

REGIONAL ASSEMBLY RULES OF PROCEDURE
Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Florida

The Charter and By-Laws of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Florida have been revised periodically, the latest being in 1974 in Assembly in Clearwater. They form the basic standard by which the work of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Florida is carried out. These Rules of Procedure are provided for the orderly conduct of business in the Assemblies of the Region and to assure that all of those participating have a common ground and a common understanding for their participation.

RULES OF PROCEDURE FOR THE REGIONAL ASSEMBLY

I. Classification of Business Items

- A. All items of business to be considered by the Regional Assembly shall be received by or originate with the Regional Board. Items of business may be filed with the Regional Board by any congregation of a Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Florida or by a group of 10 or more members of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Florida. Such items of business must be filed with the Regional Office at least sixty (60) days in advance of a meeting of the Regional Assembly, except in cases of emergency.
- B. The Regional Assembly may consider four kinds of business items: (1) Reports, (2) Resolutions, (3) Definitions of Policy, and (4) Study Documents. Each item of business shall be given one of these classifications by the Regional Board. The following rules prescribe the procedures to be followed with respect to business items.

(1) Reports:

- a) The Regional Office and the Regional Board of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Florida may provide reports of work for the information and review of the Regional Assembly. It is expected that the Regional Office will provide an annual audit of its financial report.
- b) General Units of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) that are related to the work of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Florida may provide reports, as they deem advisable.

(2) Resolutions: A resolution is an expression of the Regional Assembly concerning a moral, ethical or religious matter confronting the church, the nation or the world. Adoption of a resolution must represent agreement by a majority of the Regional Assembly that the conviction or view expressed is based on Christian insights and understanding and is a required part of witness to Jesus Christ.

(3) Definitions of policy: A definition of policy is an expression of the Regional Assembly with respect to such matters as the structure, function and general administration of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Florida.

(4) Study Documents: A study document is a study and analysis of a subject which involves moral, ethical or religious elements and on which it is deemed important that members of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) be more thoroughly informed as an aid to the formation of Christian opinions and judgments, or on which the judgment of individuals or groups is desired. A study document should clearly and fairly set forth various points of view held by competent and sincere Christians.

II. Rules of Procedure for Business Items

A. The Regional Board may recommend to the Regional Assembly that an item of business be approved, disapproved or referred back to the Regional board for further investigation and study.

B. The Regional Assembly shall receive all items of business submitted to it, consider the comments and recommendations of the Regional Board, and after appropriate discussion, take one of the following actions:

- 1)** Approve the business item:
- 2)** Disapprove the business item:
- 3)** Refer the business item to the study group designated by the Regional Board for further investigation and study:
- 4)** Commit the business item to the Regional Board for revision and report to a subsequent business session of the current Assembly; except on the last day of the Regional Assembly, committal of any business item will have the effect of tabling the item.

C. Introduction of a business item, properly presented, shall be considered as a main motion before the Regional Assembly, and having originated from a group rather than an individual, it will be assumed it has been duly seconded. Action by the Regional Assembly shall be on the main motion (the business item itself) and not on the recommendation of the Regional Board, except in cases in which the recommendation is “to refer to a designated group for further investigation and study,” which shall be regarded as a motion to refer. If the motion to refer fails, the business item shall automatically be committed to the Regional Board for its recommendation to approve or disapprove.

D. Any changes of business items being debated on the floor may be referred to the Regional Board for consideration in accordance with the Rules of Procedures, B-4 above.

E. New business may not be initiated by the Regional Assembly except for an emergency item. An emergency item shall be understood as a business item that pertains to a matter that could not have been reasonably known or anticipated by the time of the sixty (60) day deadline that applies to all business items. Business items of an emergency nature must be submitted in compliance with all of the rules of procedure for business items, except that the sixty (60) day time limit is waived. It is a part of the responsibility of the Regional Board to determine if an item submitted as emergency business is, in fact an emergency under these procedures.

F. To expedite handling of any business item, a time limit may be set by the presiding officer or by Assembly vote.

G. If there is a desire to close debate the following procedure shall be used: the chair will receive the non-debatable motion: "I move the previous question." Upon being duly seconded, the motion will be put to the body for a vote. A two-thirds majority is required to carry this motion and close debate. If the motion to close debate prevails, the presiding officer shall immediately put the main question to the body without further debate or discussion. (Calls of "question" from the floor have no effect and do not bind the chair or body).

H. In general, the basic rules of parliamentary procedure as described in Roberts' Rules of Order, Revised, will be followed.