

Guidelines for Discussion of Resolutions at Synod Assembly

Speeches

Unless otherwise determined by a majority vote of the assembly, all speeches during discussion shall be limited to three minutes. A signal shall be given one minute before the speaker's time ends. A second signal shall be given one minute later, and the speaker shall then sit down, unless the chair proposes and receives consent that an additional minute or minutes be allowed the speaker.

Alternating Speeches

Insofar as is possible during discussion, a speaker on one side of the question shall be followed by a speaker on the other side.

To facilitate alternate speeches and when requested by the chair, assembly members awaiting recognition at the microphones shall display one of the cards (yes, no, abstain) found in the registration packets.

Yes: The Yes card is to be used to identify a member who will speak in favor of the pending matter on the floor.

No: The No card is to be used to identify a member who wishes to speak against the pending matter.

Neither yes nor no: The white card is to be used by someone either to make a point of order, or to offer an option that is an effort to bring the sides together.

Debate should not be monopolized by any member or group of members. If a member has already spoken on the pending motion and other members wish to speak, the other members shall be recognized in preference to the member who has already spoken. However, if no other members seek recognition, a member who has already spoken may be recognized again.

Length of Discussion

The chair may designate a length of time allowed for the discussion of a resolution, and announce it at the beginning of the discussion. At the end of the allocated time, the chair may choose to extend the time, with the consent of the assembly. Or the assembly may vote to extend the time. The assembly always maintains the right to end debate.