



Plan of Organization and Rules of Order

Online Conference

From the days of John Wesley, the “People called Methodist” have gathered for holy conferencing. The early Methodists, even as they attended to practical needs of the movement, focused primarily on spiritual matters. The spiritual affairs of the Church and its mission are always before the body whether or not they are apparent in the passions of debate on temporal concerns. Through Christian conferencing the Church comes together, seeking unity in the midst of diversity, always desiring to know the mind of Christ.

The purpose of the Plan of Organization and the Rules of Order is to help us as the Northern Europe and Eurasia Central Conference to discern God’s will and to strive for Christ-like wisdom in all of our decisions.

Organization

1. **Presiding officers** – The bishops of the Central Conference. Other United Methodist bishops present may be asked to preside by the Presidium.
2. **Secretary** – Secretary and assistant secretary/secretaries are elected at the opening of the conference.
3. **Language** – The conference language is English. In general delegates are expected to be able to understand and speak English. Translation into Russian will be provided.
4. **Publishing of the minutes of the 2023 Extra Central Conference.** The minutes of the 2023 extra session will be published online on the central conference website.

Rules of order

1. **Members of the conference**
 - a. Elected clergy and lay delegates shall have the right to speak, petition and vote on all matters.
 - b. Members of the Central Conference Council who are not delegates do not have the right to vote.
 - c. Official guests of the Central Conference can be granted the right to speak by the plenary.
 - d. All other guests will be able to participate through live streaming on You Tube.
2. **Opening Matters** – at the opening of the conference:
 - a. A roll call is made, and the quorum and the bar of the conference are set.
 - b. Officers are bishops Christian Alsted and Eduard Kheday.
 - c. Tellers – voting results will appear on the screen.
 - d. A Plan of Organization and Rules of Order is approved.
 - e. The agenda is approved.
3. **Speech**
 - a. A delegate who wishes to speak utilizes the “raise hand function” and the presiding bishop will call upon speakers in the order they appear on the screen.
 - b. The delegate begins his/her speech by stating name and conference, and his/her business. “I wish to speak in favor off...” “I wish to speak against...” “I wish to ask a question...” “I wish to comment...” “I wish to amend the motion...”

4. Length of speech

- a. No delegate shall speak longer than three minutes, unless that time is extended by the body. Time of translation shall not count against the three minutes' limit.
- b. Motions and amendments shall be presented within the three minutes' limit.
- c. The three minutes' rule on delegate's speeches may be amended by a majority vote of the body at any time and for any length of time.

5. Point of order

A delegate wishing to raise a point of order shall address the presiding bishop by writing "Point of order..." in the chat. The presiding bishop shall then direct the delegate raising a point of order to state the point as briefly as possible, citing the rule invoked in the point of order. The delegate shall not presume to decide the question or argue the point. A point of order is decided by the presiding bishop without debate unless in doubtful cases the presiding bishop submits the question to the body for advice or decision.

6. Business of the Conference.

The extra session of the Central Conference shall be limited to acting upon the matters stipulated in the call for the conference. Unless by a two-third majority vote the central conferences decide to act on other business.

7. Motions/petitions – the two terms are used interchangeably.

- a. A motion is a request that something be done or that something is the opinion or wish of the group.
- b. All motions and amendments to petitions must be delivered in writing in the chat to the conference secretary.
- c. Only one motion should be placed before the group at one time. It is debatable and amendable.
- d. The presiding bishop re-states the motion before the plenary votes.

8. Conclusion of the debate

- a. The presiding bishop has the right to give notion of conclusion of the debate. This means that all delegates who wish to speak must show this by using the "raise hand function" before the end of the next speech.
- b. Before the conclusion of a debate the presiding bishop shall restate the motion, and opportunity for amendments must be given.
- c. Further amendments cannot be made after the conclusion of debate.

9. Voting

- a. When the voting procedure begins, all non-voting members are moved to a separate breakout room. This is to ensure the integrity of the voting procedure.
- b. A voting poll will appear on the screen and each delegate can vote "YES", "NO" or "ABSTAIN".
- c. Unless the provisions of the Book of Discipline require otherwise, votes are decided by simple majority, meaning that more votes are cast in favor than against the motion.

10. Motion to reconsider

A motion to reconsider a decision previously made at the 2023 Extra Central Conference can be made, however only by a delegate who previously voted on the prevailing side. The motion is not debatable, and it requires a 2/3 majority to pass.