

DELEGATE ASSEMBLY 2022



Guidelines Regarding Actions at the Special Session of the Delegate Assembly

The following notice was given prior to the Special Session of the Delegate Assembly in accordance with the bylaws of Mennonite Church USA.

To: *Congregations who are members of Mennonite Church USA*

 Area Conferences who are members of Mennonite Church USA

 Racial/Ethnic groups recognized by the MC USA Executive Board

 Executive Board members

From: *Linda Dibble, moderator, Mennonite Church USA*

Date: *February 9, 2022*

The MC USA bylaws (Article V, Delegate Assembly, 4. Meetings), state that: "d. In the case of a special meeting, written notice of the special meeting (which will include the time, date, and place), and the purpose for the meeting, along with the proposed action to be taken, shall be submitted to area conferences and to member congregations at least ninety (90) days in advance of the date of the meeting. Area conferences shall keep the Executive Board notified of congregational members and any changes thereof."

A Special Session of the Delegate Assembly is scheduled for May 27 (starting at 7:00 p.m. CDT) through May 30 (ending at 12:00 p.m. CDT), 2022, at The Westin Kansas City at Crown Center, Kansas City, Missouri.

The purpose of this special meeting is to complete the 2019-2021 biennium resolution process. Delegates will discuss and vote on resolutions that were delayed due to the global pandemic.

These two resolutions are scheduled for a vote:

§ [*Clarification on Mennonite Church USA Polity and the Role of the Membership Guidelines of Mennonite Church USA*](#)

§ [*MC USA Accessibility Resolution*](#)

This resolution is designated as a study resolution:

§ [*MC USA For Justice Resolution*](#)

MC USA delegates will determine if this resolution will be discussed and voted on at this special assembly:

§ [A Resolution for Repentance and Transformation](#)

ALLOWABLE ACTIONS DURING THE MAY 2022 Special Session of the Delegate Assembly

- **Motions.** To propose actions listed in the [Official Notice of the Special Session of the Delegate Assembly](#), we will follow these procedures:
 - The action will be displayed and read.
 - There will be discussions as outlined in the agenda.
 - The moderator, moderator-elect or parliamentarian will ask for a motion
 - The delegate will say, My name is (First and Last). I am an official delegate of (Name Body) “I move that...”.
 - A second motion must then also be made (raise your hand, stand and say, “My Name is (First and Last). I am an official delegate of (Name Body). I second it.”).
 - After limited discussion, the group then votes. Discussion is limited to 40 minutes and no more than 2 minutes per person. The moderator and parliamentarian will work to ensure diverse voices and perspectives are shared.

No new resolutions may be introduced during this special session, as “[the purpose of this special meeting](#) is to complete the 2019-2021 biennium resolution process. Delegates will discuss and vote on resolutions that were delayed due to the global pandemic.” New resolutions must undergo a thorough review process prior to being introduced during a Delegate Assembly.

- **Amendments.** Church Statements and other resolutions listed on February 9, 2022 [Official Notice of the Special Session of the Delegate Assembly](#) may be amended by the Delegate Assembly using the following process:
 - Amendments to motions that appear in the agenda or in assembly materials must be presented to and approved by the Resolutions Committee before they can be brought to the floor.
 - Proposed amendments are not designed to rewrite resolutions. Amendments should add clarity to the proposed church statement or correct polity issues, but not substantially change the original resolution or its intent.
 - Any amendments shall be accompanied by a written statement that includes:
 - the purpose and/or reason for such proposed amendment
 - the intended consequences of the adoption of such amendment
 - the name and contact information of the delegate bringing the amendment

- proposed amendments require a total of at least 10 delegate signatures from a minimum of 2 different area conferences (a minimum of 5 delegates from each conference or delegates of recognized constituency groups)
- Proposed amendments to resolutions need to be submitted in a timely manner to be considered by the Resolutions Committee. Delegates are encouraged to submit proposed amendments by May 6, 2022. The Resolutions Committee will give priority to amendment proposals that meet this deadline. This is to facilitate a proper review of proposed amendments due to the limited time available at the Special Assembly.
- Amendments are not official until the beginning of the Delegate Assembly and may only be proposed and signed by official delegates present at the Special Session of the Delegate Assembly.
- Proposed amendments should be submitted electronically to the Resolutions Committee via Resolutions@mennoniteusa.org.
- Upon approval of the Resolutions Committee and at the appropriate time in the agenda, the moderator, moderator-elect, or parliamentarian will recognize the delegate bringing the action.
- The delegate will say, “My name is (First and Last). I am an official delegate of (Name Body). I move to amend the motion on the floor.” The amendment will be read and displayed on the screen.
- A second motion must then also be made (Raise your hand, stand and say, “My Name is (First and Last). I am an official delegate of (Name Body). I second it.”).
- After the motion to amend is seconded, a majority vote is needed to decide whether the amendment is accepted.
- If passed, then a vote is taken on the amended motion.
- There are no “[friendly amendments](#).”
- **To Call for the Question.** To end a debate immediately, the question is called.
 - The delegate will say, “My name is (First and Last). I am an official delegate of (Name Body). I call for the question.”
 - A second motion must then also be made (raise your hand, stand and say, “My name is (First and Last). I am an official delegate of (Name Body). I second it.”).
 - A vote is held immediately (no further questioning is allowed).
 - A two-thirds vote is required for passage. If it is passed, the motion on the floor is voted on immediately
- **To Table a Discussion.** To table a discussion is to lay aside the business at hand in such a manner that it will be considered later in the meeting or at another time.
 - The delegate will say, “My name is (First and Last). I am an official delegate of (Name Body). I make a motion to table this discussion until [specify the time](#). In the meantime, we will get more information so we can better discuss the issue.”

- A second is needed and a two-thirds vote is required for passage to table the item under discussion. The delegate will say, “My name is (First and Last). I am an official delegate of (Name Body). I second it.”
- **To Adjourn a Meeting.** A motion is made to end the meeting.
 - The delegate will say, “My name is (First and Last). I am an official delegate of (Name Body). I make a motion to adjourn this special session of the delegate assembly.”
 - A second is needed. The delegate will say, “My name is (First and Last). I am an official delegate of (Name Body). I second it.”
 - A majority vote is then required for the meeting to be adjourned (ended).