

Standing Rules for CEM Hybrid Conferences

Adopted Oct 21, 2023

Reviewed by Standing Rules Committee June 5, 2024

This establishes Roberts' Rules of Order, Newly Revised as the source for governing the conference; when not inconsistent with Community of Christ bylaws or CEM Conference bylaws and these Standing Rules.

The Standing Rules provide the conference with a framework for conducting business in electronic or hybrid meetings.

1. The Credentials Committee, which certifies voting members, must report names of certified delegates and ex-officios at the opening of the conference. Alternate delegates will be certified by the Credential's committee in place of regular delegates who cannot attend. The Committee's action will be based on a statement submitted by the pastor-of-record (administrative officer) of the respective congregation. The committee must have that statement which includes names of delegates and alternates (the latter listed in order of replacement for delegates) at least 14 days prior to the conference. Persons requesting delegate status from either Non-Resident or General categories will be approved by the Mission Centre Presidency and certified by the Credentials Committee.
2. At the conference, voting members and visitors must identify their names and jurisdictions on their name badges or screens.
3. Those participating should be able to hear the assemblies gathered, the presiding officers and speakers recognized.
4. Attendance will be taken to ascertain the total number of delegates and ex-officios eligible for voting.
5. The CEM conference will be broadcast and will be available to people who register to watch and/or participate virtually. If the electronic connection at any site (any location with at least one voting member present) is lost or has unstable quality, no action will be invalidated because voting members at those locations could not participate. The conference will continue with the participants at remaining sites, provided that there is still a quorum [25 Delegates].¹

¹ References: Community of Christ bylaw Article IV Section 6 (adopted 2023), [Roberts 9:33-36; pages 89-91]

6. The minutes of the previous conference meeting will be approved at the conference. Should the conference be unable to convene, mission council will be authorized to approve minutes of the conference.²
7. No delegate is allowed to speak in debate more than twice on the same question on the same day or longer than five minutes for the first speaker for and against and three minutes for all others, without the permission of the conference. This will be granted by a two-thirds 2/3 vote without debate. These time limits may be extended for non-English speaking delegates whose remarks require translation. Persons called to provide information are not governed by this rule.³
8. At the chair's discretion, voting can be electronic if available. Voting results will be reported to delegates. In the event of a remote site taking counted votes, a site coordinator will report the results to the chair through the established method of communication. All votes will then be tabulated and reported to the assembly.
9. The chair may direct disconnecting or muting an electronic connection if it is causing undo interference with the conference.
10. These rules can be suspended by a 2/3 vote of the delegates without debate.

² [Church Administrators Handbook: Mission Councils 9:f p17]

³ [Roberts 15.5.5; page 181]