



Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada

Recommendations of the Committee of Reference and Counsel

Administrative Bylaw, Part VI, Section 8 “Petitions from synods and congregations shall be submitted to the secretary of this church prior to the convention for referral to the Committee of Reference and Counsel”.

Section 10: “a resolution of a general character which is not germane to the pending question or report shall be give to the Committee of Reference and Counsel by the delegate proposing such resolution. The Committee of Reference and Counsel shall report all such resolutions to the convention with its recommendations. Other duties of the Committee shall be to recommend special orders for the hearing of representatives, to grant or deny permission to distribute printed matter not issued from the office of the secretary and to give such assistance to the bishop as may be desired in the course of the convention.”

The Committee of Reference and Counsel is appointed to be the impartial, discerning mind of the Convention to facilitate the proper presentation of petitions/resolutions and make efficient use of the assembly’s time.

The Committee of Reference and Counsel shall assist petitioners in preparing their resolutions to be heard by the assembly. The Committee may suggest to the petitioners possible clarifications or editing, of grammar, spelling or language, to form a properly worded motion conveying their intent and taking into account appropriate jurisdiction and constitutional or bylaw requirements.

The Committee of Reference and Counsel has five alternatives to select from in dealing with each petition/resolution. The committee shall include the text of the original petition/resolution as well as the Committee of Reference and Counsel’s rationale for their recommendation in their report to the convention.

Alternative #1: recommend the adoption and move and second the adoption of the original petition/resolution.

Consequently the original petition/resolution is before the convention.

Alternative #2: recommend a substitute motion to replace the petition/resolution and move and second the substitute motion.

Consequently the substitute motion presented by Reference and Counsel is before the convention. If the substitute motion is defeated, the original petition/resolution is before the convention.

Alternative #3: recommend the petition/resolution be referred and move and second the referral.

Consequently the motion to refer is before the convention. If that motion is defeated, the original petition/resolution is before the convention.

Alternative #4: recommend that the petition/resolution be defeated.

Consequently the original petition/resolution is before the convention, and will require a mover and seconder from the floor of the convention.

Alternative #5: recommend that the chair declare that the petition/resolution is out of order.

The chair then rules whether or not the petition/resolution is out of order. The ruling of the chair may be challenged by the convention.

Responsibility for Review:	National Church Council
Approval Authority:	National Church Council
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