

Proposed Amendments to the Standing Rules of the United Church of Christ Thirtieth General Synod

RECOMMENDED ACTION: To recommend that the United Church of Christ Board of Directors adopt proposed amendments to the Standing Rules of the United Church of Christ Thirtieth General Synod as distributed to the Board of Directors.

BACKGROUND: the General Synod Standing Rules are revised every two years and presented to the Board of Directors for adoption at its spring meeting in the year prior to Synod. Adoption at this meeting allows for enough time for the rules to be circulated prior to the many deadlines included within the rules.

Every two years, prior to deliberations by the Governance Committee, the Rules from the previous Synod are circulated for comment and proposed amendments from those who manage the business of Synod. Those asked to participate in the process this year; David Anderson, Chief of Staff-Committee Process Team, Sue Artt, Assistant Moderator, Don Clark, General Counsel, Lee Foley, Chief Administrative Officer and General Synod Administrator, Brian Holeman, Moderator, Denise Page Hood, Parliamentarian, Kathy Houston, Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer, Heather Kimmel, Associate General Counsel, Corey Larson, Agenda Coordinator, Valerie Smith, Associate for Coordinated Administration and General Synod Planning and Floor Parliamentarian Libby Tigner. Additionally, Justice and Witness Ministries Executive Minister, Linda Jaramillo significantly contributed to the recommended changes relating to the submission of business coming before Synod.

Many of the changes to the Standing Rules for the Thirtieth General Synod are to deadlines, revising them to reflect the calendar years 2014 and 2015 and to reflect the new governance structure, amending the Rules to replace *Executive Council* with *Board of Directors* and *Office of General Ministries* with *Office of the General Minister and President*, that sort of thing.

However, there are substantial changes to portions of new Rule 11. Rule 11 has been amended to place an additional *burden of necessity* on those bringing business before the General Synod. This additional *burden of necessity* comes on the recommendation of a two-year study at the request of the Justice and Witness Ministries, the Ministry most often charged with the implementation of Synod resolutions.

There are also substantial changes, or major deletions, to the Rules dealing with floor nominations while Synod is in session. These changes or deletions are recommended to reflect the intent of the framers of the Proposal for Single Governance, the foundation for the 2011 Synod-voted amendments to the Constitution and Bylaws enabling the new governing structure of the Church. These recommended changes can be found in old Rule 26 through new Rule 29.

Other less-substantial changes include Rule 5 which clarifies the status of the six Conference Ministers who sit on the Board of Directors and new Rule 42 which clarifies reimbursement for members of the Board of Directors, Synod volunteers and Synod staff.