

RULES FOR DEBATE

1. When any commissioner wishes to speak (other than to second a motion, which can be done from one's chair), he or she shall go to one of the floor microphones and seek recognition from the Moderator.
2. When recognized, the commissioner shall state his or her name and position in Presbytery before contributing to the debate.
3. All remarks should be addressed to the Moderator, should be confined to the merits of the pending question, and must not attack a commissioner's motives.
4. If several commissioners are standing at microphones waiting to speak to the same motion, the Moderator shall attempt to alternate pro and con speakers.
5. All proposed amendments (other than a few consecutive words) must be submitted in writing to the Stated Clerk, preferably in advance of making a motion.
6. If time for further study or consultation is desired before a vote is taken, commissioners shall ordinarily offer the motion to Postpone to a Particular Time, instead of a motion to Lay on the Table.
7. If a commissioner wishes to end an ongoing debate,
 - a. he or she must go to a floor microphone and obtain recognition from the Moderator;
 - b. when recognized, he or she may move the previous question;
 - c. another commissioner must second this motion (can be done from one's chair, without recognition);
 - d. the Moderator shall immediately conduct a standing vote on this motion to cut off further debate;
[Note: The above is *Robert's Rules* as is enjoined by our constitution (*Book of Order, G-9.0302*). However, this Presbytery chooses to follow the Parliamentary Procedures of the General Assembly, which give the Moderator some discretion in this matter. "The Moderator is in a position to refuse premature closure of debate by a member through the use of the motion to 'call the question.' If, in the Moderator's judgement, the assembly has not completed debate, the Moderator has the power to refuse the motion to close debate."]
 - e. if there is a two-thirds affirmative vote to end debate, the Moderator shall immediately conduct a vote on the motion before the Presbytery.
8. The substitute motion is a form of amendment applied when the desire is to amend a motion in several different, nonconsecutive places. It also is used when the text to be amended is longer than a paragraph. The following procedure may be used (at the Moderator's discretion) after a substitute motion is made.
 - a. The Moderator calls for perfecting (improving) amendments to the main motion. The amendments may be debated. Nothing else is in order.
 - b. The Moderator calls for perfecting (improving) amendments to the substitute motion. The amendments may be debated. Nothing else is in order.
 - c. The Moderator puts the question: "Shall the substitute motion replace the main motion?" At this time, the merits of both the main motion and the substitute motion may be debated, but no further amendments are in order.
 - d. The Moderator takes vote on the above question.
 1. If the question is approved, the main motion disappears and the substitute motion is before the assembly for further debate and vote.
 2. If the question is defeated, the substitute motion disappears and the main motion is before the assembly for further debate and vote.