

2021 Proposed Changes to the Rules of Order

Approved by the Committee on Dispatch of Business on Monday, October 4th, 2021

Updated October 8th, 2021 - this version includes a technical correction in numbering

New Rule of Order - Accommodating Members who do not speak English as a Primary Language

Explanation

To further expand the diversity of voices and equal access to debate and discussion time during the Convention, and in consultation with leadership of the Latine Community in the Diocese, the following proposed addition to the Rules doubles the allotment of floor time for non-simultaneous translation (“consecutive interpreting”) to the Convention for members who do not speak English as a primary language.

In non-simultaneous translation or consecutive interpreting, the speaker pauses at regular intervals to allow their words to be translated into another language by a professional translator or trusted third party. This kind of verbal translation would be necessary whenever simultaneous verbal translation to the whole of Convention would be unavailable for technical or practical reasons, and anytime this approach would be of value to the Convention or the witness of the Diocese for members and observers to hear points articulated in their own primary language.

[New] Rule 4.15 (The current Rule 4.15 shall be renumbered 4.16 and every rule thereafter renumbered accordingly)

In all Special Rules governing debate of any motion before the Convention, if any member of Convention requires non-simultaneous translation, the allotted time for the member to speak to the motion shall be doubled to allow time to hear the translation, and the total time for debate shall be increased accordingly.

- **proposed by Richard Edward Helmer following conversation with Liz Muñoz and members of the Committee on Resolutions**

Correction to Rule 3.8 - Change “Departments” to “Diocesan Committees”

Explanation

In keeping with prior changes to the Rules and Canons, this change in language reflects the current organization of Diocesan ministries, which has moved from departments to committees and working groups.

Rule 3.8. The courtesy of seat and voice shall be granted to Deanery Presidents, Chairs of ~~Departments~~ **Diocesan Committees** and Commissions, and representatives of special projects for the purpose of explaining their work and responding to questions.

New Rules of Order 1.9 & 4.17 - Task Forces and Temporary Committees

Explanation

A task force is a type of temporary committee that is intended to exist for a limited time period and focus on tasks identified in the enabling resolution. Ordinarily, a temporary committee is discharged and ceases to exist when it makes its final report. Some resolutions have specified when a task force is to report without clearly stating if it is to be the final report. In some cases, task forces have issued partial or interim reports and continued to work without seeking the permission of Convention. In such cases, it is not clear what the status of the task force is and when its work will be done. New rules 1.9 and 4.17 are proposed to require that a resolution creating a task force must specify when the final report is due and not permit a task force to work beyond that date without asking the permission of Convention.

[New] Rule 1.9 Any resolution proposing the creation of a task force or other temporary committee shall not be in order unless it includes a provision identifying the Convention at which the task force or committee is scheduled to make its final report and at which it shall be discharged according to Rule 4.17.

[New] Rule 4.17 Any task force or temporary committee scheduled to make its final report at a particular Convention shall be discharged automatically and cease to exist at the adjournment of that Convention, whether having reported or not, unless the Convention votes to extend it to a later Convention. An extension shall be in order only if it sets a new schedule for the final report.

- **proposed by Dave Frangquist on behalf of the Committee on Resolutions**