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## **Relational Covenant of the Illinois Great Rivers Conference**

(Adopted by the 2008 Annual Conference)

As disciples of Jesus Christ and as members of the Illinois Great Rivers Conference, we believe that we can change the church and the world through honest conversations on matters about which we deeply care. We, therefore, covenant to be a worshiping community, which provides a safe sanctuary open to dialogue: a welcoming environment full of grace. To do this we further covenant to:

1. Center on God and on His Holy Scripture as the authoritative word of God as we come to the table, anticipating a holy and healthy experience and being prepared spiritually, emotionally and mentally
2. Pray constantly for God's wisdom to understand God's will, trusting and believing that God works with and through us
3. Welcome, honor and respect each individual as a unique child of God
  - Affirm each individual's gifts and ministry and help everyone see the need for cooperation and connection among our ministries
  - Be patient and kind with each other, realizing that we all bring a history
4. Listen to each voice at the table, respecting the viewpoints, opinions, communication styles and perspectives
  - Invite and welcome people of all viewpoints to the table, respect the cultural and ethnic differences
  - Believe that the Holy Spirit speaks through each person at the table
  - Be engaged, not distracted or distracting
  - Keep an open mind and open heart
  - Show that you have heard and understood the other
  - Hear the truth in love
5. Speak respectfully
  - Take holy pause before speaking or voting – invite the Holy Spirit into your speech
  - Be honest, genuine and transparent
  - Honor time constraints
  - Speak the truth in love
6. Commit to work through differences
  - Hold one another accountable to this relational covenant
  - Keep the decision-making process at the table
  - Honor all decisions and participants after the conversation concludes
  - Follow up with each other in regard to any resolution
  - Leave with an understanding of next steps where there is no resolution
7. Allow the Peace and Word of Christ to rule in our hearts

## Displays

### Purpose of Displays

Displays facilitate the ability of conference members to connect with groups who have information to share on their ministry. Displays are provided to encourage conference members to learn more about the resources that are available through the wide variety of agencies and ministries in the annual conference. A few displays are targeted for sale of goods. The parameters for their purpose are discussed in a separate paragraph.

### Requesting Space and Obtaining Permissions

- Forms requesting display space must be submitted to the Event Coordinator by the fourth Friday in March. The request is then forwarded to the Local Arrangements Committee for space assignment.
- Groups or individuals requesting display space for the first time must submit plans for content of the display to the Director of Connectional Ministries by no later than 30 days prior to the annual conference session. Failure to comply will result in display request being denied.
- The Sessions Committee has the discretion to approve all displays and set and publish guidelines for display space assignments.
- The subject and content of the display is expected to be in compliance with the *Book of Discipline*, the **Social Principles**, and *The Book of Resolutions* is expected.
- In the event content is deemed to be inappropriate, it will be removed by one of the following officers: annual conference secretary, or chairperson of the Sessions Committee.
- Groups officially recognized by and/or related to The United Methodist Church may request display space. Each group requesting space must agree to use their display area in accordance with the purpose statement in this document. Groups “officially recognized by” or “related to” The United Methodist Church include the following:
  - Approved Advance (Conference or General) Specials
  - Ministries included and approved in the Conference Budget
  - Ministries included in and approved in the Nominations Report
  - Ministries approved as a Conference Special Offering
  - Ministries which are initiated, supervised, and housed within a local United Methodist church or local United Methodist Church-owned facility within the boundaries of the IGRC.
  - University Senate-Approved seminaries
- Because of limited space and the need of the annual conference to limit its space use to non-commercial organizations, no commercial organizations (other than the exceptions noted in this policy document) shall be permitted to rent or otherwise use display space.
- No group will be allowed to place signs, displays or vehicles on convention center property without the permission of the Sessions Committee.

### **Size and Location of Space**

- The amount of space available for displays varies depending on the site of the annual conference session. The Sessions Committee believes it is proper to allocate the same size space to each group requesting space prior to the deadline for such requests.
- Each group setting up a display must agree to keep their display within the space allotted to them and not to encroach onto the display space assigned to another group.
- Display spaces are assigned to specific locations, and groups setting up displays cannot move their display to another location. Because some locations are considered prime locations, each year display space assignments may be rotated to allow all groups the opportunity to use a prime location.

### **Special Permissions**

In the past, display space has been granted to Cokesbury for a bookstore at annual conference. Since Cokesbury is the denomination's publishing house, they are granted an exception to the stated policy above. Other organizations providing free or reduced fee services to the annual conference session may also be allowed to have display space where demonstrations or product sales will take place.

### **Fees and Other Financial Considerations**

- Fees for requested use of electrical outlets are paid by the group requesting space.
- Fees for requested phone lines are paid by the group requesting space.
- Fees for tables and table skirting (if not provided) are paid by the group requesting space.
- Any entity making sales that are not tax exempt will need a permit from the City Hall if local sales tax is to be charged.

### **Publicity**

A list of all display booths will be distributed in the on-site packet that members receive. Advertisements for display spaces may not be publicized in other printed materials at annual conference.

## **Journal-Yearbook**

### **What is it?**

The *Book of Discipline* (§606) requires each conference to keep an exact record of its proceedings. A hard copy of this record becomes part of a number of general, jurisdictional, and annual conference committees and commissions. The IGRC publishes a limited number of hard copies for those who order them. The Journal-Yearbook is available to everyone in electronic form.

**What's in it?** The *Book of Discipline* requires the inclusion of the following items in this order:

- Officers of annual conference
- Boards, commissions, committees; rolls of conference members
- Daily proceedings
- Business of the annual conference (BAC) report
- Appointments
- Reports as ordered by the annual conference
- Annual report of the district superintendents, if any
- Memoirs as ordered by the annual conference following the guidelines of the General Commission on Archives and History
- Roll of dead: deceased clergy members
- Historical
- Miscellaneous
- Pastoral record (including the records of accepted local pastors in such manner as the conference may determine)
- Statistics
- Index

#### **How to make corrections**

- Corrections received before June 30, 2011 will be reflected in the 2011 **Journal-Yearbook**. Corrections received after that date will appear in the 2012 Journal.
- Send corrections directly to the IGRC secretary, noting the exact location of the item to be corrected. A corrections form will also be included in the Journal-Yearbook.

#### **When resolutions or reports are not adopted**

Reports, resolutions, amendments to the Standing Rules, policy statements, policy statement amendments, or petitions that are not adopted will not be printed in the **Journal-Yearbook**. The vote indicating defeat of the resolution will be recorded in the Daily Proceedings, and the heading information and notation of failure to adopt will be listed in the various reporting sections of the **Journal-Yearbook**

## **Reports and Resolutions**

#### **Submitting Reports and Resolutions**

Any Illinois Great Rivers Conference member or entity may submit a resolution for consideration by the annual conference. Resolutions will be ruled out of order if they conflict with the *Book of Discipline*, which can be changed only by the General Conference. All resolutions become the property of the annual conference once they are published. No resolution containing information deemed to be libelous will be printed.

### **Deadlines for Submitting Reports and Resolutions**

- Reports or resolutions with financial implications.....February 15
- All other reports and resolutions..... March 1
- Reports for the **Journal-Yearbook** only.....April 1

### **Missed Deadlines**

Late-arriving materials may be included in the supplemental packet if:

- The maker of a resolution submits 2,000 copies of the material at their own expense to the annual conference business office by May 1
- Material is approved by the annual conference secretary for inclusion in the packet.

Material in the supplemental packet may be included in the conference agenda if the conference allows its inclusion (requiring 2/3 majority)

Items submitted less than 2 weeks prior to the Annual Conference session will not be considered.

Persons or groups wishing to have the conference office print the 2,000 copies for a charge may contact Doug Stone before May 1 at The United Methodist Center, 5900 S. Second St., P.O. Box 19207, Springfield, IL 62794-9207

### **Specifications for Submitting Reports and Resolutions:**

- Please submit your documents electronically; that is, by email attachment or CD-ROM. Send to: [ACSecretary@igrc.org](mailto:ACSecretary@igrc.org).
- Please submit resolutions and reports in MS Word or Excel. Please use *Century Schoolbook*, 12 pt, if you have it. If not, *Times Roman* or *Arial* 12 pt is acceptable.
- Use your spell checker. Make sure the names of persons are spelled correctly. Use full and correct titles
- Do *not* type in all caps; do *not* indent. Do *not* use your spacebar for anything except spacing between words (one space) and sentences (two spaces).
- Make certain that statements in reports and resolutions are documented (indicate your source)
- Consider the use of acronyms for committees, boards, etc. in reports, resolutions, and amendments. (See Yellow Information Section, page 11)
- Along with the report or resolution, please:
  - Provide a suggested title
  - Provide a one-line description of the content
  - Provide the name(s) of the author(s).
  - Indicate if you believe it has financial implications which need to be considered by the conference council on finance and administration in their budget proposal.

### **Resolutions with Financial Implications**

Reports or resolutions with financial implications for the annual conference budget must be reviewed by the conference council on finance and administration before or at their

final meeting in February. This means that such resolutions need to be submitted to the annual conference secretary by no later than February 15 of the conference year. Failure to follow this procedure will prevent items from being printed.

Also, any fiscal items relating to conference board of pensions and health benefits must be submitted to that board before or at their final meeting before the annual conference session. They will make any comments or observations deemed necessary.

## **Parliamentary Matters**

### **Governing Rules**

The Illinois Great Rivers Annual Conference is governed by the General Conference Rules and the Standing Rules of the Illinois Great Rivers Annual Conference, and in situations where the above do not apply, Roberts Rules Of Order, Revised.

### **The General Conference Rules**

The General Conference Rules can be found on page 11 of this red reference section.

### **The Standing Rules**

The Standing Rules of the Illinois Great Rivers Annual Conference are found on pages 307-326 of the 2010 Journal-Yearbook.

### **Roberts Rules of Order**

See the Parliamentary Motions Guide on pages 9-10 for a summary of most commonly used rules.

### **Voting and Speaking Rights at Annual Conference**

- Lay Members have the right to vote on all measures except in the election of *clergy* delegates to the General and Jurisdictional or Central Conferences, on the granting or validation of license, ordination, reception into full Annual Conference membership, or any question concerning the character and official conduct of ordained ministers, except those who are lay members of the Board of Ordained Ministry (§602.6).
- Elders and Deacons in Full Connection have the right to vote on all matters except in the election of *lay* delegates to the General and Jurisdictional or Central Conferences and shall have sole responsibility for all matters of ordination, character, and the Conference relations of clergy (§602.1.a).
- Deaconesses may be seated at the Annual Conference Session with voice and vote. (§1313.5).
- Provisional and Probationary (who have completed educational requirements), and Associate Members have the right to vote on all matters except constitutional amendments and matters of ordination, character, and the Conference relations of clergy.

- Affiliate Clergy Members have the right to vote on all matters except constitutional amendments, election of clergy delegates to the General and Jurisdictional and Central Conferences, and matters of ordination, character, and the Conference relations of clergy (§602.1b, §602.1c).
- Full-time and Part-time Local Pastors have the right to vote on all matters except constitutional amendments, election of clergy delegates to the General and Jurisdictional or Central Conferences (NOTE: exceptions noted in the Election Materials), and matters of ordination, character, and Annual Conference relations of clergy (§602.1.d).
- Elders or Ordained Clergy from Other Denominations may have the right to vote on all matters except constitutional amendments, election of clergy delegates to the General and Jurisdictional or Central Conferences, and matters of ordination, character, and the Conference relations of clergy (§346.2).
- Ordained Elders or Ordained Clergy from Other Annual Conferences and Other Methodist Denominations may be granted voice but not vote in the annual conference to which they are appointed. (§346.1)
- Retired Local Pastors have the right to voice, but not vote (§320.5).
- Supply Pastors do not have the right to voice or vote. If they are retired clergy members, or are elected as a lay member to Annual Conference, then they are covered under those categories above.

### **Electronic Voting**

Members of the 2011 Annual Conference will receive wireless keypads for voting, along with some instructions on using them. Electronic voting is fast, accurate, and secure.

## **Speaking at Annual Conference**

### **Presenters of Reports and Resolutions: Be ready!**

Those who are presenting particular reports or resolutions are expected to be near (or on) the platform or at the microphone when their item comes up. Please note that the agenda committee sometimes makes last-minute adjustments to the schedule, so presence during all sessions is advised.

### **Identify Yourself**

When speaking to the Annual Conference session, presenters and other speakers will clearly identify themselves by name, along with their church and district names.

## *Parliamentary Motions Guide*

Based on *Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised (10<sup>th</sup> Edition)*

The motions below are listed in order of precedence. Any motion can be introduced if it is higher on the chart than the pending motion.

<b>YOU WANT TO:</b>	<b>YOU SAY:</b>	<b>INTERRUPT?</b>	<b>2ND?</b>	<b>DEBATE?</b>	<b>AMEND?</b>	<b>VOTE?</b>
§21 Close meeting	I move to adjourn	No	Yes	No	No	Majority
§20 Take break	I move to recess for	No	Yes	No	Yes	Majority
§19 Register complaint	I rise to a question of privilege	Yes	No	No	No	None
§18 Make follow agenda	I call for the orders of the day	Yes	No	No	No	None
§17 Lay aside temporarily	I move to lay the question on the table	No	Yes	No	No	Majority
§16 Close debate	I move the previous question	No	Yes	No	No	2/3
§15 Limit or extend debate	I move that debate be limited to ...	No	Yes	No	Yes	2/3
§14 Postpone to a certain time	I move to postpone the motion to ...	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Majority
§13 Refer to committee	I move to refer the motion to ...	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Majority
§12 Modify wording of motion	I move to amend the motion by ...	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Majority
§11 Kill main motion	I move that the motion be postponed indefinitely	No	Yes	Yes	No	Majority
§10 Bring business before assembly (a main motion)	I move that [or "to"] ...	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Majority

## Parliamentary Motions Guide

Based on *Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised (10<sup>th</sup> Edition)*

**Incidental Motions** - no order of precedence. Arise incidentally and decided immediately.

<b>YOU WANT TO:</b>	<b>YOU SAY:</b>	<b>INTERRUPT</b>	<b>2<sup>ND</sup>?</b>	<b>DEBATE?</b>	<b>AMEND?</b>	<b>VOTE?</b>
§23 Enforce rules	Point of order	Yes	No	No	No	None
§24 Submit matter to assembly	I appeal from the decision of the chair	Yes	Yes	Varies	No	Majority
§25 Suspend rules	I move to suspend the rules which ...	No	Yes	No	No	2/3
§26 Avoid main motion altogether	I object to the consideration of the question	Yes	No	No	No	2/3
§27 Divide motion	I move to divide the question	No	Yes	No	Yes	Majority
§29 Demand rising vote	I call for a division	Yes	No	No	No	None
§33 Parliamentary law question	Parliamentary inquiry	Yes	No	No	No	None
§33 Request for information	Point of information	Yes	No	No	No	None

**Motions That Bring a Question Again Before the Assembly** - no order of precedence. Introduce only when nothing else pending.

§34 Take matter from table	I move to take from the table ...	No	Yes	No	No	Majority
§35 Cancel previous action	I move to rescind ...	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	2/3 maj. w/ notice
§37 Reconsider motion	I move to reconsider the vote ...	No	Yes	Varies	No	Majority

## General Rules

### ***Rule 3. Authority of the Presiding Officer***

1. The presiding officer of their respective body (plenary, administrative committees, legislative committees, and sub-committees) shall decide points of order raised by the delegates and shall rule on points of order not raised by delegates, as the presiding officer deems necessary to conform to these rules of order, subject in both cases to an appeal to the body by any delegate without debate, except that the presiding officer and the appellant, in the order here named, shall each have three minutes for a statement in support of their respective positions. A tie vote in the case of appeal shall sustain the presiding officer (See Rule 29.2). Any delegate who raises a point of order shall cite the rule believed to have been violated.
2. At the discretion of the presiding officer, a time for prayerful discernment may be taken during deliberation. Such a time should be for personal meditation or for group prayer and shall end at the call of the presiding officer, at which time normal deliberation shall be resumed.
3. The presiding officer shall have the right to recess a session of the body at any time at the presiding officer's discretion and to reconvene at such time as the presiding officer shall announce. Consistent with the spirit of ¶721 of the Book of Discipline, in rare circumstances the presiding officer shall also have the right to stipulate that the session shall reconvene in closed session with only delegates, authorized personnel, and authorized guests permitted to attend such a session following recess (See Section VII.E.1.).

### ***Rule 4. Calling the Conference to Order***

When the presiding officer calls the body to order, no delegate shall speak, address the chair, or stand.

### ***Rule 7. Plenary Speakers For and Against***

1. When the report of a committee is under consideration, it shall be the duty of the bishop presiding to ascertain, when recognizing a delegate to the Conference, on which side the delegate proposes to speak; the bishop presiding shall not assign the floor to any delegate proposing to speak on the same side of the pending question as the speaker immediately preceding if any delegate desires to speak on the other side.
2. Except for non-debatable motions (Rule 21), no report shall be adopted or question relating to the same decided without opportunity having been given for at least two speeches for and two against the said proposal

3. The motion to call for the previous question, which is itself non-debatable, is not in order until there have been at least two speeches for and two against the proposal. Any delegate who moves the previous question (that is, that the vote be now taken on the motion or motions pending) shall also indicate to what it is intended to apply, if any secondary motion or motions are also pending. If said delegate does not so indicate, it shall be regarded as applying only to the immediately pending question. This motion shall be taken without debate and shall require a two-thirds vote of those present and voting for its adoption. If it is adopted, the vote shall be taken on the motion or motions to which it applies without further debate (See Rule 21). After three speeches for and three against and provided no secondary motions come before the floor, the questions shall be put automatically. However, the chairperson and/or duly authorized delegate or delegates presenting the committee's report, and if there is a minority report, the presenter shall be entitled to speak before the vote is taken (See Rule 27). These speeches shall be limited to three (3) minutes (See Rule 9).

### ***Rule 8. Interrupting the Speaker***

No delegate who has the floor may be interrupted except for a point of order, a parliamentary inquiry, a point of information, to challenge a misrepresentation, or to call attention that the time has arrived for an order of the day.

### ***Rule 9. Speaking More Than Once; Length of Speech***

1. No delegate shall speak a second time on the same question if any delegate who has not previously spoken on the question desires the floor.
2. No delegate shall speak more than twice on the same subject under the same motion, except as provided in Rule 7.2.
3. No delegate shall speak longer than three minutes unless that time is extended by the body (See Rule 7.3).
4. The three-minute limit on delegate speeches may be amended by a majority vote of the body at any time and for any period of duration.

### ***Rule 10. Point of Order***

A delegate wishing to raise a point of order shall address the presiding officer and say, "I rise to a point of order." The presiding officer shall interrupt the proceeding. If a delegate is speaking, that one shall immediately yield the floor. The presiding officer shall then direct the delegate raising the point of order to state the point as briefly and concisely as possible, citing the rule invoked in the point of order. The delegate shall not presume to decide the question or argue the point. A point of order is decided by the presiding officer without debate unless in doubtful cases the presiding officer submits the question to the body for advice or decision. When the presiding officer rules on a point, debate is closed, but the decision may be appealed (See Rule 3).

**Rule 12. Distracting Behavior**

Audible cell-phone use is not permitted in the plenary hall or the legislative committee rooms by delegates or observers. In addition, the use of laptop computers, personal digital assistants, pagers and other electronic devices should be in furtherance of General Conference business and done in such a manner that it does not disturb other participants. The presiding officer or members of the General Conference staff may ask individuals to leave the plenary hall or the legislative committee room if they persist in behavior that interferes with the participation of other delegates. All electronic devices should have audible alarms muted when possible.

**Rule 14. Right to Make Motions**

Only voting delegates have the right to make or second motions in accordance with the rules and upon recognition by the presiding officer.

**Rule 17. Division of Question**

Before a vote is taken, any delegate shall have the right to call for a division of any question, if it is subject to such division as the delegate indicates. If no delegate objects, the division shall be made; but if there is objection, the presiding officer shall put the question of division to vote, not waiting for a second.

**Rule 20. Alterations of Motions**

When a motion is made and seconded, a resolution is introduced and seconded, or a committee report is read or published in the *Daily Christian Advocate*, it shall be deemed to be in the possession of the Conference and may not be altered except by action of the Conference (See Rule 35).

**Rule 21. Non-Debatable Motions**

The following motions shall be acted upon without debate:

1. To adjourn, when unqualified, except for final adjournment.
2. To suspend the rules.
3. To lay on the table.

No motion, which adheres to another motion or has another motion adhering to it, can be laid on the table by itself. Such motions, if laid on the table, carry with them the motions to which they adhere or which adhere to them.

4. To take from the table
5. To call for the previous questions, when in order (See Rules 7 and 22)
6. To reconsider a non-debatable motion (See Rule 30)
7. To limit or extend the limits of debate
8. To take time for prayerful discernment at the immediate moment.

### **Rule 22. Rights of the Main Question**

The main question may be opened to debate under the following motions: to adopt, to reject or refer, to substitute, to postpone, and to reconsider. No new motion, resolutions, or subject shall be entertained until the one under consideration shall have been disposed of except as provided in Rule 15.5. The foregoing does not apply to secondary motions if otherwise allowable.

### **Rule 23. Precedence of Secondary Motions**

If any one or more of the following motions shall be made when one or more other motions are pending, the order of their precedence in relation to one another shall be the same as the order of their listing below:

1. To fix the time the conference shall adjourn (This motion is subject to amendment, or it may be laid on the table.);
2. To adjourn;
3. To take a recess;
4. To lay on the table;
5. To order the previous question (See Rules 21.5, 26);
6. To limit or extend the limits of debate;
7. To postpone to a given time;
8. To refer;
9. To amend or to amend by substitution (one amendment being allowed to an amendment);
10. To postpone indefinitely.

### **Rule 24. Motion to Adjourn**

The motion to adjourn, when unqualified, shall be taken without debate and shall always be in order, except:

1. When a delegate has the floor;
2. When a question is actually put or a vote is being taken and before it is finally decided;
3. When the previous question has been ordered and action thereunder is pending;
4. When a motion to adjourn has been lost and no business or debate has intervened;
5. When the motion to fix the time to which the Conference shall adjourn is pending.

The foregoing does not apply to a motion for final adjournment of the Conference.

### **Rule 25. Final adjournment**

Final adjournment shall be *sine die*; therefore, all unfinished business shall remain unfinished.

**Rule 26. Procedure for Amending by Substitution**

1. When a resolution or committee report is properly before the Conference for consideration and action, even if amendments are pending, a substitute may be offered by any delegate moving that the same be substituted for the report, resolution, or amendment under consideration. The substitute shall be an alternative to what is before the body and not simply a negation of the main motion.
2. The Conference shall proceed first to perfect the original report or resolution, including consideration and action upon any amendments that may be offered to it.
3. The same perfecting process shall be followed with respect to the substitute.
4. The questions shall be put first on the motion to substitute, followed by the motion to adopt the report or resolution.
5. The motion for the previous questions shall not be in order on the adoption of the report or recommendation or on making the proposed substitution until opportunity has been given for at least two speakers on each side of the question of substitution or adoption (See Rule 27 for handling minority reports).

**Rule 28. Unlawful Motion after Speech**

It shall not be in order for a delegate immediately after discussing a pending question and before relinquishing the floor to make a motion, which if adopted, would limit or stop debate.

**Rule 29. Exceptions to Majority Vote**

A majority of those voting, quorum being present (*Book of Discipline* ¶506), shall decide all questions, with the following exceptions:

1. A one-fifth vote of the Conference shall be required to request a Judicial Council decision (*Book of Discipline* ¶56.1, 2609.1).
2. One-third of those present and voting shall suffice to sustain a call for a recorded vote in case the decision of the presiding officer is challenged (See Rule 15.2).
3. A tie vote sustains the presiding officer (Rule 3.1).
4. A two-thirds vote shall be required to sustain a motion to suspend (Rule 38) or amend (Rule 39) the rules; to set aside a special order (Rule 31.1); to consider a special order before the time set therefore; to sustain the request of the Committee on Courtesies and Privileges for the presentation of any person after the sixth day of the General Conference (See Section VII.A.3).
5. A call for the previous question requires a two-thirds vote.
6. A two-thirds vote shall be required to approve a proposal for a constitutional amendment (*Book of Discipline* ¶59-61).

**Rule 30. Reconsideration**

A motion to reconsider an action of the body shall be in order at any time if offered by a delegate who voted with the prevailing side. If the motion proposed for reconsideration was non-debatable, the motion to reconsider shall be non-debatable (See Rule 21).

**Rule 37. Effective Date**

All legislation of the General Conference of the United Methodist Church shall become effective January 1 following the session of the General Conference at which it is enacted, unless otherwise specified (See Section X and *Book of Discipline ¶508*).

**Rule 38. Suspension of the Rules**

The operation of any of the provisions of the *Plan of Organization and Rules of Order* may be suspended at any time by a two-thirds vote of the Conference (See Rule 29.4).

**Rule 39. Amending Rules**

The *Plan of Organization and Rules of Order* may be amended or changed by a two-thirds vote of the Conference; provided the proposed change or amendment has originated in the Committee on Plan of Organization and Rules of Order or has been presented to the Conference in writing and referred to this committee, which committee shall report thereon not later than the following day (See Rule 29.4 and Section VI.D.1).

**Rule 40. Robert's Rules of Order, Supplemental Authority**

In any parliamentary situation not covered by the *Plan of Organization and Rules of Order*, the General Conference shall be governed in its action by the current edition of *Robert's Rules of Order*.