

## Southern Conference Annual Meeting 2009 Standing Rules

1. "Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised" shall be followed.
2. Matters deemed by the President to be merely formal, routine, and non-controversial may be disposed of by common consent. If there is objection, however, the chair will await a formal motion and submit the question to debate and vote.
3. Resolutions deemed not merely formal and non-controversial may be submitted by any voting delegate, congregation, commission, or committee of the Conference for action by the Annual Gathering. **They may be submitted by May 1 for inclusion in the Annual Meeting packet.**
4. Resolutions that are of a timely or emergency nature (having to do with events/circumstances that develop after the resolution deadline) may be submitted to the Secretary of the Conference by 4:00 PM on Tuesday, May 19, 2009. Such late business will be dealt with at the discretion of the Executive Committee. Resolutions submitted in advance will be listed in the final agenda and the time of their consideration indicated.
5. Amendments must be presented in writing to the chair after they have been presented and seconded. Not more than one amendment will be considered at the same time. One wishing to offer an additional amendment should announce the intention to offer the further amendment after action is completed on the pending amendment.
6. Debate on Motions and Resolutions will be limited in duration to 20 minutes. To close debate earlier, the proper motion is "*I move the previous question*" or "*I move to close debate.*" The mover must gain recognition and the motion must be seconded. The motion cannot be amended and requires a two-thirds vote, for adoption. It will not suffice merely to call "*Question*" if there are still delegates who wish to speak. To extend the time for debate, the proper motion is "*I move to suspend the rule limiting debate to 20 minutes.*" The mover must gain recognition and the motion must be seconded. The motion cannot be amended and requires a two-thirds vote, for adoption.
7. Delegates shall state their names when they are recognized to speak. No speaker shall speak to the same issue more than twice except to answer questions addressed to him/her from the floor. Debate on any motion or resolution shall begin with the proponent of the motion or resolution being afforded three (3) minutes to speak. That individual will be followed by one who wishes to speak in opposition to the motion/resolution, who will also be afforded three (3) minutes. Additional speakers will follow, alternating pro and con, until debate is closed. Except in the case of the first two speakers as noted above, a maximum of (2) minutes is allowed to the first speech by any Speaker. Further comment by any speaker, including responses to questions posed to previous speakers, shall be limited to one (1) minute.
8. The president with the assistance of a parliamentarian is charged with the duty of providing orderly disposition to the business of the Southern Conference. A delegate may appeal any ruling. The appeal requires a second. The majority vote by the delegates upon the appeal will prevail.