentation to a plenary session for debate and action, the recommendation made to a plenary session by such committee or group shall be considered an original main motion fully open to amendment by the General Synod, except a recommendation which radically alters the basic intent or direction of the original matter referred to a committee or

group. Such recommendations shall be regarded as a substitute motion requiring a majority vote of the General Synod for consideration.

20. The agenda as adopted by the General Synod may be changed by two-thirds vote or general consent upon recommendation of the Business Committee or motion from the floor.

21. Debate shall conform to the following provisions:

A. Delegates and others wishing to be recognized shall obtain use of a microphone, address the Moderator and identify themselves by name and Conference or other represented body.

B. Pro and con microphones may be designated by the Moderator as required.

C. A delegate may not speak on an issue and conclude by moving the previous question.

D. A delegate may not present a combined motion to close debate on an amendment to a motion and the main motion.

E. No one may speak to the same debatable motion more than twice except to answer questions from the floor or the Moderator.

F. A maximum of three minutes for the first speech is allowed the maker of the motion; subsequent speakers are limited to two minutes each, which can be divided into two speeches.

G. During timed floor debates and speak outs microphones will be turned off at the expiration of a speaker's time provided for in the General Synod Standing Rules.

H. When time restrictions on speakers are required by these Standing Rules, an extension of time may be granted by the presiding Moderator to the following persons:

(1) Speakers requiring translation into English from another language (time needed for the translation shall not be counted in the time allotment) and speakers who require sign language translation;

(2) Speakers whose fluency in English is limited and for whom translation is not available;

(3) Speakers with disabilities which affect mobility and/or speech.

A request for an extension of time shall be indicated to the floor parliamentarian who shall notify the presiding Moderator.

I. Opportunity will be provided for two delegates speaking in favor and two delegates speaking in opposition to a motion before an amendment can be made.

J. A motion to limit or extend the limits of debate is itself undebatable; such motion requires a second and a two-thirds vote unless decided by general consent.

K. Non-delegates, not otherwise authorized to speak, may speak only by a two-thirds vote of the General Synod.

22. Voting shall conform to the following provisions:

A. Votes shall be decided by the delegates present and voting. Abstentions shall not be counted in the total.

B. Voting shall be by electronic means, unless the Moderator, sensing a consensus of the Synod, calls for a voice vote.

### **Minority Resolutions**

23. Requirements. In the case where a Formal Motion, Constitution and/or Bylaw amendment, or Priority is adopted by less than 75% of the votes cast, a minority resolution, expressing a minority viewpoint on the same subject matter, may be proposed at the same or the next business session of that General Synod.

24. Procedures to be followed when a minority resolution is to be considered shall conform to the following provisions:

A. A delegate who plans to propose a minority resolution must, at the time of the consideration of the original proposal, request of the Moderator that the percentage of votes in the affirmative be determined and recorded so that eligibility for proposing a minority resolution can be established.

B. A minority resolution is to be voted only by those who voted in opposition to the original proposal. Each Conference shall be responsible to determine the eligibility of its own delegates in such a vote.

C. To become a matter of record of General Synod, a minority resolution shall require a majority vote of those voting as designated in 24.B, above.

D. An adopted minority resolution shall be attached to the action to which it relates.

### **Procedures for Nominations and Elections**

25. The Nominating Committee shall make nominations from the platform as provided by the Constitution and Bylaws.

26. Biographical information on each candidate shall be made available by the Nominating Committee for those it nominates. **The Nominating Committee shall submit its information to the General Synod not later than the opening of the business session in which the Nominating Committee reports to the General Synod.**

27. Written consent of each nominee is required prior to election and should be submitted to the Office of General Ministries.

28. There may be nominations from the floor for the positions of Moderator and Assistant Moderators of the General Synod. Nominees for these positions must fulfill the criteria established by the Bylaws for the contested position.

29. Members of the Nominating Committee are nominated by the Executive Council. These nominations are made from the platform by the Business Committee. Nominations for these

positions may be made from the floor if the nominees fulfill the criteria established by the Bylaws for the contested position.

30. The person making a nomination from the floor shall submit the required biographical information to the Office of General Ministries by the close of the business meeting during which the nomination is made and provide verification of the consent of the nominee in a form acceptable to the Office of General Ministries pending receipt of written confirmation.

31. All nominations shall be presented by name only; the required biographical information will be presented to a representative of the Business Committee by the end of the plenary in which the floor nomination was made. Biographical information for all floor nominees shall be distributed in printed form by the Business Committee prior to a vote on all the nominations.

32. The Business Committee shall administer the nomination and election procedures. Designated representatives of the Nominating Committee will be a resource to the Business Committee in the nomination and election procedures. The Office of General Ministries shall provide adequate staff assistance to the Business Committee and the Nominating Committee.

33. Election by electronic means shall be required only when an election is contested. Nominations made from the floor shall be so identified on the electronic voting/message boards at the time of election.

34. All elections shall be decided by plurality except for those specified in Standing Rules 37-40. Votes for write-in candidates and abstentions shall not be counted.

35. Requirements and limitations for floor nominations; for the position of Moderator or Assistant Moderator a nominating speech of five minutes and a seconding speech of two minutes will be allowed. The required printed biographical information may not exceed 50 words. For the position of General Synod Nominating Committee a nominating speech of three minutes and a seconding speech of one minute will be allowed. The required printed biographical information may not exceed 50 words.

All nominating and seconding speeches shall be made from the platform.

36. The Moderator and Assistant Moderators of the General Synod shall be elected by majority vote, a majority being based on the number of votes cast for the office. The results and number of votes cast for each candidate shall be announced to the delegates in a timely manner. If no candidate receives a majority of votes cast on any ballot, the next ballot will include the two candidates receiving the largest number of votes and all other candidates who receive more than the average number of votes cast per candidate on the previous ballot.

### **Procedure and Call by Election**

37. In the General Synod year in which the General Minister and President or the Associate General Minister of the Church is to be called by election or reelection, the candidate will be

presented to the General Synod by the Executive Council. A single presentation for each candidate may be made, each to be no longer than 10 minutes.

38. In the General Synod year in which the Executive Minister for Justice and Witness Ministries, Wider Church Ministries, or Local Church Ministries is to be called by election or reelection as an Officer of the Church, a candidate will be presented to the General Synod by the Board of Directors of the appropriate Covenanted Ministry. A single presentation for the candidate may be made, to be no longer than 10 minutes.

39. Candidates for the Offices of General Minister and President, Associate General Minister, Executive Minister for Justice and Witness Ministries, Executive Minister for Wider Church Ministries and Executive Minister for Local Church Ministries, may each make a speech no longer than 20 minutes prior to the call by election.

40. An affirmative vote of at least 60% of the votes cast is necessary for each candidate to be called and elected by the General Synod to serve as an officer of the Church. The results of the vote for each candidate shall be announced to the delegates in a timely manner.

### **General Rules**

41. Meeting expeditors (such as pages) shall perform duties as designated by the Business Committee, and shall be non-delegates.

42. Only printed matter and other matter (including commercial) which has been approved by the Business Committee may be distributed on the floor of the General Synod and within the hall in which the General Synod is being held. Such material must contain the identity of the originator.

43. The Business Committee will announce any necessary rules pertaining to photographs being taken during the General Synod meetings. These rules may be changed in the manner as other General Synod Standing Rules.

44. Recording the procedures of General Synod is the responsibility of the Office of General Ministries.

45. Demonstrations and celebrations on the floor and visitors' gallery of the General Synod plenary sessions must have prior approval of the Business Committee or **will** be ruled out of order.

46. There shall be no smoking in the meeting hall during the business meetings of the General Synod.

47. All sessions of the General Synod and its delegate committees are open to the public and the news media while the Synod is in session.

48. The Planning Committee for the Twenty-ninth General Synod in consultation with the host Conference will determine the number of offerings to be received at the Twenty-ninth General Synod and **shall announce the offering(s) at the spring 2013 meeting of the Executive Council**. In the event that an exceptional need arises after the spring meeting of the Executive Council or during the General Synod itself, the Business Committee of the General Synod may authorize an additional offering to meet that need during the General Synod.

49. These General Synod Standing Rules shall be originally adopted as a group by two-thirds vote. Thereafter, any rule(s) may be amended, rescinded, or suspended by a two-thirds vote.

50. When General Synod is not in session, the Executive Council acting as General Synod ad interim may amend the Standing Rules, as necessary, to facilitate the collection, processing and distribution of items of business for a subsequent General Synod. Notification must be sent to local churches, Conferences and delegates regarding such action(s) **by July 1, 2012**.

51. The Office of General Ministries will have the authority to change reference, within these rules, to specific paragraphs of the Constitution and Bylaws should paragraph numbering change in the event of Conference ratification of Synod-adopted amendments to the Constitution and Bylaws. Upon such editorial change these rules will be recirculated in the prescribed manner. The Office of General Ministries will also have the authority to make minor editorial corrections to these rules, such as spelling, grammar and punctuation corrections with no additional distribution required.

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