Rules for Decorum and Debate
2026 Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Indianapolis

1. When the President shall be in the Chair, no member shall address the Convention or make any motion until after recognition by the President, except to make a parliamentary inquiry, a point of order, or a motion not requiring recognition.

2. No member shall address the President while any other member has the floor, except to present a parliamentary question, a point of order, or a question of privilege touching the character of the Convention or of one or more of its members.

3. When any member is about to speak or to deliver any matter to the Convention, the member shall, with due respect, address the President, state her or his name and Congregation, and confine remarks strictly to the point of debate.

4. While the President is putting any Question, the members shall continue in their seats, and shall not hold any private discourse.

5. When the Convention is about to rise, all members shall keep their seats until the President leaves the Chair. Before putting to a vote a motion to adjourn, the President may make any communication to the Convention or may cause any notice to be read by an officer of the Convention or any other member the President may designate.

6. Time limits on debate:
   a. Unless otherwise specified by a special order, a total of 30 minutes is the maximum time allowed to debate any matter, and all motions related to that matter.
      (i) Once 20 minutes of debate time has elapsed, any member of the convention may move to extend the time for debate by up to 30 minutes. The motion must be seconded, is not debatable, is not renewable, and must be passed by a majority vote.
   b. Debate will end following:
      (i) a successful vote to end debate;
      (ii) the end of the time allowed for debate by a rule or special order; or
      (iii) by ruling of the President if
         (a) at least two members have spoken in favor of the matter and no one rises to speak against it; or
         (b) at least two members have spoken against the matter and no one rises to speak for it; or
         (c) no one rises to speak on the matter.

7. Amendments
   a. The President shall have the discretion to require up to six minutes of debate on the main motion to elapse before permitting the consideration of amendments.
   b. Amendments submitted in writing to the Communications Desk shall be considered automatically, in the order in which they were received.

c. If a member rises to move an amendment to the main motion without having submitted its text to the Communications Desk, the President shall have the discretion to require the member to do so within the time limit for debate of the matter to which the amendment pertains, before the amendment may be moved and seconded.

8. Except by leave of the Convention, no member shall speak more than twice in the same debate, nor longer than two minutes at one time.

9. All questions of order shall be decided by the President, without debate, but any member may appeal from such decision by a motion made immediately after the decision which must be seconded, is debatable, may be laid on the table, must be passed by a majority vote and cannot be renewed. On such appeal the vote shall be upon the Question, "Shall the decision of the Chair be sustained?"

10. By unanimous consent, any action may be taken that is not in contravention of any provision of the Constitution and Canons.

11. At the meetings of the Convention, the Rules and the Orders of the previous meeting shall be in force until they are amended or repealed by the Convention.

12. Except when in conflict with the Constitution or Canons, or any Rule herein contained, the latest edition of Robert's Rule of Order shall govern the interpretation of these Rules and the procedure to be followed.

13. During debate the members of the Convention shall refrain from applause or other signs of approval or disapproval for any particular speaker.

14. No materials, whether by print, digital, audio, video or other means, may be distributed, at any time, without permission from the President.