

Proposed Standing Rules for 2020 Fall Conference

Preface: In emergency situations provisions in Community of Christ bylaws permit church administrators to recommend procedures and protect the interests of the church. During the COVID-19 pandemic the first presidency is authorizing mission centers to utilize electronic meetings to conduct business as directed by the field apostle and mission center officers.

1. The Credentials Committee shall be responsible for registering delegates for the electronic meeting platform, distributing information to delegates to join the electronic meeting, and admitting delegates into the electronic meeting. The Credentials Committee shall report the number of delegates registered as present at the opening of the Conference. A member registered as an alternate may, upon clearance by the Credentials Committee, be transferred from alternate to delegate at any time during the continuance of the business meeting.
2. Members shall identify themselves as required to enter the electronic meeting and shall maintain audio access throughout the meeting whenever present. Members shall sign out upon any departure before adjournment. Each member is responsible for maintaining connection to the meeting. No action shall be invalidated on the grounds that the loss of, or poor quality of, a member's individual connection prevented participation in the meeting. The chair may disconnect or mute a member's connection if it is causing undue interference with the meeting.
3. No member of the conference shall speak in debate more than once on the same question nor for longer than three minutes without permission of the conference granted by a two-thirds vote without debate. In the case of the mover and first speaker in opposition, five minutes shall be allowed. Individuals called upon to provide information or reports are not governed by this rule.
4. The Mission Center Budget shall be considered as a whole. After the Mission Center Financial Officer or designee has given explanation and information to the conference, discussion and amendments on line items will be in order.
5. The Mission Center President shall formulate and adjust the agenda as required. The printed agenda is for guidance only.
6. A motion for the "previous question" will apply only to the immediately pending question unless otherwise noted by the body.
7. Business may be conducted by unanimous consent. The chair may also conduct viva-voice votes with all participants permitted to audibly vote. In cases when a rising vote or ballot is desired or required an electronic response system may be utilized.

Note: According to Community of Christ Bylaws Article VII "The rules contained in the current edition of Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised shall govern all conferences of the church in all cases where they are culturally appropriate and where they are not in conflict with these rules of order or any special rules of order adopted by the appropriate conference."