
Proposals to BC Conference

BC Conference General Meeting 2017

Proposals to BC Conference

We recognize that individuals and other courts of the church wish to have time on the floor of the BC Conference General Meeting for a number of reasons. Sometimes it is to provide information about an issue of importance; sometimes it is to hear from others about what they are thinking or experiencing as the church; sometimes it is to ask the whole Conference to take an action.

Before our General Meeting in 2014 the only option for having a concern talked about was to call for a specific action, resulting in a debate. That often engaged the court in argument, sometimes about minor procedural matters. It meant taking sides and positions when, really, the major intention was simply to help inform or educate the court about something important, or to have an open, public conversation about important matters.

Beginning in 2014, we began to host different kinds of conversations during the business of the Conference General Meeting. We now offer three different kinds of proposals.

1. Educational: If the major intention is to inform the court about something important, this kind of proposal will allow time to present the issue and the significant information needed to be heard. There will be time for questions and comments but we will not engage in debate or a vote since there is no necessity to make a decision.
2. For Conversation: If the major intention is to hear what others have to say about an issue there will be time on the floor to pose a question or concern. The microphones will then be opened for conversation without the need for a motion to be made.
3. For Decision: If the desire is for a decision to be made or action taken on behalf of the Conference then this kind of proposal begins that process. A clear outcome is named as part of the Proposal. Open conversation and debate and, finally, a vote follow.

As you consider what you want to talk about at the General Meeting, please consider what kind of conversation or outcome you wish to have at the General Meeting and frame your Proposal accordingly. Please use the template attached to this document to help.

If you are making a Proposal that calls for an action, consider the financial and other costs of implementing that Proposal and include those in your proposal.

A Reference in Council group will be available at the General Meeting to help you ensure your Proposal is clear and unambiguous enough to achieve the good conversations the meeting wants to have.

In order to make the best use of the meeting's time, Reference in Council may also group together Proposals that deal with the same matter and have the same purpose.

If a Proposal comes from an individual or a congregational Board, it first needs to be heard by that person's Pastoral Charge Board, then (if it is passed on) by that Pastoral Charge's Presbytery. Each of these "intervening courts" can either pass on the Proposal to the next level or can stop it. If it passes it on it can do so with concurrence (agreement) or with non-concurrence (non-agreement).

Conference Proposal 2017

Proposal Title *A brief name that identifies the proposal*

Source *From where did this proposal originate?*

Recipient BC Conference

Type of Proposal

Educational (I want the court to be informed)

For Conversation (I want the court to have a conversation)

For Decision (I want the court to make a decision or take an action)

Proposal *What is the issue you wish to inform the court about, have the court discuss, or have the court make a decision or take an action on?*

Background *Background information that provides the information to be shared, the question/conversation desired, or the rationale for the decision or action desired.*

Funding Implications *If this is a Proposal for Decision, what is your best estimate what implementing this proposal might cost financially or in time and effort?*

Actions of Intervening Courts

Pastoral Charge
(if applicable)

Concurrence (Agree with Proposal)

Non-Concurrence (Disagree with Proposal)

Comments:

Presbytery
(if applicable)

Concurrence (Agree with Proposal)

Non-Concurrence (Disagree with Proposal)

Comments: