

SUPPLEMENTS

1. Rules for Classical Procedure

A. A Main Motion

1. A Main motion is acceptable under the following conditions:
 - a. If the mover has been recognized by the President, and his motion has been seconded.
 - b. If, at the request of the President, the motion has been presented in written form.
2. A motion is not acceptable under the following conditions:
 - a. If it conflicts with the Church Order, or is contrary to Scripture as interpreted in our Forms of Unity.
 - b. If another motion is before Classis, or it conflicts with a decision already made by Classis.
 - c. If it is verbally or substantially the same as a motion already rejected by Classis, or if it interferes with the freedom of action of Classis in a matter that was previously introduced, but of which no disposal was made.

B. A Motion to Amend: This is a proposal to alter a main motion in language or in meaning before final action is taken on the motion.

1. A motion to amend may propose any of the following: to strike out, to insert, or substitute certain words, phrases, sentences, or paragraphs.
2. A motion to amend must be germane to the main motion.
3. A motion to amend is not a proper amendment if it nullifies the main motion.
4. A motion to amend an amendment is permissible, and is called a secondary motion.

C. A Motion to Defer Action: Circumstances may arise which render immediate action on certain matters unwise. Therefore, means must be at Classis' disposal to defer action. These are:

1. A motion to postpone to a definite time:
 - a. This motion is debatable and may be amended.
 - b. If a matter has been deferred to a definite time, and Classis is at that time busy with an undecided question, Classis is not to be disturbed or interrupted in its work by the consideration of postponed matters. These can wait until the question before Classis has been disposed.
2. A motion to postpone indefinitely: This motion is to be used when Classis wishes to be rid of a matter without deciding either positively or negatively. A matter postponed indefinitely may not be recalled.
3. A motion to lay on the table:
 - a. This motion should be made only when more urgent business presents itself than is before Classis.
 - b. This motion is not debatable, may not be amended, and requires only a majority for passing.
 - c. A matter that has been tabled may be called from the table by any member of Classis subject to the consent of the majority. Unless such a call takes place before Classis adjourns, the matter tabled is as though it had never appeared before Classis.
 - d. A matter called from the table may not be re-tabled unless material progress has been made in debate on that matter.

D. Objection to the Consideration of a Question: If any member is not satisfied with the ruling of the President, the matter is referred to Classis for decision.

E. Call for a Division of the Question: At the request of one or more members of Classis, a motion consisting of more than one part must be divided and voted upon separately, unless Classis decides this is not necessary.

F. Motion to Bring Matters Once Decided Again Before Classis: If any member of Classis for weighty reasons desires reconsideration of a matter once decided, the following course may be pursued provided this action is initiated, except when a vote is by ballot, by a member who voted with the prevailing side in the original voting.

1. A motion may be offered to reconsider the matter. The intent of this motion is to propose a new debate and a new vote on the question once passed upon.
2. A motion may be made to rescind a previous decision. Such a motion must be passed by a two-thirds majority. The purpose of this motion is to annul or reverse such a previous decision. (Rescinding applies to decisions taken by Classis in session; it does not apply to decisions taken by a previous Classis. A succeeding Classis may alter the stand of a previous Classis; it may reach a conclusion which is at variance with a conclusion reached by an earlier Classis. In such cases the most recent decision invalidates all previous decisions in conflict with it).

G. Discussion

1. A speaker, to obtain the floor, must be recognized by the President.
2. If a member having the floor should fail to adhere to the point under discussion or should become unnecessarily lengthy in his remarks, the President shall call his attention to these faults and insist on getting to the point and brevity.
3. If any member has spoken twice on a pending issue, others who have not yet spoken twice shall ordinarily be given priority by the President.
4. During debate, the task of defending the recommendations of a committee shall rest primarily upon the Chairman and Secretary of the committee. These shall have precedence over every other speaker, and shall not be limited as to the number or length of their speeches.
5. When the President believes that a motion under consideration has been debated sufficiently, he may propose cessation of debate. If a majority of Classis sustains this proposal, discussion shall cease and the vote shall be taken.
6. Any member of Classis, when he deems a matter to have been debated sufficiently, may move to close the discussion. Should a majority be in favor, the vote shall be taken without further discussion.

H. Voting

1. The various methods of voting are:
 - a. Signify by saying "aye." This is the ordinary method of voting.
 - b. By rising, or by raising the right hand. When the President is unable to determine from the yeas and nays which opinion has prevailed, or if the President's judgment is questioned by any member of Classis, the President shall ask the members to vote by rising, or by the raising of right hands.
 - c. By ballot. In delicate cases of discipline and other matters of a critical nature and of great importance, it is advisable that Classis decides to vote by ballot.
2. When a vote is taken by a show of hands, the President may cast his vote if by so doing a tie vote is created. In case the vote is a tie and he abstains from voting, the motion is lost, as though he had voted against it. Should he vote affirmatively, the motion is carried.

- I. Right of Protest:** It is the right of any member to protest against any decision of Classis. Protests should be registered immediately, or during the session in which the matter concerned was acted upon. Protests must be registered individually and not in groups. Members may, if they feel the need, ask to have their negative vote recorded. Such requests must be made immediately after the vote is taken.

- J. Changes in These Rules:** These rules may be suspended, amended, revised, or abrogated by a majority vote of Classis.