

“We honor the *imago Dei* in each other in all our meetings and interactions”

- PTCA values, 2019

“Process” in our Virtual Stated Meeting

We often use **Robert’s Rules of Order, Newly Revised (RONR)** for our stated meetings in PTCA, usually when we don’t foresee *major* needs for extended deliberation, as it gives room for questions and amendments, but also moves the meeting forward.

We also use **Committee of the Whole** and **consensus-building models** for some items of business to curate *broader conversation*, especially when we want concentrated engagement and listening. These processes tend to take longer time-wise, so we reserve them for “when appropriate” to respect everyone’s schedules.

We will need to keep expanding and exploring ways to be community and discern and decide together over the coming years, but for now, Robert’s Rules (RONR) is one tool we have. To use it in a good way, we might remember that RONR is a more formal style of conversation, **but part of what makes it “work” is using that formality in a healthy way together.**

Formality = Respect within RONR

A few reminders:

- **Wait for recognition** from the Moderator before speaking. When you properly seek recognition and refrain from speaking until the chair has recognized you, you allow the moderator to do her/his/their job.
- Address *the moderator* with your comment even when someone making a report is answering questions (e.g. a committee chair).

- **Speak *through* the moderator:** In RONR, this a way of showing respect for others. So rather than replying to the last speaker with: “Jude, have you thought about how much your zany idea is gonna’ cost us?” try, “Moderator, does the member who just spoke have information on the cost of their proposal?”
- **Keep your comments brief**, in order to allow others to have a chance to speak.
- **Signal your desire to make a comment or ask a question:** use the “raise your hand” symbol on your ZOOM screen, or text the Host at 612-702-5734.
- **If you want to make a motion, write it down and submit it to the stated clerk before you request recognition during the meeting** so the Stated Clerk and Moderator can capture it properly.
- You can “so move” a proposed motion or “second” it by using the “raise your hand” symbol when the Moderator asks for a motion or second.

Fundamentally, the keys to *good conversation and collaboration* in our virtual stated meetings are:

- read the packet *in advance* of the meeting
- reflect on your questions/comments *before* the meeting
- submit your motions to amend, substitute motions and questions in writing to the stated clerk before the meeting
- **engage each other with *humor, goodwill, and basic respect***

“The joyous community of the Trinity calls us to affirm our *interdependence* & our *shared gifts for ministry*.”

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