

**The Agenda Committee recommends to the ECC Executive Board adoption of the
Standing Rules of Order for the 134th 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*. *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 particular 134th Annual Meeting setting for how items are dealt with generally. The Standing Rules require a two-thirds majority for adoption or suspension.

**STANDING RULES OF ORDER
2019 COVENANT ANNUAL MEETING**

1) Obtaining the Floor

Only persons wearing appropriate credentials as delegates, advisors, or resource persons may be present on the floor of the Annual Meeting or request speaking privileges. With the exception of points of order, points of personal privilege, or other items that require urgent attention, only those persons who approach a microphone shall be recognized by the moderator.

2) Voting

Voting on motions will typically be by electronic vote utilizing the LUMI devices.

3) 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 as longer reports.
- 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.

4) Action on Involuntary Removals

From time to time the Executive Board recommends to the Annual Meeting that churches be removed from membership. Throughout our history, all churches recommended for removal from membership accepted the Executive Board's decision. In other words, we have not experienced a circumstance in which a church was involuntarily dismissed from membership pursuant to Section 4.4 of our Bylaws. This Section 4.4 provides that congregations shall have

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the opportunity to defend themselves before the Annual Meeting and that the Annual Meeting shall vote on the recommendation of the Executive Board. Likewise, we have not experienced a circumstance in which an ordained minister has objected to his or her dismissal as recommended by the Board of Ordered Ministry and approved by the Covenant Ministerium as provided in Section 10.3.e of the Rules of the Ordered Ministry. At this Annual Meeting, either or both of these matters may come before us for action. To address these matters in a fair and sensitive fashion, the Annual Meeting will proceed as follows:

a. The church seeking to defend themselves from removal shall have 15 minutes to speak. The church may designate up to four members of the church to speak on the church's behalf and may determine how to allot their 15 minutes. The Executive Board shall have up to 15 minutes to respond through its designated representatives.

b. An ordained minister objecting to dismissal shall have 5 minutes to speak on why he or she should not be dismissed. The Board of the Ordered Ministry shall have up to 5 minutes to respond through its designated representatives.

c. On each of these actions, debate that follows the presentations shall proceed according these Standing Rules, Section 3), Time Limits b), c), d).

5) Submission of Motions in Writing

All main motions and complex subsidiary motions shall be submitted in writing to the 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 to the moderator as early as possible in the course of the meeting.

7) Consent Agenda

Items on the Consent Agenda are routine, procedural, informational, self-explanatory, non-controversial items that require action but generally don't require discussion or debate. Acting on these items move the meeting along, allowing more time for substantive issues. Items on the Consent Agenda may be removed from the Consent Agenda at the request of any two delegates. Items removed from the Consent Agenda shall be acted upon by the assembly at a place in the agenda determined by the moderator. If the Consent Agenda is not adopted by the unanimous consent of the meeting, 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.

8) 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.)

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9) Run-off 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.

10) Modification of Agenda Order

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

11) Electronic Recording

Personal electronic recordings are forbidden during Executive Session and during any other times of the Business Sessions.

Annual Meeting Agenda Committee

Moderator: Jonathan Wilson

Vice Moderator: Weston Gibson

Secretary: Michael DeLong

Parliamentarian: Eric Filkin

President: John Wenrich

Secretary of the Covenant:

Rebecca Gonzalez