

**STANDING RULES OF THE THIRTY-FIFTH GENERAL SYNOD**

As approved by the United Church of Christ Board March 2, 2024

**THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE GENERAL SYNOD**

1. The General Synod is the representative body of the United Church of Christ and is composed of delegates chosen by the Conferences, from among the members of its Local Churches, the 52 members of the United Church of Christ Board, and 40 delegates, four each, from the Historically Underrepresented Groups: Council for American Indian Ministry, Colectivo de UCC Latinx Ministries, Ministers for Racial, Social and Economic Justice, Pacific Islander and Asian American Ministries, United Black Christians, UCC Disabilities Ministries, Council for Youth and Young Adult Ministries, the Open and Affirming Coalition of the United Church of Christ, United Samoan Ministries, and the UCC Mental Health Network; these shall constitute the Voting Delegates. There are also Associate Delegates and Ecumenical Delegates who have voice without vote (United Church of Christ Constitution, paragraph 59, and Bylaws 199-200).

**ACCREDITATION AND SEATING OF VOTING DELEGATES AND ASSOCIATE DELEGATES**

2. Delegates will be accredited by the General Synod Registrar or the Assistant Registrar or their agents at the registration desk upon presentation of proper credentials.
3. Conference Ministers are responsible for certifying substitutes to fill vacancies in the Conference's delegation. These persons shall be registered by the Registrar or Assistant Registrar and accredited as delegates. A delegate vacancy is created by illness requiring the delegate to be unable to attend meetings of the General Synod or a family or vocational emergency requiring a delegate to leave the General Synod. A delegate intentionally planning to leave the General Synod for any other reason does not constitute a delegate vacancy; there shall be no sharing of delegate status. Once a vacancy is deemed to exist and a replacement delegate certified the new delegate will hold that status through the conclusion of the General Synod.
4. Composition of delegations can be challenged by Voting or Associate delegates only. Delegate seats that are contested will remain vacant until the General Synod Credentials Committee (Bylaw 212) makes a recommendation to the General Synod and a decision is made by majority vote of the General Synod.
  - A. A challenge to the composition of a delegation shall be made to the General Synod immediately after the report of the Credentials Committee in the opening plenary, and must specify what particular delegate seats are being contested.
  - B. In the event of a challenge to the composition of a delegation the Credentials Committee shall resolve, by the opening of the second plenary, the matter on the basis of, the (1) provisions of the Conference for electing its General Synod delegates and, (2) the provisions as described in paragraph 195 of the Bylaws for the composition of the

Conference delegations.

5. Voting delegates (Bylaws 194-198) wearing the proper badge will be seated in the specifically designated delegate section. Conference Delegates will be seated with their Conference delegation. Conference Ministers who serve on the United Church of Christ Board will be seated with the Board but shall also have a seat with their Conference delegation and may sit with the Conference delegation when needed. No Conference employee or other substitute may at any time occupy a vacant Conference delegation seat intended for use by the Conference Minister who is seated with the Board.
6. Associate Delegates (Bylaws 199-200) wearing the proper badge will be seated in the specifically designated Associate Delegate section, except the Chairperson of the governing board and the Chief Executive Officer(s) of each Conference who may be seated with their Conference delegation. Associate Delegates to General Synod have voice without vote in all aspects and functions of the General Synod, including committees.
7. Ecumenical Delegates have the same privileges as Associate Delegates.
8. No other person will be allowed in the delegate section except non-delegates having voice without vote as described below, and persons designated by the General Synod Administrator as General Synod staff, and national staff liaisons. All Delegates, Associate Delegates, non-delegates having voice without vote and other persons mentioned in this paragraph must have appropriate credentials from the General Synod Registrar.

**ACCREDITATION AND SEATING OF NON-DELEGATES HAVING  
VOICE WITHOUT VOTE**

9. When the interests of their respective institutions or groups are before the General Synod, the Chief Executive Officers of the institutions related to the Council for Higher Education shall have the privilege of voice without vote.
10. A group composed of at least 25 members of the United Church of Christ which has come together as a particular constituency or is interested in a specific issue may have voice without vote under the following conditions:
  - A. The General Synod may vote, on recommendation of the Business Committee, to grant to not more than two non-delegate representatives of a group the privilege of voice without vote and of seating with the Associate Delegates, if the group meets the following criteria:
    1. The group must consist of at least 25 members of the United Church of Christ and more than one Conference must be represented in its membership.

2. The group must show cause to the Business Committee why elected Delegates cannot effectively represent its cause or concern to the General Synod. The two non-delegate representatives given voice without vote must hold membership in a Local Church of the United Church of Christ.
  
- B. Any request for voice without vote privileges at the Thirty-fifth General Synod must be sent to Joshua Baird, General Synod Administrator, at [generalsynodadministrator@ucc.org](mailto:generalsynodadministrator@ucc.org), **on or before January 31, 2025**. A list of at least 25 current members including verifiable Local Church membership reflecting membership in more than one Conference must accompany all requests.
  
- C. For groups not formally related to the United Church of Christ, privilege of voice without vote ends with the adjournment of the General Synod.
  
11. The 14 members of the Nominating Committee elected by the General Synod, Honored Guests, Former Officers of the United Church of Christ, Moderators of past General Synods, Chief Executive Officers of formerly Recognized and Established Instrumentalities, and the Commission for Racial Justice, and Ecumenical Guests who are not Associate Delegates may be accorded the privilege of voice without vote and of seating with the Associate Delegates by vote of the General Synod.

#### **PROCEDURES FOR COMMUNICATING AND CONSIDERING FORMAL MOTIONS**

12. Matters of concern to members of the United Church of Christ are presented in the form of Formal Motions for consideration by the General Synod. Formal Motions include Resolutions as well as Other Formal Motions.
13. Definitions
  - A. Resolutions are a type of Formal Motion submitted to the General Synod. They are classified either as a Resolution of Witness or a Prudential Resolution.
    1. Resolution of Witness: A Resolution of Witness is an expression of Christian conviction concerning a moral, ethical, or religious matter confronting the Church, the nation, or the world. It is adopted for the guidance of the United Church of Christ Board, Officers, or Covenanted Ministries; or for the consideration of other bodies related to the United Church of Christ, such as Local Churches, Associations, Conferences, and Associated or Affiliated Ministries or other bodies as defined in Article VI of the Bylaws of the United Church of Christ; and for a Christian witness to the world. Adoption of a Resolution of Witness requires a two-thirds majority vote of the General Synod.
    2. Prudential Resolutions: A Prudential Resolution establishes policy, institutes or revises structure or procedures, authorizes programs, approves directions, or requests actions. Adoption of a Prudential Resolution requires a majority vote of the General Synod.

- B. Other Formal Motions include actions other than Resolutions provided for above and include, but are not limited to, elections by the General Synod, matters of tribute or commendation, budget approval, and the like. Other Formal Motions generally require a majority vote of the General Synod. Other Formal Motions are not bound by the format provisions of these rules. Elections and other Formal Motions covered in the Bylaws are subject to any deadline and process provisions included therein.
  - C. Submitter: The body or group(s) that presents a Formal Motion for consideration by the General Synod.
  - D. Proponent: A resource person designated by the Submitter to advocate for a Formal Motion during General Synod.
14. Communication
- A. All communication and submission regarding Resolutions takes place through the Office of the General Minister and President via electronic mail to [resolutions@ucc.org](mailto:resolutions@ucc.org).
  - B. All communication and submission regarding Other Formal Motions takes place through the Office of the General Synod Administrator via electronic mail to [GeneralSynodAdministrator@ucc.org](mailto:GeneralSynodAdministrator@ucc.org).
15. Scope
- A. Resolutions are voted on by the General Synod, or the United Church of Christ Board acting as the General Synod *ad interim*.
  - B. In keeping with United Church of Christ polity, the only bodies a Resolution may direct or require action of are the General Synod, the United Church of Christ Board, Officers of the United Church of Christ, and the Covenanted Ministries. While a Resolution may request action of various other bodies of the Church, it cannot direct or require it; nor can a Resolution require the General Synod, the United Church of Christ Board, Officers of the United Church of Christ, or a Covenanted Ministry to work with any other body.
16. Sources
- A. The Submitter of a Resolution or Other Formal Motion is defined as and may come from:
    - 1. Eleven or more General Synod Delegates or Delegates-elect from the bodies named in the United Church of Christ Bylaws 193-198. These Delegates must be members of Local Churches from a minimum of two Conferences.
    - 2. Six or more Local Churches;
    - 3. An Association;
    - 4. A Conference;
    - 5. A Covenanted, Associated, or Affiliated Ministry or other body as defined in Article VI of the United Church of Christ Bylaws; and
    - 6. The United Church of Christ Board.
  - B. Multiple settings or a combination of the above categories may submit a Formal Motion providing each Submitter meets the submission requirements (e.g., an Association plus a Conference both submitting a single Resolution).
  - C. Resolutions or Other Formal Motions submitted by more than one Submitter must be identical.
  - D. No more than three Resolutions may be submitted from any single Submitter or combination of Submitters.

- E. Resolutions and Other Formal Motions may not receive endorsements from any organization other than the Submitter. Organizations may express their support of the Resolution or Other Formal Motion directly to the Submitter.
17. Submission Authority
- A. A Resolution or Other Formal Motion submitted by Local Churches, an Association, or a Conference must be voted on by the membership of each submitting body, such as an all-Conference or all-congregation meeting. A vote by the governing board(s), even acting *ad interim*, does not meet this requirement.
  - B. Each Submitter must provide a copy of the minutes of the meeting(s) during which the vote(s) was taken at the time it submits the Resolution or Other Formal Motion. The minutes must show that the Submitter both adopts the Resolution and submits it to the General Synod.
18. Resolution Format and Content
- A. The text of a Resolution should be phrased so as not to bring into question the Christian commitment of those who do not agree.
  - B. All Resolutions shall contain the following sections in this order:
    - 1. Title, which must briefly and accurately reflect the intent of the Resolution
    - 2. Name of the Submitter(s)
    - 3. Summary that briefly and accurately reflects the content of the Resolution
    - 4. Biblical, Theological and Historical Grounding that describes how this action reflects the historic roots of the United Church of Christ and connects it to current identity and theology, noting the current engagement of various settings of the Church.
    - 5. Text of the Motion
      - a) WHEREAS statements, which must be factual in nature and cited with endnotes.
      - b) BE IT RESOLVED statements, concluding with the following:
        - a. “FUNDING: The funding for the implementation of the Resolution will be made in accordance with the overall mandates of the affected agencies and the funds available.” (There is no guarantee that financial resources will be available to support the Resolution.)
        - b. “IMPLEMENTATION: The Officers of the Church, in consultation with appropriate ministries or other entities within the United Church of Christ, will determine the implementing body.” (The implementing body/bodies are responsible for developing the strategy and program designed to implement the Resolution if it is adopted. A Submitter does not determine or suggest who the implementing body/bodies shall be.)
  - C. A Resolution may require a written report to be made to no more than the first two General Synods immediately following the General Synod to which the Resolution is submitted.
19. Resolution Review

- A. Each Resolution is reviewed by the Resolution Review Team prior to final submission to the General Synod.
  - B. The Resolution Review Team is appointed by the Business Committee, which may include non-Board members and staff with special expertise.
  - C. The Resolution Review Team:
    - 1. Reviews each proposed Resolution for matters of polity and compliance with the United Church of Christ Constitution and Bylaws and the General Synod Standing Rules;
    - 2. Determines whether the subject of the proposed Resolution was addressed by one of the two preceding meetings of the General Synod;
    - 3. Determines whether an Implementation Conversation will be required;
    - 4. Provides assistance in drafting; and
    - 5. Requests or requires edits to Resolutions prior to final submission.
  - D. The Resolution Review Team is not a gatekeeper for the subject matter of the Resolution except to the extent that matters of polity or previous General Synod action are implicated. The Resolution Review Team may recommend to the Subcommittee on Disposition that any Resolution inconsistent with polity and/or the United Church of Christ Constitution or Bylaws be rejected.
  - E. Completed Resolutions shall be submitted to the Resolution Review Team on or before October 31 of the year prior to the General Synod. Resolutions need not be in final form by this date, but should be as complete as possible, and at a minimum must have the entire text of the motion complete. Submitters are encouraged to provide Resolutions in draft form to the Resolution Review Team as early as possible (but no later than the deadline below) to reduce the risk of needing to bring their Resolutions into compliance after it has already been approved by Submitters in accordance with the Rules.
  - F. Unless prohibited by a Submitter's governing documents, governing bodies of Submitters have the authority to edit Resolutions as requested by the Resolution Review Team. If the changes are substantial, the Resolution Review Team may meet again to discuss and potentially require further changes prior to submission. Once a Resolution or Other Formal Motion has been submitted to the General Synod Subcommittee on Disposition, Submitters may not make changes to the Resolution unless the proposed changes could not have been anticipated by the submission deadline. The burden of proof is on Submitters to explain why.
20. Deadlines
- A. Final submission of a Resolution shall take place on or before December 31 of the year prior to General Synod. Submitters may not make any edits to their Resolution after final submission unless requested by the Subcommittee on Disposition and the proposed changes could not have been anticipated by the submission deadline.
  - B. A Resolution or Other Formal Motion that could not have been anticipated or submitted in conformance these deadlines must be submitted on or before May 31, the year of General Synod. The Resolution must be written and complete by this time. The burden of proof is on the Submitter to explain why the Resolution could not have been anticipated by the prior deadlines. Resolutions submitted in this timeframe are subject to the review and disposition process outlined herein.

- C. A Resolution or Other Formal Motion that could not have been anticipated or submitted before May 31, the year of General Synod, is introduced at the Opening Plenary of the General Synod and submitted to the Office of the General Minister and President via electronic mail to [resolutions@ucc.org](mailto:resolutions@ucc.org). The Resolution must be written and complete by this time. The burden of proof is on the Submitter to explain why the Resolution could not have been anticipated by the above deadlines. The Resolution is introduced at the Opening Plenary of the General Synod by a voting Delegate, accompanied by two other voting Delegates, at least one of whom is from a different Conference. The Resolution is introduced by title only during a designated point in the agenda when new business may be introduced. Resolutions submitted at this time are subject to the disposition process outlined herein.
21. Disposition
- A. After final submission, the United Church of Christ Board acting as the Business Committee classifies each Resolution as either a Prudential Resolution or a Resolution of Witness and proposes a disposition of each Resolution. These recommendations are reported to the General Synod during the report of the Committee on Disposition.
  - B. The dispositions that may be proposed are as follows:
    - 1. Committee: A Resolution that is complicated or controversial that requires background discussion and study, merits a hearing process, or has a potential system-wide impact will be assigned to a Committee. If this disposition is recommended, the Submitter provides a Proponent to the Committee.
    - 2. Direct to Plenary: Resolutions that are expected to be routine, non-controversial, or dealt with in a special hearing are assigned directly to a Plenary session.
    - 3. Direct to Plenary, Consent Agenda: The Business Committee may place some Resolutions sent directly to Plenary in a Consent Agenda. The Consent Agenda is approved by Delegates in the opening plenary of the General Synod. The Proponent of a Resolution placed on the Consent Agenda has two minutes to speak to their Resolution before the Consent Agenda is moved. Items are removed from the Consent Agenda by a majority vote of the General Synod. If a Resolution is removed from the Consent Agenda, it is assigned to a Committee or considered in a Plenary session of the General Synod at the discretion of the Agenda Committee.
    - 4. The United Church of Christ Board: A Resolution that is deemed by the Subcommittee on Disposition to have system-wide impact beyond the scope of the General Synod or requiring additional study by the United Church of Christ Board or staff is referred directly to the United Church of Christ Board. A Resolution submitted by the United Church of Christ Board shall not be referred directly to the Board. The standards for adoption by the Board shall be the same as those required for adoption by the General Synod.
    - 5. Direct to Implementing Bodies: A Resolution that reiterates or reaffirms previous General Synod action is normally referred by the General Synod to the body or bodies implementing such action. A Resolution on an issue voted on by either of the two preceding General Synods shall be referred to implementing bodies. A referral for implementation is, in itself, a statement that the General Synod is

already on record with the intent of the Resolution and that the policy base for implementation is already in existence.

6. Rejection: Any Resolution that is submitted after the deadlines herein or is inconsistent or conflicts directly with the United Church of Christ Constitution or Bylaws will be rejected.
  - C. The Committee on Disposition promptly informs Submitters as to the disposition of their Resolution.
  - D. The General Synod shall vote on the report of the Committee on Disposition specifying the disposition of each Resolution, at which time it may vote to amend the report to change the disposition of any Resolution.
22. Editing Authority
- A. The General Synod, or a Committee thereof, may strike “Whereas” clauses in a Resolution but may not edit them.
  - B. The General Synod, or a Committee thereof, may only edit the “Resolved” clauses.
23. Committees
- A. A Submitter whose Resolution is assigned to a Committee provides a Proponent to the Committee.
  - B. Committees may combine multiple resolutions assigned to them.
  - C. Committees move their assigned Resolution(s) to a plenary session of the General Synod and recommend one of the following actions:
    1. Adoption: to approve the Resolution as submitted.
    2. Adoption as amended: to approve the Resolution as amended by the Committee.
    3. Defeat: to not adopt the Resolution.
    4. Refer to the United Church of Christ Board. The standards for adoption by the Board shall be the same as those required for adoption by the General Synod.
    5. No action (which requires a further motion to postpone indefinitely or table): The text of the Resolution is not voted on.
  - D. A Committee cannot radically alter the basic intent or direction of the Resolution as originally presented to it, as determined by a consultation between the Moderator, Vice Moderator, and Chair of the Subcommittee on Disposition, who may consult others in making their decision.
  - E. Only the Title and Text of the Motion (“Whereas” and “Resolved” clauses) are reported out of Committee and voted on by the General Synod.
24. Substitute Resolutions
- A. A Committee wishing to radically alter the basic intent or direction of the Resolution must still move the original Resolution and recommend one of the above options, and may also submit a Substitute Resolution.
  - B. If the Committee recommends a Substitute Resolution, it is regarded as a substitute motion, requiring a majority vote of the General Synod to be considered.
  - C. If the General Synod votes to consider the Substitute Resolution, the original Resolution is withdrawn. If the General Synod votes to not consider the Substitute Resolution, it considers the original Resolution.
  - D. A Substitute Resolution must contain all the elements named above.



- E. A Substitute Resolution must be reviewed by the Resolution Review Team as noted above.
  - F. There is not a provision to offer a Substitute Resolution to the General Synod that does not come from a Committee. The only opportunity for new business is in the opening plenary for business that could not have been anticipated by the May 31 deadline.
25. Plenary Debate
- A. When a matter has been referred to a Committee or group for review prior to its presentation to a plenary session for debate and action, the recommendation made to a plenary session by such Committee or group shall be considered an original main motion fully open to amendment by the General Synod.
  - B. The General Synod, or a Committee thereof, cannot radically alter the basic intent or direction of the Resolution as originally presented to it, as determined by a consultation between the Moderator, Vice Moderator, and Chair of the Subcommittee on Disposition, who may consult others in making their decision.
  - C. Copies of each Resolution or Other Formal Motion and the Committee recommendation pertaining to it are distributed to Delegates at least 12 hours before the General Synod may consider it, unless only minor edits were made.
  - D. Any Resolutions not considered by the General Synod due to time constraints are referred to the United Church of Christ Board, acting as the General Synod *ad interim*. The standards for adoption by the Board shall be the same as those required for adoption by the General Synod.
26. Implementation Conversation
- A. The Implementation Conversation is a presentation, discussion, and forum for all those interested in the topic addressed by a Resolution to network and discuss ways that Local Church members, Local Churches, Associations, and Conferences could best address that topic in their own setting. They shall not be focused on how the General Synod and/or the National Setting will address the topic of a Resolution.
  - B. Implementation Conversations are not used to advocate for any outcome of a Resolution and are not limited to discussing the actionable items outlined in a Resolution.
  - C. Implementation Conversations are required for all Resolutions of Witness that call upon Local Churches, Conferences, Associations, and/or individual members of the United Church of Christ to take particular action. Implementation Conversations are not required for Prudential Resolutions or for Resolutions of Witness that call upon only the National Setting and/or the United Church of Christ Board for action.
  - D. Implementation Conversations that meet the above requirements are led by the Submitters of the Resolution.
27. Timeline: All dates listed below shall be read as “on or before.”
- A. As early as possible: Submitters must be in conversation with the Resolution Review Team about their proposed Resolution.
  - B. October 31, the year prior to General Synod: Deadline to submit completed Resolutions to the Resolution Review Team. Resolutions need not be in final form by this date, but must be as complete as possible, and at a minimum shall have the entire text of the motion complete.

- C. December 31, the year prior to General Synod: Deadline to submit final Resolutions. Submitters may not make any edits to their Resolutions after this date unless the proposed changes could not have been anticipated by the submission deadline. The burden of proof is on Submitters to explain why.
- D. April 15: The Office of the General Minister and President shall make copies of all Resolutions and Other Formal Motions available to Delegates.
- E. May 31: Deadline to submit a Resolution or Other Formal Motion that could not have been anticipated or submitted in conformance with the above deadlines.
- F. Opening Plenary of General Synod: Deadline to submit a Resolution or Other Formal Motion that could not have been anticipated or submitted before May 31. The Resolution must be written and complete by this time. The Resolution is introduced at the Opening Plenary of General Synod by title only during a designated point in the agenda when new business may be introduced.

### **REPORTS TO THE GENERAL SYNOD**

- 28. Reports to the General Synod with no action required shall be placed on file. Reports required by previous General Synod action and Reports from Councils must be sent to Joshua Baird, General Synod Administrator, at [generalsynodadministrator@ucc.org](mailto:generalsynodadministrator@ucc.org), **on or before April 2, 2025**. All reports made within the context of the meeting shall be contained in the official minutes of the meeting.

### **CONDUCT OF THE BUSINESS OF THE GENERAL SYNOD**

- 29. A quorum for the conduct of business at General Synod shall consist of one-third of the voting delegates; provided that in this number at least two-thirds of the Conferences are represented by at least one Delegate each (United Church of Christ Constitution, paragraph 59).
- 30. All proceedings of the General Synod shall, unless otherwise provided for, be governed by the current edition of Robert's Rules of Order (United Church of Christ Bylaw 191).
- 31. All Voting Delegates shall be randomly assigned to a committee. Associate Delegates and Non-Delegates having Voice without Vote shall have voice at the committee they choose to attend.
- 32. Main motions not in distributed materials and substantive amendments shall be presented to the Moderator in writing, signed by the maker and seconder. Only voting Delegates may make motions.
- 33. There shall be an Agenda Committee appointed by the United Church of Christ Board. Members of the Agenda Committee shall include the Moderator, Assistant Moderator, Parliamentarians,

Agenda Coordinator, General Synod Administrator, committee process staff, and others as deemed necessary to carry out the work of the Committee.

34. The agenda as adopted by the General Synod may be changed by two-thirds vote or general consent upon recommendation of the Business Committee or motion from the floor.
35. Debate shall conform to the following provisions:
  - A. Delegates and others wishing to be recognized shall obtain use of a microphone, address the Moderator and identify themselves by name and Conference or other represented body.
  - B. Pro and con microphones may be designated by the Moderator.
  - C. A Delegate may not speak on an issue and conclude by moving the previous question.
  - D. A Delegate may not present a combined motion to close debate on an amendment to a motion and the main motion.
  - E. No one may speak to the same debatable motion more than twice except to answer questions from the floor or the Moderator.
  - F. Unless brought by a committee of the General Synod, a maximum of two minutes for the first speech is allowed the maker of the motion. The maker of a motion coming from a General Synod committee will have three minutes for the presentation. Subsequent speakers are limited to one minute each.
  - G. During timed floor debates and speak outs microphones will be turned off at the expiration of a speaker's time provided for in the General Synod Standing Rules.
  - H. When time restrictions on speakers are required by these Standing Rules, an extension of time may be granted by the presiding Moderator to the following persons:
    1. Speakers requiring translation into English from another language (time needed for the translation shall not be counted in the time allotment) and speakers who require sign language translation;
    2. Speakers whose fluency in English is limited and for whom translation is not available;
    3. Speakers with disabilities that affect mobility and/or speech.

A request for an extension of time shall be indicated to the floor parliamentarian who shall notify the presiding Moderator.

- I. Opportunity will be provided for two Delegates speaking in favor and two Delegates speaking in opposition to a motion before an amendment can be made.
  - J. A motion to limit or extend the limits of debate is, itself, undebatable; such motion requires a second and two-thirds vote unless decided by general consent.
  - K. Non-delegates, not otherwise authorized to speak, may speak only by two-thirds vote of the General Synod.
36. Voting shall conform to the following provisions:
- A. Votes shall be decided by the Delegates present and voting. Abstentions shall not be counted in the total.
  - B. Voting shall be by electronic means, unless the Moderator, sensing a consensus of the Synod, calls for a voice vote.

#### **MINORITY RESOLUTIONS**

37. Requirements: In the case where a Formal Motion, Constitution and/or Bylaw amendment or Priority is adopted by less than 75% of the votes cast, a Minority Resolution, expressing a minority viewpoint on the same subject matter, may be proposed at the same or the next business session of that General Synod.
38. Procedures to be followed when a Minority Resolution is to be considered shall conform to the following provisions:
- A. A Delegate who plans to propose a Minority Resolution must, at the time of the consideration of the original proposal, request of the Moderator that the percentage of votes in the affirmative be determined and recorded so that eligibility for proposing a Minority Resolution can be established.
  - B. A Minority Resolution is to be voted only by those who voted in opposition to the original proposal. Each Conference shall be responsible to determine the eligibility of its own delegates in such a vote.
  - C. To become a matter of record of General Synod, a Minority Resolution shall require a majority vote of those voting as designated in 23.B, above.

An adopted Minority Resolution shall be attached to the action to which it relates.

#### **PROCEDURES FOR NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS**

39. The Nominating Committee shall make nominations from the platform as provided by the Constitution and Bylaws.
40. Biographical information on each candidate shall be made available by the Nominating Committee for those it nominates. The Nominating Committee shall submit its slate of candidates including biographical information to the General Synod not later than the opening of the business session in which the Nominating Committee reports to the General Synod.
41. Written consent of each nominee is required prior to election.
42. Members of the Nominating Committee are nominated by the United Church of Christ Board. These nominations are made from the platform by the Business Committee.
43. There shall not be nominations from the floor. All candidates presented by the Nominating Committee shall be elected by majority vote, a majority being based on the number of votes cast for the office. The results and number of votes cast for each candidate shall be announced to the delegates in a timely manner.
44. The election of the next class of the United Church of Christ Board shall be a single vote. The elections of Moderator and Assistant Moderator shall each come as separate votes thereafter.
45. Votes for write-in candidates and abstentions shall not be counted.

#### **PROCEDURE AND CALL FOR ELECTION**

46. In the General Synod year in which the General Minister and President of the Church is to be called by election or reelection, the candidate will be presented to the General Synod by the United Church of Christ Board. A single presentation for the candidate may be made, to be no longer than 10 minutes.
47. In the General Synod year in which an Associate General Minister is to be called by election or reelection as an Officer of the Church, a candidate will be presented to the General Synod by the United Church of Christ Board. A single presentation for each candidate may be made, each to be no longer than 10 minutes.
48. Candidates for the Offices of General Minister and President and Associate General Minister may each make a speech no longer than 20 minutes prior to the call by election.
49. An affirmative vote of at least 60% of the votes cast is necessary for each candidate to be called and elected by the General Synod to serve as an Officer of the Church. The results of the vote for each candidate shall be announced to the delegates in a timely manner.

#### **OPERATION OF THE EXHIBIT HALL**

50. First priority for space and scheduling needs will be given to the General Synod and those activities that are supportive of its agenda, administration, and business.
51. Preference for exhibits, displays and scheduling of space and time for optional and informal events will be granted to persons representing the Covenanted, Affiliated and Associated Ministries and Others Bodies as defined by Article VI. of the Bylaws of the UCC, Conferences and Associations, Local Churches, General Synod Recognized Groups and bodies that are listed in the Yearbook of the UCC. If they are not among the officially recognized bodies, any group or individual wishing to have an exhibit or reserve space in the facilities managed by the Office of the General Minister and President may request such space.
52. Optional activities that are sponsored by officially recognized bodies, but not integral to program, administration and agenda of the General Synod shall be scheduled so as not to conflict with the General Synod.
53. Exhibits and space will be allocated on a first come, first served basis within the above criteria.
54. Exhibit space will be set aside for the Covenanted Ministries and other national bodies, so desiring, to have a common space that might be decorated with a common theme.
55. The following guidelines pertain to commercial exhibits:
  - A. The product or service that they sell or offer is of value to Local Churches of the UCC.
  - B. The companies are able to offer references from UCC bodies that have used their services and indicate that they are reputable firms who stand behind their products and services.
56. There will be a directory of exhibits with a description of each, and will include a map of the exhibit hall.
57. Hours when the exhibits will be open, before and during the General Synod, will be posted electronically.
58. Exhibitors shall honor the Behavioral Covenant distributed to exhibitors in advance of the General Synod.

### **GENERAL RULES**

59. Only printed matter and other matter (including commercial) that has been approved by the Business Committee may be distributed on the floor of the General Synod and within the convention center in which the General Synod is being held. Such materials must contain the identity of the originator.

60. The Business Committee will administer and announce any necessary rules pertaining to photographs being taken during the General Synod meetings.
61. Recording the proceedings of General Synod is the responsibility of the Office of the General Minister and President.
62. Demonstrations and celebrations on the floor and visitors' gallery of the General Synod plenary session must have prior approval of the Business Committee or will be ruled out of order.
63. With proper credentials, all sessions of the General Synod and its delegate committees are open to the public and the news media while the General Synod is in session.
64. The Planning Committee for the Thirty-fifth General Synod, in consultation with the host Conference, will determine the number of offerings to be received at the Thirty-fifth General Synod and **shall announce the offering(s) at the spring 2025 meeting of the United Church of Christ Board**. In the event that an exceptional need arises after the spring meeting of the United Church of Christ Board or during the General Synod itself, the Business Committee may authorize an additional offering to meet that need during the General Synod.
65. Members of the United Church of Christ Board, General Synod staff, volunteers and others seeking reimbursement for out-of-pocket General Synod expenses are required to submit those expenses along with verifiable receipts, in compliance with the United Church of Christ Board Travel Policy, to the Office of the General Synod Administrator no later than August 31, 2025. A request for reimbursement after that date will require the approval of the Finance and Budget Committee of the United Church of Christ Board at its fall meeting following General Synod.
66. Any rule(s) may be amended, rescinded, or suspended by a two-thirds vote of the General Synod.
67. When General Synod is not in session, the United Church of Christ Board, acting as General Synod ad interim, may amend the Standing Rules, as necessary, to facilitate the collection, processing and distribution of items of business for a subsequent General Synod. Notification must be sent to Local Churches, Conferences, and delegates regarding such action(s) by **June 30, 2024**.
68. The Office of the General Minister and President will have the authority to change reference, within these rules, to specific paragraphs of the Constitution and Bylaws should paragraph numbering change in the event of Conference ratification of General Synod-adopted amendments to the Constitution and Bylaws. Upon such editorial change, these rules will be recirculated in the prescribed manner. The Office of the General Minister and President will also have the authority to make minor editorial corrections to these rules, such as spelling, grammar and punctuation correction with no additional distribution required.