

Church Order

Chair: Mr. Michael Santarosa
Reporter: Rev. K. C. Vande Streek

I. Council of Delegates

A. *Materials*

1. Council of Delegates Report, Section IV. F, p. 32
2. Council of Delegates Supplement Report, Section III. E, including Appendix H

B. *Privilege of the floor:*

Michael L. Ten Haken, chair of the Council of Delegates; Greta Luimes, vice chair of the Council of Delegates; Zachary J. King, general secretary; and members of the executive staff as needed when matters pertaining to the Council of Delegates are discussed.

C. *Recommendation*

That synod affirm the work done by the COD to bring its exceptions policy into alignment with the instructions of Synod 2024 (*Acts of Synod 2024*, p. 880).

Grounds:

1. Though not all COD members are officebearers, the changes to the COD's policies make clear that robust confessional alignment is desired for those who serve as part of synod's interim committee (Church Order Art. 33-b).
2. Similar to the gravamen regulations (Supplement, Church Order Art. 5: 1; A, 1; B, 2), the changes to COD procedures clarify the expectation that COD members will not begin their terms of service with settled convictions contrary to the Reformed confessions, that the Personal Reservations Procedure is intended to address only those difficulties that arise subsequent to their appointment to the COD, and that personal reservations are intended to be addressed and resolved within a three-year term.
3. These changes enable COD members who develop a personal reservation subsequent to the beginning of their term to maintain their active role in service while honoring the church's understanding of its confessions (see *Acts of Synod 2024*, p. 879).