**DIOCESE OF ALGOMA**

**SYNOD PROCEDURES**

**Resolutions:**

Resolutions come to Synod from three sources:

1. From the Executive Committee and other Committees
2. From Deanery Councils
3. From Synod delegates.

Priority has, generally, been given to resolutions in this order. Priority is also given to resolutions included in the Convening Circular.

Notices of Motion are submitted to the Resolutions Committee which recommends improvements in wording and structure to the movers, or may choose to combine a number of motions on the same subject into a single motion. They are then passed to the Agenda Committee which assigns it a priority and timing on the Agenda. The Agenda Committee establishes a date and time (usually the second day of Synod) after which no further Notices of Motion will be accepted. The Chair may choose to waive this requirement for matters ***in urgence***, but this has very rarely been done.

It has been our recent practice to allow the movers of Motions to include a brief explanation of its intent. This is termed ***Background.*** It should explain the reason for bringing the Motion forward, but must not argue the merits of the question which is properly done only on the floor of the Synod.

**Constitution, Article 11:**

1. *No resolution for an alteration of or an addition to the Constitution or Canons shall be considered unless notice is given to each delegate in the Circular calling the meeting of the Synod.,*

2. *A resolution for an alteration of or an addition to the Constitution or Canons is effective only if:*

 *a) it passes by a two-thirds majority; or*

*b) it passes by a majority and is confirmed by a majority at the next regular meeting of Synod; and*

 *c) the Bishop concurs.*

**Definition: Communicant**

Any parishioner who has communicated at least three times in the preceding twelve months, where the person has had the opportunity of doing so.

**Timings of Motions:**

The timing of Motions in debate on the floor of Synod is:

1. The mover of the Motion receives three (3) minutes in which to speak, ***not*** including the time in which the wording of the Motion and any amendments are read to the floor. Timing begins when the mover begins speaking on the merits of the Motion.
2. All subsequent speakers, including the Seconder, receive two (2) minutes.
3. The timings are carried out by the Clerical and Lay Secretaries.
4. A warning by bell is sounded when there is one (1) minute left to the speaker. Once the speaker's time is expired the Secretaries will continue ringing the bell until the speaker ceases, or is silenced by the Chair.
5. The Chair, at its discretion, may vary these timings either by making a general announcement of this decision before the start of the debate, or at any time during the course of the debate.

If the Chair decides, at its discretion, to vary the timings during the

course of the debate, this may apply to one or more particular speakers, or it may apply to all debate subsequent to the announcement of the variance. This does not mean that previous speakers then have a right to additional time.

**Precedence of Speakers:**

The practice of the Synod is that:

1. The mover of the Motion speaks first, followed by
2. The seconder, who may choose not to speak, followed by
3. A speaker opposed to the motion, followed by a speaker in favour of the motion; and this sequence continues until the Chair rules that debate cease;

whereupon;

1. The mover has the last opportunity to speak.
2. The Chair, at its discretion, may end the debate at any time without providing the mover an opportunity to speak last, if, in the decision of the Chair, this is wise.

**SYNOD RULES OF ORDER**

1. The Chair shall maintain order and decorum and shall decide all questions of order; and when called upon for a ruling shall state the rule applicable to the case, and this shall be without argument or debate.
2. When any member wishes to speak, they shall rise and address the Chair.
3. When two or more members rise at the same time, the Chair shall name the party first to speak.
4. A member called to order while speaking shall sit down unless permitted to explain.
5. No motion or amendment shall be considered as before the Synod, unless seconded and reduced to writing.
6. No member, save the mover of a resolution, who, as mover, is entitled to reply, shall speak more than once, unless by permission of the Synod.
7. A member may rise to explain if permitted by the Chair.
8. No original motion, except *motions of course*, shall be received without notice, except by the unanimous permission of the Synod.
9. When a resolution has been moved and seconded, any member may require the *Previous Question* to be put (that is: whether the motion shall be put to the vote now or not), and that question shall be decided immediately and without debate.
10. When a motion has been read to the Synod, it cannot be withdrawn without the consent of the Synod.
11. When a question is under consideration, no other motion shall be received, except *To Adjourn*, *To Lay on the Table*, *To Postpone Indefinitely, To Refer to a Committee, To Amend* or to divide it (*Ad Seriatim*), and a motion for any of these purposes shall have precedence in the order named.
12. A motion *To Adjourn* shall always be in order.
13. Motions *To Adjourn* or *To Lay on the Table* shall be decided without debate.
14. A motion *To Suspend the Rules* shall take precedence of all other motions, and shall be decided without debate; and no rule shall be suspended, except upon the vote of two-thirds of the members present.
15. A member, if not interrupting a speaker, may require the reading of the motion.

**Excerpts from the Constitution:**

**Article 6: Voting**

***vote by ballot:***

            1. Any member of Synod may request a vote by ballot.

***orders voting together:***

            2. The votes of the clergy and laity shall be taken collectively unless there is a vote by orders.

***vote by orders:***

            3. There shall be a vote by orders where this is provided for by Canon, or where this is requested by two members of Synod before the question is put from the chair.

            4. Where the chair of Synod deems a matter coming before Synod to be a matter of vital theological import, any vote on such matter shall be by orders. (Adopted 1983). [formerly Article 18].

            5. Where a vote by orders is conducted:

                         (a) this shall be by ballot; and

                         (b) no result shall be announced until both orders have voted.

***passage of a resolution:***

            6. No resolution of the Synod shall pass until concurred in by:

                         (a) the majority of the members of Synod, or the majority of each order where there has been a vote by orders; and

                         (b) the Bishop.

***concurrence of the Bishop:***

            7. The Bishop may reserve the decision as to whether to concur in a resolution. If the Bishop does not notify the Secretaries of Synod of concurrence within two months of the end of Synod, the resolution is lost.

            8. This article, so far as it applies to the concurrence of the Bishop, shall not apply to the election of a Bishop.

 (Amended 1985). [formerly Article 17].