



The Agenda Committee Recommends to the Executive Board Adoption of the Standing Rules of Order for the 135th Covenant Annual Meeting

INTRODUCTION

The written documents that govern the Annual Meeting of the Evangelical Covenant Church are the Illinois Not For Profit Act, the Articles of Incorporation of the Evangelical Covenant Church, the Evangelical Covenant Church Constitution and Bylaws, the Rules for the Ordered Ministry of the Evangelical Covenant Church, the Covenant Pension Plan, and the most recent edition of *Robert's Rules of Order* (henceforth will be called *Robert's* for purposes of this document). *Robert's* provides that a convention or assembly of delegates such as the Covenant Annual Meeting may adopt its own standing rules to supplement the provisions of *Robert's* and of its own documents. The Standing Rules provide guidance for this 135th Annual Meeting, setting out how items are dealt with generally. The Standing Rules require a two-thirds majority for adoption or suspension.

That the business of deliberative assemblies may be conducted by electronic means is given sanction starting with the most recent edition of *Robert's Rules* (the 12th ed., published in 2020, see Section 9, paragraphs 30-36.). Procedures for establishing delegate credentials, obtaining the floor, discussion, and voting, have been devised with due diligence to the spirit and letter of the Evangelical Covenant Church's governing documents, to *Robert's Rules*, and to the tradition of the Covenant Annual Meeting as a participatory and deliberative assembly.

STANDING RULES OF ORDER 2021 COVENANT ANNUAL MEETING

1) The Business Meeting Shall Be Conducted Online

- a. Delegates are expected to have reliable means for participation and are credentialed according to the principle of "one delegate, one login IP address."
- b. Delegates are responsible for their own personal technological connectivity and tools; for elements related to engaging with the voting platform, delegates may pursue assistance with the meeting's tech support team; a delegate's personal technology failure does not constitute a point of order, of information, or of privilege to be addressed to the whole meeting.
- c. Quorum is determined by the ratio of delegates logged in to the number registered.

2) Obtaining the Floor

Only those who have been credentialed as delegates, advisors, or resource persons can request the privilege to address the entire assembly, including on points of order, of information, and of personal privilege.

3) Voting

- a. All voting is conducted electronically for this meeting, and meets the requirements stipulated in *Robert's Rules* for a secret ballot.
- b. Logged in delegates who do not vote on a question will be tallied as abstentions.

4) Time Limits

- a. Reports that contain no proposal for action by the meeting shall be limited to ten (10) minutes, including the question period, with the exception of the president's report, the treasurer's report, and items specified in the agenda to extend beyond the 10-minute time limit.
- b. Debate on any main motion, including its subsidiary motions, shall be limited to thirty (30) minutes, except as otherwise specified in these standing rules and the agenda. No amendment or other subsidiary motion to a main motion shall be allowed until debate on the main motion has ceased or ten (10) minutes have passed.
- c. No speech in debate may exceed three (3) minutes unless this period is extended by a majority vote at the request of the speaker.
- d. Time limits may be extended for a specific period by a two-thirds vote.

5) Submission of Motions in Writing

All main motions and subsidiary motions shall be submitted electronically via the voting platform to the Annual Meeting secretary.

6) Items of Business Not on the Agenda

The Bylaws provide in Section 7.8.a.ii that "Items of business that are not on the agenda may be submitted in writing by a delegate to the moderator. If the item submitted is in order, a majority vote of the delegates present and voting shall be required to place that item on the agenda." It is further strongly requested that such items be submitted electronically by delegates to the moderator at governance@covchurch.org prior to the start of the 135th Covenant Annual Meeting.

6) Consent Agenda

Items on the Consent Agenda are routine, procedural, informational, self-explanatory non-controversial items that require action but generally do not require discussion or debate. Acting on these items moves the meeting along, allowing for more time for substantive issues.

- a. Items on the Consent Agenda may be removed from the Consent Agenda at the request of any two delegates.
- b. Items removed from the Consent Agenda shall be acted upon by the assembly at a place in the agenda determined by the moderator.
- c. If the Consent Agenda is not adopted as a single motion, then each of the items on the Consent Agenda shall be acted upon by the assembly as a separate motion at a place in the agenda determined by the moderator.

7) Nominations from the Floor

A nomination from the floor shall be accepted only if the person nominated has agreed to have his or her name placed in nomination. (Note that the Bylaws provide in Section 7.9.c.v.2 and 7.10.j.ii that a delegate making a nomination may provide descriptive information similar in scope and content to that provided to the Annual Meeting by a nominating board or committee.)

8) Runoff Elections

In the case of an election with three or more candidates, if no candidate receives a majority of votes after two rounds of voting, then beginning with the third round, the candidate with the lowest number of votes in that round will be eliminated. In the event of a tie among the lowest vote-getters, those tied will not be eliminated in that round. A candidate may withdraw at any point. Voting rounds will continue until one candidate receives a majority of votes.

9) Modification of Agenda Order

The moderator shall have the discretion to revise the order of agenda items to accommodate scheduling needs.

Annual Meeting Officers

Moderator: Jonathan Wilson

Vice Moderator: Weston Gibson

Secretary: Nilwona Nowlin

Parliamentarian

Eric Filkin

President: John Wenrich

Secretary of the Covenant: Rebecca Gonzalez