

# ENGAGING WITH MATTERS AT SYNOD

## *About the Consent Agenda*

A consent agenda allows for non-controversial resolutions to be considered collectively, by consent of the members, thus freeing up valuable time for consideration of matters which might require more rigorous discernment by Synod.

All items listed on the consent agenda will be considered in one resolution. Any one member can write to the Secretary of Synod, no later than Thursday, November 5 at 5:00pm, to request the removal of an item listed on the consent agenda, in which case it will be voted on separately by members.

When the resolution to adopt the consent agenda is on the floor of synod, any member may speak to it or ask questions for clarification, through the chair, as is the case for any resolution. When the resolution is carried, all consent agenda items are deemed to have been approved.

## *Speaking to Matters During Synod*

*Before you go to the microphone:*

1. Prayerfully listen to the presentation and debate.
2. Put your thoughts on paper and try to say something that hasn't already been said before or at least say it with a unique perspective.
3. Continue listening to the debate. If your point has already been made by someone before you, you can bow out of the line and return to your seat.

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*Each member may speak once about any given matter, for 2 minutes.*

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*When you go to the microphone:*

1. Wait to be acknowledged by the chair (normally the bishop).
2. Say your name, parish (or ministry/mission), and community.
3. State if you are in support or against this motion.
4. State your thoughts as clearly and concisely, supporting your argument with theological reflection, evidence, or lived experience as much as possible.
5. Finish with a thank you and return to your seat.

## *About Resolutions and Amendments*

Members of synod wishing to move a resolution or amendment must submit the text of the resolution or amendment in writing to the Secretary of Synod, along with the names of a member of synod willing to act as a seconder.

- For consideration, if time permits, new resolutions must be submitted by the prescribed deadline indicated at the commencement of synod.
- Amendments may be made during a debate on any resolution, provided the written text is subsequently provided to the Secretary of Synod. A duly moved and seconded amendment to a motion is then debated by members of Synod and, at the call of the chair, voted upon.
  - i. If the motion to amend is carried, debate resumes on the amended motion.
  - ii. If the motion to amend is defeated, debate resumes on the original motion.