

BASIC PARLIAMENTARY PRINCIPLES FOR THE NEW JERSEY DISTRICT CONVENTION

1. A district delegate convention is a parliamentary assembly called to deliberate and to make decisions. It receives the reports of the district president, the board of directors and the committees. In addition, the convention deliberates and makes decisions on recommended resolutions of designated floor committees which have considered proposed resolutions (overtures) from congregations.
2. All voting delegates have equal rights, privileges, and obligations.
3. The vote of the majority decides. The will of a district convention is determined by the taking of a vote.
4. Free discussion of every proposition or resolution presented for decision is an established right for all delegates, voting and advisory. To accomplish the closure of debate a delegate must gain the recognition of the chair and, without any comment for or against the pending resolution, say, "I move the previous question." If seconded, the motion is put to an immediate vote. If adopted by a two-thirds majority, discussion is terminated and the pending resolution is put to the assembly without further debate. The convention has the right to decide when it has heard sufficient discussion. This right, however, is to be exercised with restraint.
5. Both proponents and opponents of a given proposal have rights which must be safeguarded. The decision belongs to the majority, but the right to discuss, the right to be heard, and the right to oppose is to be upheld. A member of the majority on one question is often a member of the minority on another.
6. The simplest and most direct parliamentary procedure for accomplishing a purpose is to be followed rather than taking devious routes and multiple technicalities.
7. Every delegate has the right to know what question is before the convention and what its effect will be, for every action taken by a deliberative body is to be taken knowledgeably.
8. Voting delegates are not bound and are not to be bound by previous instructions of their home.