

Summary from Pre-legislative Sessions

Standing Rules for CEM Hybrid Conferences

Background: Standing rules and bylaw amendments, in English and French, were circulated to pastors 7 weeks prior to conference, in anticipation that dialogue would occur with members/delegates at business meetings held to elect delegates. This gives the opportunity for every member to have a voice and provides an opportunity for delegates to hear the views of the congregational members. Previous guidelines for providing online conferences strove to provide equal participation and fairness for each participant. The needs and context of a hybrid conference add a layer of complexity for effective meetings. The intent of standing rules is to ensure rights of assembly are honoured and that deliberations are efficient and effective at CEM hybrid conferences. World Conference 2023 Standing rules for the first hybrid world conference held and Roberts Rules were used as a template to develop these rules. The committee was comprised of former and current mission presidents and our parliamentarian. Nothing in these Standing Rules usurps Community of Christ (world church) bylaws. (Article VI, Sections 5,6,7 speaks to Mission Centre Conferences) [Official Documents - Community of Christ Bylaws - All Documents \(sharepoint.com\)](#)

Pro	Con
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proposed time limits encourage speakers to be concise and succinct. 10 minutes is too long, a point can be made in 3-5 minutes • Mitigates few voices overriding the conference by repetitive opportunities to speak. Having limits makes room for other voices • Time limits are amendable by 2/3 of body by motion to extend debate, therefore it is not totally restrictive. • CEM is a one-day conference with 112 delegates (I would add that it's only a very few hours, not even a full day normally) whereas World Conference is a week+ • If delegates each took their 10 minutes, it would limit debate to 6 people per hour. With a 1-day conference of the 110 delegates, not counting ex-officio who also have voice, that could mean only 36 voices heard over the day. • If complex issues can be discussed at world conference with 3-minute limits, we feel that time frame should be sufficient for less complex issues discussed at mission conference. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 minutes too short • Why not use RR which allows 10 minutes for debate and speak twice on issue. (Note RR can be surpassed by rules adopted by an assembly) • In proposed rules, the first opposing speaker might not need full 5min and other speakers might have more to say but be limited to 3 min. • Don't have enough time prior to conference to discuss issues or at pre-legislative sessions which not every delegate attends, so want more time at conference. • Few people speak on motions so giving those who speak more time is reasonable. • Seek removal "Conditions regarding time for speaking to a point of order are same as for ordinary debate" see * note! • World conference has legislative items out well in advance and provides background information whereas we get little time to prepare • World Conference has many more people than CEM Conference

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This is in line with World Conference where mover of motion has 5 min as does first speaker in opposition. All others have 3 min except when translations are required. • Previous standing rules do not address hybrid conferences. • Providing pre-legislative sessions for discussion, questions and sharing of perspectives prior to conference contributes to building consensus and promotes common consent. • suggestion to add bylaws to end of Standing Rules 	
---	--

* Note this speaks to time allotment and is not implying point of order is a debate.

Finances

- Auditors report
 - Government wage subsidy is in relation to COVID. This is not the same as COVID loans that have to be repaid and which we did not participate in.
 - No property value in balance sheets of CEM audits.
 - Total assets and liabilities including book value of infrastructure would be found in Canadian church balance sheet.
- Current year / budget document
 - Year to date finances is as of Sept 30, 2023. Not all events were reported by that date. Please refer to the more recent report on Camp/Reunion/ Retreat financial summary for camp reports.
 - Investment income is reported when received which does not yet reflect 3rd quarterly reports for 2023.
 - CEM operating investment income assumes a 3% spend rate on investment income which is deemed achievable. Investment returns are increasing from the low in 2022.
 - Leadership development CIMM replaces MEADS.
 - Church Expansion Development covers things such as educational endeavours, revitalization, and mission. Donations to the mission center which are not designated for other purposes would be placed here.
 - You will see a transfer from reserves which is to balance the 2024 budget.
 - Shared service income is from congregations which purchase accounting services from CEM office rather than hire outside accountant for CFO work.
 - Concern that camping program has sufficient funding. FAY funding underutilized for youth with financial need. It is the aim that camp income and expenses balance to zero which is why there is nothing in budget for individual camps. Any surpluses from reunions are funneled back into the camping program. Note- Young at Heart was much less expensive than youth camp which has more activities thereby more expense and which had lifeguard expenses.
 - Are none utilizing leadership training funding opportunities?

- Timely submission from camp business managers on the proper report form is essential to having current information on YTD statements.
- Question asked regarding number of employees on payroll. There are 12 individuals whose compensation, benefits and expenses are supported in part by CEM.
- Revitalization Project is partially funded by one donor and partially by Mission Centre (50/50). The project is for reaching into the community and to help congregations find ways to do so.
- Congregational Assessments are determined by a 3 yr. average of receipted donations, not by membership numbers.

Special Committee on CEM Conference Bylaws Report

Recommendations:

1. Motion re Further Dialogue on Delegate vs Member Conferences.

- Recommends mission presidency team encourage more dialogue in hopes of achieving consensus on issue of membership-based vs delegate based and that when sufficient consensus believed to be achieved, any subsequent recommendations be presented to a future conference.
 - Concern raised re what is sufficient consensus and what is the time frame.
 - Concern raised as Special committee had a vote in favour of status quo; however, there were several congregations who were undecided and therefore their vote was split between for/ against any change. It was felt a clearer direction was needed and that can only happen with more dialogue among members.
 - The body has asked the presidency to encourage dialogue and trusts them to determine sufficient consensus and timing for future recommendations.
 - no deadline indicated for dialogue
 - vote of the committee was greater than 50%

2. Motion to Amend Bylaws -re electronic meetings.

- This is in response to World Church bylaw changes which enshrined electronic meetings in bylaws. This bylaw change addresses electronic meetings, hybrid conferences and voting procedures in CEM.

Motion to Amend CEM conference Bylaw Article 5

This motion proposes changes regarding how amendments to CEM conference bylaws can occur. Previous conference action from the conference floor in 2000 & 2016 resulted in bylaw changes to the representation of delegates (article 3B). This was not circulated in advance as it came from the floor, was debated and the motion passed.

Pro	Con
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More aligned with Roberts Rules* and Community of Christ, world church • Establishes 60 days' notice of full text of amendment and 2/3 vote for any proposed Bylaw amendment change 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Current text provides for amendment at conference with simple majority if text published with call of conference.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bylaws are not meant to be changed easily • Need 60 days' notice minimum 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Current text provides for amendment with 2/3 majority <u>if full text not</u> provided in advance of conference. • Not clear on what “published to CEM membership” means. Could simply mean the information is posted on the web • This motion prevents bylaw amendment motions from the floor at a conference.
---	---

*Roberts Rules 1.7 indicates Notice of a proposal to be brought up must be announced at the preceding meeting or be included in the call of the meeting. “Call of a meeting is a written notice of the time and place that is sent to all members of the organization at a reasonable time in advance”.

NOTE: To avoid any confusion, please note this amendment does not have anything to do with the timeframe for distribution of legislation for consideration at conferences. CEM Conference Bylaws are silent on that notice interval other than article 2D which speaks to potential legislation being submitted to CEM office 21 days prior to conference. It has been duly noted that the body would prefer to receive legislation for consideration well in advance of conference to enable opportunity for dialogue in congregations.

Note- for in-person conference attendees: in efforts to be environmentally conscious, there will not be printed copies of the conference booklet available at the registration table when you pick up your name tags.