

2008 Council Consent Agenda

Revised 10-7-08

Motion Number: 08/10/14:02

Text of Motion

Delegate Alders:

That the CREC Book of Procedures be amended by changing the name to: "The CREC Council Book of Procedures."

Rationale for Motion

This addresses the need to distinguish the Council Book of Procedures from the Presbytery Books of Procedures.

Motion Number: 04/10/14:05

Text of Motion

Delegate Wilson:

The Book of Procedures maintained by each Presbytery will utilize a standardized format, based up the CREC Council Book of Procedures, with local practice set out separately by Article. The portion of the Presbytery Books of Procedure that is based upon the CREC Council Book of Procedures will be updated in conformity with the Council Book of Procedures as it is updated.

Each Presbytery Moderator will ensure that the numbering of the Book of Procedures he is responsible for maintaining is consistent with the Council Book of Procedures, which will require the renumbering of Articles which appear only on a local basis.

An example of the format to be used is as follows:

ARTICLE II. RECOGNITION OF ORDAINED MINISTERS

1. Any CREC member church that wishes to have her minister(s) ordination formally recognized by the CREC shall submit such a request to the moderator (in writing).
2. Ordained ministers who are members of a CREC church and duly installed as a minister of that church shall be added to the list of recognized ordained men under one of the following conditions:
 - a. A previously ordained man, upon entering the CREC along with his church, was received by the presbytery and thus had his ordination formally recognized by the presbytery.
 - b. Any man who sat for a CREC ordination exam and was recommended by the examining committee, ordained by his local CREC church, and installed as a minister.
 - c. Any previously ordained man who was called by a CREC member church to be their minister, and is duly installed; subject to final approval at the next presbytery meeting.
3. The moderator shall establish and maintain a list of recognized ordained ministers in the CREC. Upon request, the moderator may issue a letter to an inquiring body stating that the minister in question has been formally recognized by the CREC as a lawfully ordained minister of the gospel.

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Append the following as paragraph 4:

4. Upon the request of a member church in the CREC, the moderator of presbytery has the authority to register the ministerial credentials of a minister lawfully ordained. Holding a man's ministerial credentials does not mean that the man is a member of presbytery or council, or a delegate to presbytery or council. The list shall be reviewed and approved by Presbytery annually. Removing a man's credentials from such a register is not equivalent to a defrocking, which can only be done in the CREC at the local church level.

Rationale for Motion

The polity of the CREC requires that the various Books of Procedure be harmonized. By formatting the Presbytery Books of Procedure in this manner the dependence upon the Council Book of Procedures and the comparability between the various Books of Procedure will be increased.

Motion Number: 08/10/14:07

Text of Motion

Delegate Wilson:

That: Article IV, "Procedure for Evaluating a Candidate Ordained Outside the CREC" be removed from the CREC Council Book of Procedures and that all following Articles be appropriately renumbered.

Rationale for Motion

Article IV was included in the original Book of Procedures adopted by Presbytery in October of 2002. The majority of the provisions of the Article in question were effectively superseded by and conflict with the provisions of Article I of the CREC Council Book of Procedures and the "Ordination Guide" effective under that Article. Those provisions not so superseded are essentially redundant when considered in light of Article III.L of the CREC Constitution.

Motion Number: 08/10/14:08

Text of Motion

Delegate Wilson:

That: The first two sentences of Section 2, paragraph II.A be amended to read as follows:

The Examination Committee: Upon the successful completion of the Preliminary Written Examination, the Moderator of the Presbytery will appoint an Examination Committee for the candidate. The Examination Committee will ordinarily consist of five members, with ad hoc reductions to no fewer than three members in extenuating circumstances.

Rationale for Motion

Due to difficulties in sourcing an adequate number of available elders to serve on Examination Committees, the change in numbers allows for smaller committees in extenuating circumstances.

Text of Motion

Delegate Alders:

To be added to the CREC Council Book of Procedures under Article IX

Existing churches that have been constituted for at least two years, have two or more local elders, and can sustain themselves financially may come under the care of a member CREC church as a "Mission Church," and may be considered for full Member status at the next meeting of the Presbytery.

Rationale for Motion

This addresses the circumstances in which an existing church desires to come under the immediate oversight and/or protection of the CREC.

Text of Motion

Delegate Tuuri:

A new section in the CREC Council Book of Procedures titled: "A Summary of the Rules of Order for Presbytery and Council Meeting"

Robert's Rules of Order exists to facilitate the decision-making process at meetings. They help ensure that discussion is clear and that the rights of both the majority and the minority are protected. The Moderator before each meeting shall distribute the following summary of some of the basic rules, redacted from *Robert's Rules*, which will familiarize all attendees with them and help our meetings run more smoothly and keep discussion on track.

A Guide to the Rules of Order for Presbytery and Council Meeting

Robert's Rules of Order exists to facilitate the decision-making process at meetings. They help ensure that discussion is clear and that the rights of both the majority and the minority are protected. Below are some of the basic rules, redacted from *Robert's Rules*, which should help our meeting run more smoothly and keep discussion on track.

Moderator

The moderator guides the presbytery meeting. He is responsible for ensuring that the meeting runs smoothly and fairly. The moderator remains impartial during the debate and is not the final arbitrator of all decisions: the presbytery ultimately has the authority and the responsibility to decide how the meeting should run.

Main Motion

The basis for discussion is a formal motion. The motion is put forward by being "moved" by a voting delegate of the presbytery

to focus discussion. Each motion must have a mover and a seconder to show that it has at least a minimum of support from the delegates. Once a motion has been put "on the floor" for discussion, debate must focus on the substance of the motion. All other discussion is out of order and not allowed. A main motion may not be introduced if there is any other motion on the floor. The mover must state the motion before speaking in favor of it and motions should (when possible) be written out and handed to the moderator so that everyone is clear on what is being discussed.

Order

Once a motion is introduced, the seconder of the motion is given the right to speak immediately after the mover. To ensure that all delegates of the presbytery have an equal opportunity to speak, the moderator will then recognize other speakers.

Amendments

At any time, a person who has the floor can introduce an amendment to the main motion being debated. An amendment is a motion that alters, adds to, subtracts from, or completely changes the main motion. Once an amendment has been moved and seconded, debate must be on the substance of the amendment. An amendment can only be amended once (that is to say, no amendment may be offered to an amendment of second rank; a motion or amendment may be amended continually as long as amendments are handled in turn or of first or second rank. Second rank amendments are amendments that explicitly modify a first rank amendment and not some other aspect of the main motion.). For an amendment to pass, it needs a simple majority. Once an amendment has either been passed, defeated, or withdrawn, discussion reverts back to the main motion, taking into account whether or not the amendment passed. Complex or lengthy amendments should be written out for the moderator to be able to read back to the presbytery.

Point of Order

If a delegate feels that the rules of order are being broken, he can immediately raise a "point of order," and state what rule has been broken or not enforced by the moderator. A point of order can interrupt a speaker. It can only be used to ask the moderator to enforce the rules. The moderator decides if the point is valid or not, and proceeds accordingly.

Point of Privilege

A point of privilege can interrupt a speaker. A delegate who feels his rights or privileges have been infringed may bring up this point by stating his problem. Privilege refers to anything regarding the comfort or accessibility of the delegate (i.e., too much noise, bad photo copies, etc.), or to the right of the delegate not to be insulted, misquoted, or deliberately misinterpreted. The moderator decides if the point is valid or not and proceeds accordingly.

Challenge the Moderator

If a delegate feels his point of order or privilege has been ruled on unfairly by the moderator, he may challenge the moderator. The moderator then asks for a motion to uphold the moderator, and the vote is taken. The vote decides whether the action decided upon by the moderator is valid, or whether the delegate is correct. This is normally handled as an "Appeal". Its form is, "Mr. Chairman, I appeal from the decision of the chair." It requires a second, whereupon the chair states clearly the question at issue, and his reasons for the decision if he thinks it necessary, and then states the question thus: "The question is, 'shall the decision of the chair stand as the judgment of the presbytery?'" or "Shall the decision of the chair be sustained?"

Point of Information

A point of information is a QUESTION. A delegate may interrupt the speaker to ask his question, but the speaker who has the floor has the privilege to refuse the question. The moderator will ask the speaker if he wishes to entertain a question at that time. A point of information is not an opportunity to bring forward information, or harass another speaker, or generally disrupt the proceedings. IT CAN ONLY BE A QUESTION.

Table

Debate may end in several ways. If a delegate feels that a decision on a motion needs to be postponed for some reason, then he can move to "table" the motion. A delegate may not move to table the motion at the end of a speech, only at the time they are recognized by the moderator. A specified time may be put on the tabling, or the motion may be left indefinite. The only debate allowed is as to the length of tabling, or the timeline involved. The motion to table requires only a simple majority.

Previous Question

If a delegate feels that further debate is unproductive he may make a motion for the "previous question," requesting the debate be ended and that the vote be taken on the main motion(s) before the presbytery. If there is no objection, the meeting proceeds to the main motion(s). If there is objection then there must be a second to the motion for the previous question and the meeting must vote on whether to end debate. This vote requires a two-thirds majority to pass, and is non-debatable. If the "call" passes, a vote on the main motion is immediately taken, without any further debate.

A motion such as "I call for [or "call"] the question" or "I move we vote now" is simply a motion for the Previous Question made in nonstandard term. Care should be taken that failure to understand this fact does not lead to violation of members' rights of debate. Sometimes the mere making of a motion for the Previous Question or "call for the question" may motivate unanimous consent to ending debate. Before or after such a motion has been seconded, the chair may ask if there is any objection to closing debate. If member(s) object, he should ask if there is a second to the motion or call; or, if it has already been seconded, he must immediately take a vote on whether to order the Previous Question. But regardless of the wording a motion or "call" seeking to close debate, it always requires a second and a two-thirds vote, taken separately from and before the vote(s) on the motion(s) to which it is applied, to shut off debate against the will of even one member who wishes to speak and has not exhausted his right to debate.

Given the foregoing, the Moderator will not consider an unrecognized comment of "Question" or "Call the Question" from members of the Presbytery as the equivalent of a formal motion to call the Previous Question (form, after receiving recognition from the chairman.: "I move the Previous Question."), particularly when other members of the Presbytery are obviously seeking to contribute to debate.

Rescind

A motion to rescind another motion is in order if it refers to a motion passed at another meeting on another day. This cannot be applied to actions that cannot be reversed (i.e., things that have already been carried out). This requires a two-thirds majority to pass.

Reconsider

A motion to reconsider is applicable to a motion that was passed at the same meeting. Such a motion must be moved by someone who voted with the prevailing majority on the previous vote. It requires a majority to pass.

Suspension of the Rules

A motion to suspend the rules of order (so that the presbytery may do something not allowed in the rules) must receive a two-thirds majority vote, is not debatable, cannot be amended and cannot be reconsidered at the same meeting. This motion does not allow for the suspension of a constitution or by-laws.

Adjourn

This motion takes precedence over all others, except to "fix the time to adjourn," to which it yields. It must be seconded, it is not debatable, it cannot be amended, nor can a vote on it be reconsidered. A motion to adjourn cannot be made when another person has the floor, nor after a question has been put and the presbytery is engaged in voting. The motion to adjourn requires a majority vote.

Refer or Commit

This motion is generally used to send a pending question to a committee so that the questions can be carefully investigated. This motion must be seconded and is debatable, but the debate can only extend to the desirability of committing the main motion, not to the substance or the main motion itself. The motion to refer requires a majority vote.

Minutes

The numbering of motions always is by date, and then by when the motion arose in the meeting (YEAR/MONTH/DAY: NUMBER IN ORDER). So the fourteenth motion during the October 13, 2004 meeting would be numbered like: 04/10/13:14.

The three numbers after either "CARRIED," "DEFEATED," or "TIED" are arranged in a specific order. The first number indicated the number that voted in favor; the second is the number voting against; the third is the number who abstained. Thus, a decision which saw seven delegates in favor, four against, and two abstaining, would look like: 7-4 -2

Rationale for Motion

We have used these for the last several years and they provide a version of the "Rules" that seem to address most of our normal circumstances.

Motion Number: 08/10/14:15

Text of Motion

Anselm and Augustine Presbyteries: Add to Constitution V.A.

Actions of the Council Moderator on behalf of Council reported to and approved by all presbyteries shall be deemed as approved by the CREC Council.

Rationale for Motion

Where the Council Moderator has reported on any given action taken on behalf of the Council to each of the Presbyteries during the period between Council meetings and those actions have been approved by each Presbytery, such unanimous approval is tantamount to Council approval and obviates any need for further consideration by Council.

Motion Number: 08/10/14:16

Text of Motion

Delegate Alders:

That Constitution Article II.F be amended by deleting the reference therein to Article IV.P and replacing it with a reference to Article IV.O.

Rationale for Motion

It appears that in the constitutional revisions effective in 2005 the reference was inadvertently missed. II.F, which relates to the examination of ministerial candidates, provides for the potential of proceedings against a church that does not abide by a presbytery recommendation regarding a candidate. The current reference, Article IV.P, relates to formation of ad hoc committees and the prohibition against standing committees. The appropriate reference is IV.O, in keeping with the predecessor provisions and reference, relating to disregard of godly counsel by a session.

Motion Number: 08/10/14:17

Text of Motion

Delegate Alders:

That Constitution Article IV.O be amended by deleting the reference therein to Article IV.M and O and replacing it with a reference to Article IV.L.

Rationale for Motion

It appears that in the constitutional revisions effective in 2005 the reference was inadvertently missed. The predecessor provision of IV.O, which relates to the nature of decisions of broader assemblies as spiritually authoritative but practically advisory, referred to the predecessor provision of Article IV.L, dealing with removal of churches from Presbytery.

Motion Number: 08/10/14:18

Text of Motion

Delegate Alders:

Constitutional Amendment added to the end of IV.C.

Elected Council delegates must also be seated as Presbytery delegates during the same year as the Council meeting.

Rationale for Motion

To facilitate communication between the Presbytery and the Council by requiring the Council delegate attend his Presbytery meeting and be eligible to enter into the debate.

Motion Number: 08/10/15:21

Text of Motion

Delegate Wilson:

That Constitution Article III.D be amended by insertion of the bolded text as shown:

Before a congregation can be accepted into CREC membership it must have its own constitution, been in existence for at least two years, have at least two elders, and have enough support from members to meet all regular expenses **necessary to sustain the life of that congregation**. Congregations seeking membership with the CREC which do not meet these criteria must come under the care of an existing CREC church and will be characterized as mission churches. Mission churches may have non-voting delegations at presbytery and council meetings. When such a mission church comes to meet the criteria for a particularized church, they may be accepted into voting membership of the CREC by a two-thirds vote of presbytery.

Rationale for Motion

This change is intended to clarify those expenses which a congregation must be able to bear on its own in order to qualify for particularization. This is intended, in particular, to relieve some of the financial burdens on the non-North American member churches.